

Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

I. Chair Hufford called the regular meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board members present: Hufford, Krosch, Libbon, Lonergan. Staff present: Rice, Solemsaas, Staebler. NRCS present: Cory Walker. Others present: Stevens County Commissioner Jeanne Ennen.

II. Supervisor Libbon moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Supervisor Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

III. Krosch moved to approve the Minutes from the last regular meeting. Second by Libbon. Passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Matters

A. Libbon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Krosch. Passed unanimously.

B. Lonergan moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Krosch. Passed unanimously.

1. Kirby Hufford	Supervisor Pay	57.09
2. Jim Krosch	Supervisor Pay	55.41
3. George Libbon	Supervisor Pay	155.62
4. Dave Lonergan	Supervisor Pay	188.55
5. Valnes Rentals	March Rent	836.33
6. Judy Johnston	Mileage, Envirothon	64.86
7. West Central MASWCD Area 2	Annual dues	320.00
8. Stevens County Highway	Gas	190.38
9. Willie's	JPB & SWCD meeting expenses	38.75
10. Munstermans	Year-end W-2s and quarterly returns	75.00
11. Office of the State Auditor	2012 Financial Statement Audit	192.00
12. Federated Telephone	Internet connection	49.95
13. Morris Sun Tribune	JPB Public notices	55.10
14. Iceberg Web Design	Email hosting, 1 year	120.00
15. Otter Tail Power	Electric bill	18.24
16. Agassiz Seed	Fabric Staples	100.00
17. Bremer Bank		577.78
a. Employee Trainings	515.09	
b. JPB Expenses	62.69	
18. Dorsey & Whitney LLP	JPB loan documents/legal asst.	3800.00

V. No Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol will be held March 24-25. Jim, Dave and Matt will attend.

B. Krosch moved to approve adding weed control spraying on conservation lands to the list of district services provided, and to purchase 2 tanks and related equipment to accommodate this service. Second by George Libbon and all members voting aye, the motion passed. Chris will check with MCIT regarding liability insurance costs. Matt, John and Andy are working on becoming certified commercial applicators. Cost of services is to be determined based upon related expenses.

C. Lonergan moved to approve the 2013 Financial Statements as prepared by Peterson Company, and to have them sent to BWSR. Second by Krosch and all members voting aye the motion passed.

D. Additions to written staff reports

1. Solemsaas reported that the county is revamping their employee classes and compensation rates. An RFP has been submitted and will be presented for review. The SWCD has the option to get on the scale they adopt if desired. He plans to attend the Soil Health seminar in St Cloud on March 18.
2. Rice reported that there are a few small tree plantings this year, but the numbers are way down. He asked Commissioner Ennen to approach the county regarding recommending living snow fences or at least standing cord stalks as a measure of wind protection and erosion control. Less and less landowners are willing to plant shelterbelts because of the value of agricultural land.
3. Johnston handed out copies of the 2013 Annual Review and will be mailing copies soon. They were also handed out at the recent Area 2 meeting.
4. Staebler discussed the upcoming grants verification process.

E. District Conservationist Cory Walker presented an NRCS report. He leads local and area soil health work groups and will be presenting public informational sessions about this in the near future. He also spoke about a new pollinator program through NRCS. He is filling in temporarily in the Benson (Swift County) field office some for the DC there who is out on leave.


F. Supervisor Reports

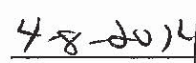
1. Stevens SWCD hosted the Area 2 meeting on March 6 at Old #1 Southside. The keynote speakers talked about the well permitting process within the state.
2. Krosch reported that he attend the Alexandria and Morris soil health sessions.

G. Other: Commissioner Ennen reported that the county passed a resolution not to support the Minnesota River Board. As of April 1, this board will be disbanded. 16 of the 18 counties involved voted against this organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Don Huntley, Secretary

  
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Date