Minutes of the November 12, 2015 regular meeting of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held at the Ag Services Building in Olivia MN

Present: Kathryn Kelly

Terrylea Ness Kevin Kokesch Mark Koenig Jim Hebrink

Others Present: John Stahl, Renville County Board; Karen Flom, Ryan Clark, Karen Wermers & Ben Trochlil, staff.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly at 7:30 a.m. Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MSC (Terrylea, Kevin) to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 regular meeting.

MSC (Kevin, Mark) to approve the October 2015 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and the bills as presented.

Staff Reports:

Karen Flom reported on the BWSR Academy and the new reporting requirements for year end. She also reported that the plans for the Area VI MASWCD meeting are complete. There are TSA meetings scheduled in December where there will be discussion, and hopefully decision, on capacity building for the TSA engineering staff and the administrative staff. The Staff have reached out to other districts regarding shared services and equipment. Staff plan to get together with other districts to discuss options at the MASWCD Convention.

Ben reported that he has started updating the outdated maps in the RIM folders and is creating new shapefiles on ArcGIS. The Neubauer dike repair is starting. Ben has been working on staking and signing RIM easements as he has time. There are a couple easements with encroachment issues and Ben is working with the landowners. There have been several ownership changes to do paperwork on and BWSR requested updates on some of the utility confinement requests. Ben is contacting the few remaining owners for 2015 feedlot inspections.

Ben completed DNR Well Monitoring for October. He attended the Cover Crop Tour and mentioned that test plots are looking good after the recent rain. He attended the BWSR Academy which as a great experience. He's been promoting CRP & RIM and answering landowner questions. He helped Karen stake some CRP sites.

Ryan reported that SMBSC has a WCA request which is just a boundary/type application. An appeal from several years ago has been dropped. Ryan has had some drainage exemption questions. Ryan reported on several construction projects. He will be meeting with the TSA and DNR onsite on Nov. 20, to discussion a design on one of the DRAP Phase 2 projects. Surveys are completed on 3 projects and he's waiting for the design. These are also DRAP projects. The Hawk Creek Cover Crop program

included about 1,000 acres with 15 landowners participating. Payments are going out soon and HC plans to offer the program again next year.

Ryan reported that the Neubauer wetland restoration repair is starting.

Ryan has been working on well sealing applications and a rain garden design with the county. Ryan presented information on the estimates Houston Engineering gave him for some of the larger DRAP projects. He'll be contacting other engineering firms regarding these projects too.

Ryan presented Cost Share Contract #02-14 with Beaver Falls Twp for final approval and payment. Total project cost was \$25,882 with the Cost share payment to be \$3,368 out of FY14 Cost-Share funds. MSC (Terrylea, Mark) to approve Cost Share Contract #02-14 (practice #410) for payment. MSC (Jim, Mark) to approve payment of \$842 to the TSA for Technical Assistance on Contract #02-14.

Karen Wermers reported that she's been working on CRP quotes. There are a handful of new CRP contracts starting in December. There are questions about seeding and seed mixes. The Zaske easement is compete. Karen is expecting the Buboltz Agreement soon. Karen is making a running list of people interested in CREP III. There are at least 40 people currently on that list. Karen also attended the BWSR Academy and reported that it was a good training.

Karen Flom's retirement letter was read. MSC (Mark, Terrylea) to approve Karen Flom's retirement effective May 25, 2016 and to accept with regret.

Karen Flom presented Tom Petersen's bill along with a summary of expected reimbursement from the BWSR PRAP grant. MSC (Terrylea, Kevin) to pay Tom Petersen for his consulting services.

Kathryn presented a Credit Card policy that is used by SWWC for consideration. MSC (Terrylea, Mark) to proceed to gather information on a business credit card for the SWCD with the understanding that after a policy is developed it will require two readings before it can be established.

Karen indicated that the Grant Agreement for the Buffer Implementation funds and for the Ag Certification program funds was ready for approval and signature. The Buffer grant provides \$45,000 and the Ag Certification is \$6,000. MSC (Kevin, Jim) to approve the Buffer Initiative and the Ag Certification program grant agreement.

There was further discussion on the possibility of having a billboard in conjunction with the McLeod SWCD. MSC (Mark, Terrylea) to enter into a six month agreement with McLeod SWCD for a billboard near Glencoe, with the understanding the Renville SWCD will continue to investigate the possibility of sharing costs for billboards on other highways throughout the county.

Ryan Clark presented the Muetzel DRAP I project for approval and Payment. MSC (Terrylea, Kevin) to give final approval to the Lawrence Muetzel project (practice #580) and to pay the \$12,300 cost of the project.

Holly Hatlewick, NRCS District Conservationist, was unable to attend the meeting but did submit a written report for the Supervisors. She reported on the CSP program, both 2015 and 2016. She reported that the EQIP application cutoff date is November 20, 2015.

There were 19 people present on the October 21st Cover Crop tour. There are 26 outstanding AD 1026 for Renville County. Holly will be the Acting DC in Redwood until January 2016.

Staff and Supervisors discussed the upcoming Area meeting and the MASWCD convention and gave Karen their registration information.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular meeting will be held December 10th from 7:30 – 9:00 at the Ag Services Building.