

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 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 Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:26 a.m.

Members Present:

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards
Secretary: Dennis Reynolds
Treasurer: Marion Gill
Public Relations: Terry Greenwaldt

Others Present:

Acting District Conservationist: Rick Berscheid
Soil Conservationist: Ryan Antholz
District Manager: Darren Newville
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Agenda

Introduction of Brittney Johnson, our new District Technician, was made.

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to accept the Agenda as presented.
Opposed: None, motion carried.

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

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

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

Cost Share

WATER PLAN COST SHARE

5-WPCS-2015, Susan Keskitalo; Otto Township, Section 27, is requesting payment for a Well Sealing. The cost estimate was \$ 565.00 and with the final cost share payment of \$300.00.

Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-WPCS, Alan Linda; Otto Township, Section 25, is requesting cost share assistance on a Well Sealing. The cost estimate is \$ 565.00 and cost share not to exceed \$ 300.00 or 75%, whichever is less.

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

9-WPCS, Michael Swenson; Newton Township, Section 3, is requesting cost share assistance on a Well Sealing. The cost estimate is \$ 465.00 and cost share not to exceed \$ 300.00 or 75%, whichever is less.

Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

10-WPCS, Bob Tangen; Corliss Township, is requesting cost share assistance on a Well Sealing. The cost estimate is \$ 610.00 and cost share not to exceed \$ 300.00 or 75%, whichever is less.

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

11-WPCS, Randy Gowin; Ottertail Township, Section 4, is requesting cost share assistance on a Well Sealing. The cost estimate is \$ 465.00 and cost share not to exceed \$ 300.00 or 75%, whichever is less.

Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

STATE COST SHARE

2-CSW-2015, Betty Lou Pederson; Clitherall Township, Section 1, is requesting cost share assistance on a Shoreline Buffer & Rain Garden project. The total project cost estimate is \$ 18,530.00, with \$827.50 coming out of State Cost Share and the remaining coming out of West Battle Lake 2012 Community Partners Grant.

Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Agenda continued . . .

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

District Conservationist's Report:

Acting District Conservationist Rick Berscheid.

- Jon's 120 days of service as acting DC was up the end of August.
- Rick is our current acting DC. He will be here a couple of days a week through October 9th, they have interviewed for the DC position and hopefully they will start in the next 6 to 8 weeks.
- EQIP: 15 applications
- 260 CRP proposals, 150 to go back into the program, general sign up will be soon
- CSP has 7 re-enrollments
- Working on certifying grazing. Have looked at 10.

County Commissioner Report: Not present

Old Business

Department of Ag Update: Adaptive Ag Program, we are still moving thru the process. We have hired Nathan Wiese to take on the workload through the MDA agreement. The nitrate sampling is also coming to an end.

TSA Update: There was a managers meeting last week.

- MDA Ag Water Quality Certification: TSA wants to split the state between north and south with volunteer districts to oversee each half. Wilken County SWCD stepped up and volunteered.
- Governance: TSA has issues. More questions to be answered at the next managers meeting.

EOT/Wadena SWCD Joint Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is in Wadena on Monday, September 21, 2015. Also planning a meeting with both boards present to recap.

Building Update:

- The loan has been paid off on the building. The amount of rent we receive from FSA/NRCS has increased.
- Estimate from Pioneer Brick & Stone for \$3,689.00 for replacement of stone columns with an additional to treat existing block work around the building. Pioneer Brick cannot do this work until next year. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to accept the proposal and get the work on the schedule. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- Neighboring lot: The vacant lot next to us is owned by United Community Bank. At this time they are not interested in selling. Other lots are available and calls will be made to inquire if they are for sale and at what cost.
- Cleaning Services: We are reviewing our cleaning services and will be getting quotes.

New Business

Meetings and Training for Approval:

- MPCA is hosting Decision Maker Watershed Seminar in Parkers Prairie on October 7, 2015. Keynote speaker is Don Shelby. This is an all-day seminar and is free of charge. No motions needed because no cost is involved. Lyle, Denny, and Marion all said they would attend.

Personnel: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve of hiring Brittney Johnson and Nathan Wiese. Opposed: none, motion carried.

BWSR Grants:

- Buffer implementation: we will be receiving \$25,000 from BWSR with a checklist of what the money is to be used for
- Ag Water Quality Certification: we will be receiving \$6,000 with a list of what the money is to be used for. (See section 3, group 3 of attached form) Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis

Reynolds to authorize Darren to accept the Grant from BWSR and send in the request. Opposed: none, motion carried.

- BWSR Clean Water Fund Local Capacity Grant: we will be receiving \$100,000. No decision has been made yet what we will be using this money for. Ideas have been tossed around, however, there is a list of items that the money cannot be used for. (Ex: buildings, loans to homeowners, CD purchases are just a few)

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS			
Training/Meetings	Location	Date	Attending
MASWCD Governance 101	St. Cloud, MN	Sept 16-17, 2015	
Decision Maker Watershed Seminar	Parkers Prairie	October 7, 2015	Lyle, Denny, & Marion
BWSR Academy	Breezy Point	October 27-29, 2015	All SWCD staff
MASWCD Annual Convention	Bloomington	Dec 6-8, 2015	