



# East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

## MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 BOARD MEETING

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The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, September 21, 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 Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:30 a.m.*

**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

NRCS District Conservationist: Alan Lepp  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Asst Manager: Anne Oldakowski  
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas  
Nathan Wiese: Irrigation/Nutrient Mgmt Specialist  
Wes Drake, P.E.: District Engineer

*Introduction of Wes Drake, P.E. He is the new District Engineer that is being shared between Becker SWCD, East Otter Tail SWCD, and West Otter Tail SWCD. He has a Civil and Environmental Engineering background. He is a former NRCS employee from 2010 – 2016. He will be working out of the WOT SWCD office.*

## Agenda

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

**Approve Board meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill 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.

Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to cash in CD # 56222, which matured on 9/11/2016, and put the money into our general savings account. Opposed: none, motion carried.



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

## Cost Share

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### STATE COST SHARE

**11-CSW-2015;** Jim and Michele Frahm, Newton Township, Section 27, are requesting their final payment for a Well Sealing. The total amount requested is \$182.50, which is 50% of the cost estimate of \$365.00.

### WATER PLAN COST SHARE

**12-WPCS-2015;** Chad Anderson, Corliss Township, Section 31, is requesting his final payment for his Well Sealing. The total amount requested is \$300.00, which is the maximum amount.

**13-WPCS-2015;** Bruce Johnson, Perham Township, Section 1, is requesting his final payment for two unused Well Sealing. The cost estimate was \$440.00 for both with the cost share amount of \$330.00, which is 75%.

## Agenda continued . . .

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

### **District Conservationist's Report:**

- ◆ EQIP application deadline was August 19, 2016.
- ◆ CRP – 350 expires, 180 total, 11 general, 30 proposals that didn't come back. Jana @ FSA was a great help.
- ◆ CSP renewal deadline Friday.

**County Commissioner Report:** Not present

## Old Business

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**Department of Ag Update:** Nothing to report at this time.

**District Server Proposal – TSA:** Currently working with TSA to a proposal. Looking to possibly get MASWCD involved.



## New Business

### Meetings and Trainings:

- a) Conservation Tillage Conference – December 13-14, 2016 in Fargo, ND. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve expenses for those wishing to attend this conference. Opposed; none, Motion carried.
- b) MN Water Resources Conference – October 18-19, 2016 in St. Paul, MN. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the expenses to send Ben Underhill to this conference. Opposed; none, Motion carried.

**Running Boards for GMC:** Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards to allow \$500 for running boards on the newest fleet vehicle, the GMC Sierra truck. Opposed; none, Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned by Lyle Dittmann at 8:45 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**  
**September, 2016**  
**Submitted by Darren Newville**

- 1. Tree Program** – Staff met in late August to put together the tree order of 2017. Trees have been ordered and we will put together the order form once we receive confirmation from the nursery's.
- 2. Forest Stewardship Plans** – Anne completed 3 more plans on a total of 386 acres. She has a good list of with a lot of plans expiring and needing to be renewed for the SFIA and 2C programs.
- 3. Irrigation Scheduler Program** – The majority of the rain gauges have been pulled from the fields as the season winds down. With the rain we have received there should be enough soil moisture to finish out the crops without additional irrigation. The staff have been washing the rain gauges for storage as they have removed them from the fields. They will also be doing their year-end reports to be sent out the producers. Wade and Nathan will be working on fall maintenance of the weather stations.
- 4. Adaptive Ag Program** – Nathan received the aerial imagery from Air Scout and has picked points in each field for the guided stalk sampling. Sampling will likely start the week of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> for the 43 fields that enrolled. Nate has also been working with producers and agronomists on the 9 Nutrient Management Initiative fields in his work area. He will work with them on the harvesting and record keeping on those plots.
- 5. MAWQCP** – With the irrigation routes wrapping up for the season, Brittney will have more time to work on certifications. She has three that she is actively working on and a few more to make appointments with. We did make a hire for the Area Certification Specialist. Jim Lahn will be starting November 14<sup>th</sup>. Jim is currently a District Conservationist in NW Iowa. He will be a great addition to our staff. I have also had several discussions with MDA staff about the budgeting for the Joint Powers agreement for 2017. We will likely see something in November.
- 6. Farm Bill Assistance Program** – Mitch spent a significant amount of time assisting with the CRP program the past month making site visits, drafting proposals and writing conservation plans. He wrote a total of 35 plans and completed site visits and proposals for another 13 sites. Mitch and Liz also completed our RIM site inspections this past week.

- 7. Audits** - Chantal met with Michael Peterson and his staff on August 31<sup>st</sup> to start the audit process for 2015. She will continue to work with them to provide them with any information they need to complete the audits.
- 8. Staff Training** – Brittney and Nathan attended the 4 day NRCS Conservation Planning Training Course in August. All of the staff have registered for the BWSR Academy in October. I reviewed the training sessions with each of the staff as they were selecting what they would be attending. Nathan has passed the CCA International and Minnesota Board Exams and is continuing to work on getting his CCA certification.
- 9. Water Plan** – Anne and Ben have been working to make edits on the Wadena Water Plans final draft after we received comments from the State Agencies. We hope to have all of the edits completed by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and so that it can be submitted back to BWSR in time for their October meetings. We will likely meet with the Northern Region Committee on October 12<sup>th</sup> in Detroit Lakes.  
Anne and Ben also met with representatives of Hubbard SWCD and the Twin Lakes Association on a possible project to restore the Fish Hook and Shell River prior to entering Upper Twin. They will be meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers, the DNR and Hubbard SWCD on the 28<sup>th</sup> to further explore the project.  
Ben has also been active with the Pomme de Terre Watershed and the Pelican Rapids Wellhead Protection Plan.
- 10. Crow Wing River Healthy Waters Protection (HWP)** – Anne attended this meeting in Park Rapids on Sept. 13. The Nature Conservancy got a group together to discuss developing a new riparian BWSR RIM easement program for the Crow Wing River Watershed. This is in the initial stages and are looking to implement something similar to the Pine River HWP program
- 11. Shoreland Program** –Aimee has been following up with landowners to make sure everything is in place for cost-share payments to be made. She and Liz have been doing site inspections on past projects and are prepping for a few fall project installations. Calls for site visits have slowed down which is normal for this time of the year.
- 12. Otter Tail County Joint SWCD Conservation Tour** – We held another successful tour on August 31<sup>st</sup> in cooperation with the WOT SWCD. These tours are a great opportunity to showcase some of the projects we work on with our locally elected officials.

- 13. Governor Dayton's OTC Visit** - Thanks to those of you who we able to attend the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at short notice. This was a great opportunity for us to showcase our locally led cooperative efforts in Otter Tail County on water quality issues to the Governor. While the focus was somewhat on buffers we were able to talk provide info on a variety of issues we are dealing with locally.
- 14. Buffer Program** – Liz has been comparing the DNR map with the county map and finding areas that don't match. We will be working to notify property owners if there is a difference. Liz is also looking at the County Ditch maps to make sure all of those landowners are notified. We will be meeting with the WOT staff soon on the second set of letters to be sent out. We will also need to start thinking about the process of identifying the additional waters that will be focus areas for voluntary buffers.
- 15. Feedlot Program** – Tyler has completed eleven feedlot inspections which meets the MPCA requirements. He may do a few more by the end of the year if time allows. Tyler will be attending MPCA's regional meeting for feedlot officers in Detroit Lakes on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 16. Wetland Conservation Act** – We are continuing to get calls on wetland projects, most have to do with some type of road building or wanting to dig a pond. We currently have 5 active violations. Hopefully two of them will be resolved this week. The County also received the EAW for the Star Lake Casino site. Once a decision is made on the EAW the County will be able to make decisions on the WCA application for this site.
- 17. County Budgets Meetings** – We have met with both of the budget committees in the respective county. In both cases the discussion revolved around the District Capacity Matching Grants. In Wadena County we proposed partnering with the County Highway Dept. to share a Water Quality/Drainage Specialist with the Highway Dept. providing the local match from their budget. In Otter Tail County we proposed working with the WOT SWCD to pool the funds for cost-share projects in Otter Tail County with water quality benefits. In both cases the Commissioners seemed to look on the proposals favorably.
- 18. Education and Outreach** – Wade and Liz attended the CLC Ag and Energy Field Day, where they set up a booth on the irrigation scheduler program. We have the Wadena Conservation Days scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be at the Perham Middle School on October 19<sup>th</sup> for the annual Nitrate Clinic for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class.