Minutes of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at the Ag Services Building in Olivia MN.

Present:	**Kathryn Kelly**	**Absent:**	**Jim Hebrink**
	Kevin Kokesch		
	Marc Iverson		
	Mark Koenig		

Also Present: Adam Beilke & Don Buckhout from BWSR; John Stahl, Renville County Board; Dave Voigt, Acting District Conservationist NRCS; staff members Tom Kalahar, Ryan Clark, Trent Brenny & Karen Flom.

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

MSC (Kevin, Mark) to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2014 regular meeting.

MSC (Mark, Kevin) to approve the August 2014 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve the bills as presented.

Staff Reports:

*Karen reported on the progress of rewriting the Personnel Policies and the Job Description rewrites as well as the procedures for new employee orientation and exit interviews.
*Karen, Ryan and Tom attended the MN River Congress listening session in Montevideo.
*Karen and Tom attended a PERA meeting in Willmar.
*Upcoming meetings include an MCIT Risk Assessment session in St. Cloud on Sept. 24th, BWSR Administration Training on Oct. 8th and BWSR Academy the last week in October.
*Karen asked about scheduling the regular October meeting as a short business meeting at the office and then a tour of the Limbo Creek area.

*Tom reported on easement management . Funding and flexibility are limiting some of the needed work. Cottonwood trees will be removed from one easement. There is plenty of interest in new easements but it is difficult to encourage landowners to participate with the current funding situation.
*Eleven feedlots were inspected this month and general feedlot paperwork continues. The county is switching over to a new data collection program with MPCA later in the year so all inspections need to be done by November 1st.
*There was a Limbo Creek meeting held with DNR, the Army Corp of Engineers, Senator Franken's office, Congressman Peterson's office, two landowners, one County Commissioner and the I&S Group, who is the project engineer. Tom distributed a summary of the meeting that was done by Garry Bennett of DNR.
*Tom also reported on the MN River Congress Listening Session. That session was sponsored by CURE.

*Trent reported that he attended a BWSR field training at the Elfering Wetland Bank site. Topics included plant identification, Canada thistle biological control and the engineering of the site.
*Trent continues to work on easement processing. There are only four easements left to be recorded and paid.

*The majority of workload has been CRP this month. That includes re-enrollments, new contracts and revisions. The CCRP sign-up for 2014 is now closed. Hopefully the FY15 sign-up will begin in November or December.

*Ryan reported on WCA workload including the Christianson Ag (Allied Grain) violation in Sec. 13, Winfield Twp. He anticipates the necessary restoration work will be completed this week.
*Ryan will be meeting onsite with John Smith for the violation in Flora Twp. The deadline to get the work done is October 1st.
*There is a WCA application near SMBSC plant. There have been some questions from landowners regarding projects but Ryan has not received any actual applications.
*A CWF grant application for a bank stabilization project on Lake Allie is nearing completion. The project will be along County Road 24 on the NW shoreline. The preliminary cost estimate is $30,000 to fix about 200 feet of lakeshore. The required match will likely come from the County or the Lake Association.
*Ryan has been working on well sealing applications that are funded through Local Water Management.
*Ryan attended a Hawk Creek Watershed Project meeting and also attended the first MASWCD leadership training. He has a three day leadership session later this month. Ryan also represented the SWCD at one of the BWSR leadership meetings where John Jaschke discussed topics pertinent to local SWCDs. Mr. Jaschke sent out a summary of the discussions and that was distributed to Supervisors.
*Ryan attended two BWSR WCA training sessions where he received continuing ed credits.

State Cost-Share:

Ryan presented one contract for approval. **MSC (Marc, Mark) to approve Contract #02-14 with Beaver Falls Township for a Grade Stabilization Structure (#410, 342) in Beaver Falls Twp., Sec. 6. Total cost estimate is $23,800. State Cost-share $3,368 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. TA of $842 to the SC TSA.**

NRCS Report – David Voigt, Acting DC

*1026's are being processed as they come in either by the local NRCS staff or the Area Office staff.
*EQIP has had 10 contracts approved for $188,597. An application received funding late and staff are working on getting the applicant to sign a contract. The 2015 sign-up dates are 10/17/2014, 11/14/2014, 12/19/2014 for application cut-off dates.
*CSP has had 18 contracts funded or selected for funding this fiscal year. Total of $577,344 covering 22,575 acres. All eligible applications are being funded in Renville County. 5 out of 6 of the 2010 contracts are pursuing potential re-enrollment for another 5 years.
*The Curt Sampson WRP compatible use permit was approved for off-site restoration work.
*Ryan is working on a couple animal mortality facilities
*A new DC has been hired for the Olivia FO. Starting date is early November.
*Interviews for the Ultima contract position are tentatively set for 9/24/14
*NRCS received training on Client Gateway. The release date to the public is unknown.
*Federal fiscal year ends 9/30/2014.

Board Reports:

*Mark reported that he had a conflict and was unable to attend the Supervisor meeting in Brainerd
*Kathryn reported on the Hawk Creek meeting and the BWSR Board meeting.

John Stahl reported that the Renville County General Fund budget for the SWCD remains at $105,000 at this time.

Adam Beilke, BWSR Report:

Adam reported that so far there is only public assistance for counties designated as Federal Disaster Counties. It appears that there will not be a Special Session of the MN Legislature to appropriate additional funds due to flooding.
Adam mentioned that the grant applications for Clean Water Fund grants are due by Sept. 26th.
Grant Administration training for SWCD staff will be held on Oct. 8th in Glencoe.

PRAP Presentation – Don Buckhout, BWSR Performance Review & Assistance Coordinator

Don gave the history of the PRAP process and the timeline for the Renville County SWCD PRAP. Draft copies were distributed to board and staff and Don gave a presentation on the various parts of the report and the results. He mentioned that the SWCD Board and Staff now have the opportunity to comment on the draft and he will include those comments in the final document. Consensus was that any comments should be to Karen by Sept. 26th. Karen & Kathryn will compile the comments into one document and get it to Don no later than Oct. 10th
There was discussion regarding sharing the results of the PRAP with other entities. MSC (Mark, Kevin) to arrange for Don Buckhout to present the final PRAP report to the Renville County Board.

Ryan Clark presented a resolution regarding WCA appeals. **MSC (Mark, Kevin) to adopt the Resolution (see attached copy) for the WCA appeal process.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting will be October 9, 2014