

**PINE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES
April 21, 2009**

The Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. Supervisors present were Skip Thomson, Paul Olesen, Kelly Osterdyk, JJ Waldhalm and Doug Odegard. Office staff present were: Jill Carlier, District Manager; Tim Olson, Office Assistant; Robin Poppe, Resource Conservationist/Wetland Specialist; Sam Martin, Water Management/GIS Specialist; Mike Yrjo, Soil Conservation Technician; and Bob Korth, NRCS District Conservationist. Also present were Ryan Hughs, BWSR; David Koland, and Don Slama Sr.

CALL TO ORDER: Doug Odegard called the board meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Don Slama Sr. stated there will be a Water Plan Task Force meeting on Thursday April 23rd. A Scoping Document has been drafted for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Thomson to approve the agenda with the addition of Water Plan Resolution.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

MARCH MINUTES:

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Thomson to approve the March minutes with corrections.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

APRIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Osterdyk to approve the April payments of bills, including a \$10,000 funds transfer.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

USDA COMPUTER SYSTEM:

Carlier stated she contacted 2 companies about setting up a network, if Pine SWCD were to unplug from the USDA system:

Cybert PC bid; \$10,689.85

East Central Computing bid: \$7,756.00

After reviewing the 2 bids and meeting with both companies, Cybert PC presented the best system for what we need. It was decided to table this issue until a later date, due to upcoming discussion on USDA building.

FOSTER PROPERTY CONCERN:

Carlier stated that we received letters from Larry Foster, and Sue Alderink (Pokegama Township) on the day of the March board meeting. The letters were about a water flow issue on Mr. Foster's property. On April 17th, Osterdyk and Thomson met with Julie Olson DNR, at the property's site. Osterdyk provided information to put together a letter to respond to this issue. Carlier stated she had an unfinished draft for the supervisor's to read over and discuss how to respond to this issue. Waldhalm questioned how a CDO was issued, rescinded and never re-issued. Waldhalm also questioned when Thomson and Osterdyk looked at the site whether the berm on the north side of the pond had spoil piles. Waldhalm stated in the March minutes that it is confusing whether the road or the pond is causing the flooding problems. There is absolutely no language about the pond in this letter.

Thomson stated bigger culverts at the right elevation could help the flow of water.

Osterdyk stated the letter should come from himself and Thomson, since they were on site.

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Thomson to send out a letter to Foster and Alderink.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

STATE COST SHARE:

Carlier stated there are no cost share projects.

AREA III RESOLUTION MEETING:

Carlier stated that no information has been received as of today. It was decided to table this issue until the May meeting. Carlier will forward the information to the board when she receives it.

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Thomson to approve sending whoever wants to attend the Area III Resolution meeting.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

TMDL'S:

Carlier stated she sent a copy of an email she received from Craig Mell, District Manager, about the TMDL for the St Croix Watershed. Mell has been meeting with MPCA about this issue, and emailed all of the districts in the St Croix Watershed to see how much involvement they want to have with TMDL's. Carlier stated if we get involved in this, we will hire a new staff person just for this position. Olesen questioned if the money for the grant would cover all expenses. Carlier stated a grant is written for the TMDL, all of the expenses, including payroll, are associated with the grant. Waldhalm stated Koland had said in a previous meeting that we are an export of water. It is potentially a boatload of money to do the implementation. It is somebody's money, why don't we just let everybody else, if somebody else wants to get involved, let them do it. Water flows downhill and we'll eventually figure out where the contaminants are coming from. They will follow it upstream. They could also send that money and maybe do some clean water money on paying for these communities like Askov for their sewer ponds.

Olesen stated that we should keep an open mind and recommend to our staff to look into this, and show interest.

USDA BUILDING:

Carlier stated she sent out a summary regarding the rental lease for this building. The lease of this building is up on November 30th. Larry Sederstrom, FSA, is in charge of the negotiations for USDA. Sederstrom was talking about the rent increase. Carlier stated she checked into other buildings in the area to see what the rent was averaging at.

Also, the county has offered to move us into one of their buildings. If we were to move out we are required to give notice by August 1st. Carlier stated this is something the board needs to think about. Sederstrom has been in contact with the business owner, stating the rent could drop. Co-locating with NRCS, we do not pay for all of the space we use. NRCS picks up some of our cost. A decision should be made by July if we decide to move on our own.

WATER PLAN RESOLUTION:

Carlier stated in January a resolution was passed to adopt the county water plan as our comprehensive plan. The wording on the end of the plan was from January 2009 until the next one is completed. We need to change the wording to "Pine SWCD adopts the county water plan as its comprehensive plan for calendar years 2009 to 2010". This is just a minor change, but we need to formally adopt this.

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Osterdyk to approve adopting the change of the Pine SWCD Comprehensive Water Plan for the years 2009 to 2010.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT:

Korth reviewed the attached report.

STAFF/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

Wetlands:

Poppe stated there was a TEP meeting on Tuesday April 21st. The TEP went out and looked at the delineation for the Askov waste water pond access and the replacement wetland site. The delineation was approved.

Water Management:

Martin stated the Snake River Watershed hired a seasonal technician to do water monitoring on Cross Lake and Pokegama Lake.

Martin stated a draft Scoping Document is ready and has been sent out. Our Water Plan Working Group will meet Thursday April 23rd. The working group will discuss any suggestions or revisions that need to be made to the document. In August we present the document to BWSR.

Martin stated on May 16th he will give a rain garden presentation at the Audubon Center for the Master Naturalist Program.

Forestry:

Waldhalm stated there was no meeting.

Impact 6:

Thomson stated the merge was discussed at the meeting. A meeting will be held in Duluth on May 27.

RC&D Onanaegozie:

Olesen stated there was no meeting.

Snake River Citizen Advisory Committee:

Martin stated a meeting will be held on Monday April 27th.

Legislative:

Nothing at this time.

Personnel:

Carlier stated that a meeting was held on April 8th. The personnel committee recommended that the district office be closed the day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve day. If it was your scheduled day to work, you would use vacation time.

Motion by Thomson, seconded by Waldhalm to approve closing the office on the day after Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve day.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

Carlier stated that the personnel committee recommended a cap of 24 hours for comp time.

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Osterdyk to approve a cap of 24 hours for comp time.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

Carlier state that the personnel committee recommended a probation period of 9 months for new employees.

Motion by Osterdyk, seconded by Olesen to approve a probation period of 9 months for new employees.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

Carlier stated the personnel committee recommended the District Manager and Office Assistant write a procedure manual for their jobs.

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Thomson to approve writing the District Manager and Office Assistant write a procedure manual for their jobs. Waldhalm questioned why we are only making decisions on the two office positions. Will there be discussion on the two field positions, and are we approving them all as a whole? Carlier stated this ism just for the two office positions.

Motion by Olesen, seconded by Thomson to approve writing the District Manager and Office Assistant write a procedure manual for their jobs.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

Waldhalm opposed on the grounds of the BWSR manual not being part of the procedure of Poppe's position, and no one acknowledging the fact that it should be part of the procedure.

Mission Statement:

Carlier stated that it has come to her attention that the mission statement for the district is the same as the mission statement for the task force. This mission fits the task force, but could have changes for the district. This issue has been tabled until the personnel meeting in June.

Health Insurance:

Carlier stated the renewal policy date is May 1st. Carlier stated she looked at different options to save the district money. This is a very expensive plan to the district. Other districts have stipends for employees who do not participate in the insurance plan. Many districts have an agreement to pay employees not participating either a cash amount every month, or in the form of a contribute to a retirement account. The personnel committee recommends paying 50% of the single premium to any employee not participating in the plan.

Thomson is asking the board for permission for Carlier and himself to talk to a broker about insurance.

Motion by Waldhalm, seconded by Olesen for Thomson and Carlier to talk with a broker about insurance plans.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

Policy:

Carlier stated there was no meeting.

Trees:

Olson stated there are 290 tree orders as of today.

Envirothon:

Carlier stated the Envirothon is Monday May 4th at Camp Onomia in Onamia. The southern region has 20 teams registered and the northern region has 30 teams registered.

MISC ITEMS:

Nothing at this time.

NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME:

Motion by Olesen seconded by Thomson to hold the next meeting on Thursday May 28th, 2009 at 4:30p.m.

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: 6:30 p.m. by Olesen

Affirmative: Olesen, Osterdyk, Thomson, Waldhalm

Opposed: None Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Olesen, Secretary