

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JUNE 8, 2011 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair, Louise Smallidge.

Members Present: Louise Smallidge, Chair
Sarah Hietpas, Treasurer
John Rheinberger, Vice Chair
Jim Levitt, Public Relations and Information

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin
Adam King
Jyneen Thatcher
Wendy Griffin

Other Agencies: Michelle Wohlers, NRCS
Don Baloun
Tim Wilson

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by John Rheinberger and seconded by Sarah Hietpas. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval was requested for the 2012 DNR Groundwater Monitoring Agreement in the amount of \$1,950.00. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Sarah Hietpas and seconded by Jim Levitt. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2011 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 11, 2011 minutes was made by Sarah Hietpas and seconded by John Rheinberger. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Items to note were a \$6,600.00 charge from Barrel Depot for the rain barrel program; \$9,492.68 payable to Belwin for a cost-share grant payment; \$9,129.26 payable to Denmark Township for a cost-share grant payment; a \$7,957.42 charge from Schumacher's for the tree program; a \$1,140.35 charge from Teledyne Isco for water monitoring expenses; a \$28,660.72 payable to Carnelian-Marine St. Croix Watershed District for an MPCA 10 Lakes TMDL expense; and \$641.68 payable to Helmer Printing for the WCD brochure being reprinted.. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by Jim Levitt. The motion was seconded by Sarah Hietpas. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance Committee – the committee will be meeting in late June or July regarding the 2012 budget.

Cost-Share Committee – Items up for review are later in the agenda.

AGENCY PARTNER REPORTS

NRCS – There are nine EQIP contracts totaling \$86,672 in Washington County, and two pending applications for round two. There is one current application for CRP. There are seven active for CSP totaling \$77,384 for Washington County over the next five years, and one more pre approved application as of this week. Don Baloun, the NRCS Minnesota State Conservationist, joined the meeting to introduce himself and also to discuss the status of funding within NRCS.

BWSR – Grants Committee will be meeting. They will be recommending that grants are distributed before June 30th.

MCD – An outline was presented at the last meeting for acquiring additional Clean Water Fund dollars for monitoring. The last round was for one million dollars. This round will be for two million dollars. The other noteworthy item was that they would like to use the in-house Professional Engineers to assist other Conservation Districts with engineering. The plan is to save \$10,000 out of NPEAP funds for this, and it would be split between our office and Scott SWCD. Also, there are three grant proposals coming through MCD. One is for the continuation of the subwatershed assessment. The second is for the landscape restoration program, and the third is a performance assessment (discovery landscapes). The proposals are approximately \$600,000 each.

Water Consortium – We presented at the last Consortium meeting regarding brainstorming for CWF applications.

MASWCD – There are a number of MASWCD related items in the board packet. Information is included on the Summer Tour. There is also an email from Mary with MACD regarding planning for the conference. Also enclosed is the Legislative Report.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **Newspaper Articles and Other WCD Outreach** – A 3-ring binder of the past month's newspaper articles is available for the Board to look through if they wish.
- b. **Updated WCD Brochures Available!**

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **MASWCD Call for Resolutions** – The Board did not have any recommendations for resolutions.
- b. **MASWCD Area IV Convention Planning** – Area 4 is looking for volunteers from each Conservation District to help plan the annual MASWCD Convention. Sarah will be the Board member and Wendy will be the staff representative.
- c. **WCD Board Tour Planning – September 14, 2011** – The annual tour will be September 14th. The September Board meeting will be held here that morning starting at 9:00. The tour will begin at 10:00. Projects South of Hwy 36 will be the focus of this year's tour. Projects in the Northern half of the County will be highlighted next year. It was requested that the Board members contact the County Commissioners and State Representatives from their area and ask if they would like to attend.
- d. **State Budget Implications** – We are tracking the progress of the state budget and are preparing contingency plans.

- e. **WCD Office Space – Workshop Needs** – A proposal was included from the landlord for a workshop space within the mall. The rate is \$300 per month. If they need the space for a future tenant, they will give us six months notice and reimburse us for the costs incurred to make the space fit our needs. A motion to approve was made by Sarah Hietpas and seconded by John Rheinberger. Motion carried. We also might have the opportunity to expand into the space next door for an additional two workspaces.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Welcome Amanda Swearingen – Conservation Corps Summer Apprentice** – Amanda started last week and will be here for the summer.
- b. **2011 Tree Program Overview** – An overview of the 2010-2011 tree program was presented to the Board members. This year, we are showing a slight profit. A donation was made to Arcola Mills with some of the remaining trees to replace some of their trees that were hit with oak wilt.
- c. **WCD 2011 Outstanding Conservationist Nomination** – Jay asked if any Board members had recommendations for the nomination. After discussion, our office would like to nominate Mike Berggren (Headwaters of Valley Creek). A motion to approve the nomination of Mike Berggren was made by John Rheinberger and seconded by Jim Levitt. Motion carried.
- d. **WCD 2011 Community Conservationist Nomination** – After discussion, our office would like to nominate the Stillwater Country Club for the Community Conservationist of the Year. A motion to approve the nomination was made by John Rheinberger. Seconded by Jim Levitt. Motion carried.
- e. **Mall Advertising Flyer** – We were approached by the Stillwater Gazette about doing a flyer that will go out to 15,000 subscribers. The advertising cost options are \$75, \$149 or \$275. A motion to approve going ahead with the advertising, with a budget of up to \$275, was made by Sarah Hietpas and seconded by John Rheinberger. Motion carried
- f. **Family Means Garden Tour** – Coordinated by Family Means, the 19th Annual St. Croix Valley Garden Tour will showcase eight beautiful gardens in Stillwater, Lake Elmo and Oakdale. One home featured on the tour will be a home in Stillwater, overlooking the St. Croix River, with extensive native plantings and raingardens installed with a cost-share grant from the Brown's Creek Watershed District and design assistance from the Washington Conservation District. Washington Conservation District was a co-sponsor for last year's garden tour and will be for this year's tour as well. As event sponsors, we need to help staff the Stillwater raingarden site on Saturday and Sunday during the tour. There will also be a Master Gardener on site to answer plant questions, and a Garden Tour volunteer to collect admission tickets and answer general questions. Our role will be to provide visitors with information about native plants and raingardens, as well as the services available through the WCD and watershed organizations. Angie will be providing handouts and displays. She is looking for Board members that would be willing to help fill the three remaining 3-hour shifts on the 16th or 17th. Last year's tour had about 800 people, and attendance in year's past has been as high as 1,000.
- g. **Washington County Fair Sign-Up** – A sign-up sheet was passed around for Board members to pick up shifts at the County fair booth.
- h. **St. Croix Coasters EMWREP Purchase Request** – This July, we will be printing and distributing 100,000 drink coasters to bars and restaurants throughout Washington County and the St. Croix Basin as part of a collaborative effort to raise awareness about the St. Croix River and get people involved in projects with the Conservation District and

our partners. We are collaborating with the St. Croix River Association on this project, as part of their 100-year anniversary celebration. Other partners include Lift Bridge Brewery, who will be donating prizes, JJ Taylor Companies, who will be distributing the coasters for us and printing posters as well, and Greg Sietz, who has designed a new website – www.stcroix360.com – for the campaign. The coasters will drive people to the new website, where there will be information about the Washington Conservation District, St. Croix River Association and other project partners, as well as information about upcoming events and projects people can get involved in. In 2010, EMWREP partners agreed to allocate \$2,000 from the materials budget for this effort. The cost for the coasters will be \$2,311 plus shipping. Website and graphic design will cost \$1,500. Angie is requesting approval to spend the \$2,000 from the EMWREP materials budget allocated for this project. The St. Croix River Association will be covering the remainder of the expenses. A motion to approve the expenditure was made by Jim Levitt. The motion was seconded by Sarah Hietpas. Motion carried.

- i. **State Cost-Share Encumbrance Request – Dotolo Waterway** – The landowner is proposing to repair a failing grassed waterway in an area of active erosion within an agricultural field. The proposed project will stabilize the waterway and improve water quality by reducing the sediment load to the St. Croix River. The discharge from the eroding waterway is less than ½ mile from the St. Croix River. This project meets BWSR’s high priority erosion problem definition. Runoff from the site flows to the St. Croix River. Based on the potential to improve water quality, the District Technical Representative recommends encumbering a total of \$6,000.00 in FY2010 state cost-share base grant project funds to this project, or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. If funding is encumbered, \$1,249.00 remains in the FY2010 base grant fund. A motion was made by Sarah Hietpas, seconded by John Rheinberger, to approve a contract to construct a Grassed Waterway (D5) in Section 18, T32N R19W in Scandia at 75% of the total cost estimate or \$6,000.00, whichever is less. Project funds totaling \$6,000.00 are encumbered from the FY2010 base grant. The total cost estimate to construct the practice is \$8,000.00. The district technical representative is Peter J. Young, PE, CPESC. Applicant will be notified of Board’s decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- j. **State Cost-Share Encumbrance Request – Revoir Waterway** – The landowner is proposing to install a grassed waterway in an area of active erosion within an agricultural field. The proposed project will stabilize the waterway and improve water quality by reducing the sediment load to Silver Lake, a priority of the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District. This project meets BWSR’s high priority erosion problem definition. Runoff from the site flows to Silver Lake. Based on the potential to improve water quality, the District Technical Representative recommends encumbering a total of \$1,000.00 in FY2010 state cost-share base grant project funds to this project, or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. If funding is encumbered, \$0.00 remains in the FY2010 base grant fund. A motion was made by John Rheinberger, seconded by Jim Levitt, to approve a contract to construct a Grassed Waterway (D5) in Section 6, T30N R20W in Stillwater Township at 75% of the total cost estimate or \$1,000.00, whichever is less. Project funds totaling \$1,000.00 are encumbered from the FY2010 base grant. The total cost estimate to construct the practice is \$1,375.00. The district technical representative is Peter J. Young, PE, CPESC. Applicant will be notified of Board’s decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- k. **AgBMP Loan Application - Wizykoski** – On May 31, 2011, WCD received an AgBMP Loan Application from Ronald & Linda Wizykoski of Afton requesting the amount of \$15,000.00 for replacement of a failing Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS). WCD has established a \$15,000.00 maximum for loans to individuals for failing SSTS replacement projects. The proposed project consists of the removal of a failing SSTS and installation of a new system. Failing septic systems are a threat to surface and groundwater quality in Washington County. The site is located within the subwatershed of Valley Creek, a designated trout stream. Based on the water quality threat to the surrounding area, WCD staff recommends approving this AgBMP Loan Application as submitted. A motion to approve the AgBMP Loan Application was made by Sarah Hietpas and seconded by Jim Levitt. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Discuss any Clean Water Legacy Grant applications we are going to make and whether they fit with the goals of the program.

Sarah Hietpas moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Levitt seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is July 13, 2011 at **1:00p.m.**

Secretary

Approved Date