



MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center Conference Room at 801 Jenny Ave S.W., Perham, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards
Treasurer: Dennis Reynolds
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt

Others Present:

NRCS District Conservationist: Alan Lepp
District Manager: Darren Newville
Asst Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Members Not Present:

Public Relations: Marion Gill

Introduction of newest employee at East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District: Jim Lahn, Area Certification Specialist for the Ag Water Quality Certification Program. Jim comes to the district from Iowa where he was the District Conservationist in Larmars, Iowa and previous to that Ivanhoe, Iowa (Lincoln County). Welcome Jim!

Agenda

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to adopt the Agenda. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Approve Board meeting Minutes: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid & Bills Payable: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.



Cost Share

STATE COST SHARE

14-CSW-2015; Don Janes, Dead Lake Township, Section 8, is requesting cost share assistance for a Shoreland Buffer. Cost estimate is \$2,666.76 with cost share amount of \$1,428.68 coming from 2014 Community Partners Grant, and the remaining \$571.20 from 2016 State Cost Share, or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

15-CSW-2015; James Keskitalo, Deer Creek Township, Section 18, is requesting cost share assistance for two Well Sealings. Cost estimate is \$1,100.00 with cost share amount of \$ 550.00, or 50% whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds. Opposed: none, motion carried.

1-CSW-2016 – Freeland, Bryan; Edna Township, Section 11 is requesting to amend his original cost share amount. The original cost estimate of \$ 11,930.00 will increase to \$ 12,874.00. The original cost share amount will increase from \$8,950.00 to \$9,655.50, which will result in an additional amount of \$705.50. Amended contract: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried. Voucher (payment) motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Agenda continued . . .

District Manager's Report: See attached report as written by Darren Newville.

District Conservationist's Report: Not present

County Commissioner Report: Not present

Old Business

Department of Ag Update: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to authorize Darren Newville, District Manager, to accept and sign the MAWQCP JP Agreement 2017 (Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program Joint Powers). Opposed: none, motion carried. Reports and invoices for the 3rd Quarter have been completed and submitted for all three JPA's.

District Server Proposal – TSA: The meeting on the 2nd did not have a quorum. There was special meeting held yesterday prior to the Area Meeting. All items were approved. IT is a big issue and it is on the table as to how to provide IT services to SWCD staff. Becker SWCD to send out a survey to establish needs.



New Business

Convention:

- ◆ Denny and Lyle are the only supervisors to attend this year’s annual convention.
- ◆ Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve a limit of \$250 for silent auction items for the annual convention. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Tillage Conferenc:

- ◆ Tillage Conference is December 13-14, 2016. Steve, Nathan, Jim, and Brittney will be attending this conference at the Hilton Garden inn, Fargo, ND

Lakes Country Service Coop Agreement: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the contract and sign. Opposed; none, motion carried.

Minnesota Forest Resources Council Contract: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to authorize Darren Newville to sign the contract. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned by Lyle Dittmann at 8:19 a.m.

Meetings and Training			
BWSR Academy	Brainerd	October 24-26	All Staff
Otter Tail River Cohort	TBD	November 10	Darren, Ben
Area I Meeting	Crookston	November 15	
EOT SWCD Board Meeting	Perham	November 16	
MARL	Willmar	November 16-18	Darren
Wadena SWCD Board Meeting	Wadena	November 21	
Thanksgiving Holiday		November 24-25	
Otter Tail River Cohort	TBD	December 1	Darren, Ben
MASWCD Annual Convention	Bloomington	December 4-6	
MARL	Marshall	December 14-16	Darren
Wadena SWCD Board Meeting	Wadena	December 19	
EOT SWCD Board Meeting	Perham	December 21	



Terry Greenwaldt
EOT Supervisor: Secretary

District Managers Report
November, 2016
Submitted by Darren Newville

- 1. Water Plan** – The Wadena County Water Plan was approved by the BWSR Board at their October meeting and was adopted by the Wadena County Board on November 7th. A big thanks goes or to Anne and Ben for their efforts to get this accomplished. Now to move on to Implementation of the plan. Ben is also participating in the One Watershed One Plan (OWOP) efforts in the Pomme de Terre watershed and will be looking into the possibilities of other future OWOP efforts.

We also received notice that the Wadena County Geological Atlas is completed. Representatives from the Minnesota State Geological Survey will be coming to review the atlas with us soon. Ben and Brittney are going to continue to work well location efforts for the atlas process in Otter Tail County.

- 2. Tree Program** – We received notice that the DNR recently discovered a significant number of latent Diplodia infections in their State Forest Nursery 3-0 Red Pine field at Badoura. Diplodia is a widespread fungus in Minnesota and elsewhere that can cause stunted growth, deformities, and death in pines. The State Forest Nursery quality standards do not allow for the shipment from this infected field. As a result, they will be unable to meet many of their 2017 Red Pine orders. Mitch has already made arrangements to get our Red Pines from a different nursery.
- 3. Irrigation Scheduler Program** – Staff are turning their efforts to planning for the upcoming Irrigation Workshop that is now scheduled for **Thursday, February 2nd** at Thumper Pond in Ottertail. Saleh Taghvaeian, Oklahoma State University, will likely be the keynote speaker for this event. Saleh's presentation will cover the latest research and extension activities underway at Oklahoma State University on using sensor technologies to improve agricultural water management. Luke Stuewe saw his presentation at a conference a few weeks ago and indicated the Saleh is a good speaker and can provide a very good introduction to these technologies. We will be working to further develop the agenda and speakers for the day.
- 4. Ag BMP Loan Program** – We have had about \$93,500 in applications in Otter Tail County for loans for septic upgrades in the past couple months. One request was for a cluster system on Otter Tail Lake.
- 5. Farm Bill Assistance Program** – Mitch continues to help with CRP planning efforts as landowners sign up. He has also been working with the other staff to complete equipment maintenance and get it put away for the winter.

6. **MAWQCP** – James (Jim) Lahn started on Monday, November 14th. He will be filling the role of the Area Certification Specialist, and will be working with producers to go through the certification process. He will be working with MDA staff in the next few weeks to get up to speed on the program. Jim and I will be working on setting up visits with each of the SWCD's in the area to visit with staff and to attend board meetings to discuss the program and local efforts.
7. **Shoreland Program** – Aimee got one last rain garden planted in the last month. She has also been working with the WOT staff on design plans for the park on Grotto Lake in Fergus Falls, and landowners on East Battle, Little Pine and Dead Lakes. She has also been working with Wes Drake and DNR staff on engineering practices that need to be viewed surveyed and designed.
8. **Buffer Program** – Liz continues to work on mapping efforts and contacting landowners in Otter Tail County with assistance from Mitch and Brittney. Tyler and Wade will be starting work on mapping the areas in Wadena County that are not compliant with the buffer law using the BWSR buffer tool.
9. **Otter Tail River Watershed** - On Thursday October 20th, Ben and I met with several people from the MPCA and DNR to get an idea about the commitment needed for the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). In particular, we talked about what the steps and results were going to be. MPCA will be developing a contract for the EOTSWCD for the use of the monies and coordination of the WRAPS process. Ben will likely be main contact and facilitator for this project and lead many of the activities.

Ben and I are also continuing to participate in the Otter Tail River Civic Engagement Cohort. I am sure this will be very helpful when we do get into the full gear with the WRAPS process for the Otter Tail River Watershed.
10. **Staff Reviews** – I have started the process of doing annual employee reviews. I hope to have these done by the state convention and will be scheduling a Personnel Committee meeting for shortly after that.
11. **Staff Training** – All of the staff attended the BWSR Academy the last week of October. I have had discussions with several of the staff to review what they took away from the session. All of them found the training valuable for their positions. I will be starting the Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership (MARL) Program later today.
12. **BWSR Interim Reporting** – BWSR has requested interim reports on the District Capacity Funds and Buffer Program. They are collecting information on what the funds have been used for so far and why it is important to the SWCDs. They are collecting it now to have it ready for the start of the next legislative session.