

Minutes of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at the Ag Services Building in Olivia MN

PRESENT: Kathryn K Kelly
 Mark Koenig
 Kevin Kokesch
 Marc Iverson
 Jim Hebrink

Also present: John Stahl, Renville County Board; Tom Kalahar, Ryan Clark, Trent Brenny and Karen Flom, staff.

MSC (Mark, Kevin) to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting as corrected.

MSC (Marc, Jim) to approve the June 2014 Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented.

Staff Reports:

Karen reported that Jen Aalderks, NRCS Assistant, has resigned her position. Her last day will be July 30th. The DC position was posted and the closing date has passed.

-A new website is up and running. Same web address, just new look using a web based program.

-The Farm Bill Assistant agreement was signed and it's been executed.

-We received the second half of 2014 Feedlot monies and the second half of General Fund has been requested from the County.

-Karen reported that Senator Lyle Koenen and Rep. Andrew Falk stopped by the office to visit about natural resources and other things.

-Paperwork and notifications for Chris Gehrig completed. Chris last day in the office was June 25th.

-Karen reported that she expects the PRAP report will be presented at the Sept. 11th Regular Meeting..

-the SW/WC insurance meeting is scheduled for August 11th. Karen will attend.

-2015 Request for funds was submitted to Renville County.

Tom reported on conservation easement site inspections. The only issues so far are encroachment and rock piles. Tom is working with landowners who have sweet clover problems. Haying is the preferred method for control. Tom is also working with DNR and FWS on tree removal projects to remove cottonwoods from grasslands.

-Tom inspected 6 feedlots this month and has been doing general feedlot paperwork.

-This past month has involved many site visits and phone calls concerning water erosion problems with creeks and ravines. Finding solutions will be ongoing.

-Tom attended the Minnesota River Congress in New Ulm on June 19th. He was a guest speaker at the PF Farm Bill Biologist annual training meeting on June 25th. On July 9th Tom, Ben & Ryan did a presentation for a Girl Scouts day camp.

Trenton reported that he attended the training workshop at the UM to identify priority management areas. He accompanied Tom to the PF Northern Region meeting. He attended an Ag Drainage workshop in St. Paul with Ryan Clark. There was a short RIM teleconference this month which laid out the changes that needed to be done to apps before the deadline. He completed the revisions on the apps he'd sent in.

- Trent compiled and sent in 26 RIM applications for the RIM Buffer easement program. A total of 32 Renville County apps are waiting for funding as there are some waiting for bonding money funding too.
- The Prairie Plan has \$2.5 million statewide. Trent is attending those meetings as they are scheduled.
- Easement processing continues along with promotion.
- Trent has been training Ben on some of the computer work that goes into RIM quotes.
- The CCRP sign-up is officially going on but currently some practices are out of acres and are pending in the state FSA office. They have requested additional acres.

Ryan reported on WCA. There is a new potential wetland violation in Winfield Township. There have been lots of questions relating to wetland drainage with all the rain we have had. BWSR staff visited the Neubauer easement to go over management needs.

- Ryan reported that all the money from the FY13 State Cost-Share grant was encumbered before the deadline. Ryan is working on a project in Boon Lake Twp for reestablishing a grass buffer to prevent erosion. The site is outside any watershed with BMP money so he will likely be bringing a State Cost-share contract to the Board for approval for that project.
- Ryan is planning to make at least one application for BMP money through BWSR Clean Water Funds. This would help to supplement our State Cost-Share.
- Ryan attended the MASWCD Area 6 meeting in McLeod County in June. He also attended an Ag Drainage workshop, a BMP Targeting training using GIS, and a Perennial Planting for Water Quality workshop.

NRCS Report: Ryan Allen gave a brief report on NRCS programs and current staffing.

Board Reports:

- Marc did not have a report
- Jim did not have a report
- Kevin had some questions/comments on FEMA
- Mark reported on the area meeting. The speaker was from MnDOT and discussed Living Snow Fences.
- Kathryn has attended several BWSR Board meetings and committee meetings. She attended a MAWD meeting and tour in Stillwater. She attended the SW/WC meeting in Northern Minnesota. The Personnel committee met briefly.

John updated the supervisors on the Hodgson Lake/Ditch 132 situation in the eastern part of the county.

There was discussion regarding the nomination for Outstanding Conservationist. **MSC (Mark, Kevin) to nominate the Renville County Chapter of Pheasants Forever as the 2014 Renville County Outstanding Conservationists.**

Ben reported on the quotes the SWCD received for a new ATV. **MSC (Marc, Kevin) to purchase a John Deere 625 from Kibble Equipment.** Staff will talk with the Hawk Creek Watershed Project staff about a trailer and bring a report to the board at the next meeting.

Kathryn presented information on average salaries for technicians and district managers in the Southwest and South Central parts of the state. She also indicated that Trent had completed his probation and was entering a new grant period. She handed out draft copies of a District Manager job description. **After discussion, the consensus was to table any personnel discussion until the August meeting.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Next Meeting – August 14, 2014