

**MINUTES OF THE
WADENA SWCD
May 19, 2008**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Melvin Kinnunen at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisors present: Melvin Kinnunen, Chairman
Marvin Runyan, Vice Chairman
Tom Schulz, Secretary
Ken Berg, Treasurer
Nancy Benson, Public Relations and Information

Staff present: Malinda Dexter, District Manager

Others present: Mary Harrison, County Commissioner

M/S/P to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2008 board meeting, with the addition of the Poster and Essay Winners.

M/S/P to approve the April Treasurer's Report subject to audit. The Accounts Receivable balance as of April 30, 2008 was \$ 2,423.09. Malinda explained the deposit from the US Treasury, they thought she had overpaid on the last quarter of 2007 for the FICA & Medicare withholdings, in the amount of \$1,252.37 and sent us a refund. A letter was just received to send the check back, that they were wrong.

Old Business:

Staff reports are attached to the minutes.

Board Reports:

Tom Schulz reported that the MASWCD Board of Directors approved the concept of going from 11 Joint Powers Board areas to 8 and the funds remaining would be split amount the 8 areas.

Melvin Kinnunen reported on the WesMin RC&D Meeting, May 14th.

- WesMin RC&D has a low fund balance but the interest is paid at the bank for the Smokey Timbers Camp. Crow Wing, Cass and Grant Counties have not paid the requested funds. Miltona School District would like to use the forested area to the north of the camp for a Forestry classroom.
- Cass & Grant Counties have not paid their dues.
- A Rotational Grazing Tour will be held in Wadena County on August 1st and 2nd.
- The Glacial Ridge Committee is holding a Model T tour on September 7th to drive the Glacial Ridge Trail.

Tom Schulz reported on the Forestry Meeting, held in McGregor on May 15th.

- There was a full agenda and consulting foresters were in attendance, they did not like the District staff doing their work. The DNR Foresters defended the District staff personnel.
- A forestry tour will be co-sponsored by WesMin RC&D and the Forestry Association. They would like a video of a harvest with a forester presenting it at the July 15th meeting. Tom committed to getting a harvest video completed with Anne's help.
- Jim Lemmerman, BWSR Forester, has retired and will not be replaced, although BWSR is looking at a ½ time Board Conservationist and ½ time Forester position in the Duluth office.
- The Emerald Ash Borer was discussed, if the MAFC will be the liaison for Districts they could bring word to Districts. The plan is, if Emerald Ash Borer is found, all the ash trees within a 3 mile radius will be destroyed.

A loan resolution from the Mid Central Federal Savings and Loan was discussed. The loan is for \$21,900 for the new no-till drill. We received \$5,000 from the sale of the old no-till drill, those funds will be paid on the note this week. Marvin Runyan made a motion to approve the signing of the loan for the drill. Ken Berg seconded the motion. Melvin Kinnunen, Chairman, was authorized to sign the note. Malinda will deposit funds in a savings account at the Mid Central Federal Savings and Loan and the payments will be automatically withdrawn from that account each month, the payments are \$424.96 per month beginning June 1, 2008. We need to put Wadena SWCD on the back of the drill and a do not back up sign also.

Malinda explained that BWSR has made some cutbacks again to the Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant we were approved for \$25,000, but will have to wait for word from BWSR.

Computer Upgrades in the future were discussed. With the new NRCS program of the district paying \$3,000 per year, we will still have to purchase computers to replace the old ones every five years. So we will need to purchase one new computer each year to keep them on a schedule and up to date.

The Annual Banquet 50th Anniversary was discussed, it will be held June 20th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Pine Cove Inn North of Wadena on Hwy 71. We will Load buses at 10:30 a.m. and tour SW, W & N of County, light lunch at Westside Laestadian Church , Menahga, tour NE, E and SE of County meet back at the Pine Cove Inn for social hour at 4:30 p.m. , a three meat buffet followed by entertainment and a program. The costs will include the entertainment, buses, advertising, and invitation mailings.

The Forestry Landscape Committee agreed to give \$5,000 to the Wadena SWCD to use for development of a record keeping system for all Forest Stewardship Plans in Wadena County.

Clerical Staffing was discussed, Angela Gumke has been doing an excellent job for the District. Her work period through CEP has been extended to June 30, at no cost to us. Malinda is working with the Job Training program on a proposal that would pay half her wages from July 1st to Dec. 31. At ½ time the cost to the District for that time period would be \$2,080.00, this can be taken from several of the grants that we are working from right now.

MSWCD has made a call for resolutions. No one had any new ideas for a resolution at this time.

Ivan Reinke, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician gave the NRCS Report for Russell Kleinschmidt who was out on leave with his wife and new baby boy that was born this morning. Collen Oestrich will start her new position on June 2nd, she replaces Jim Ayres as the Area II Assistant State Conservationist. Ivan and Russell are working on Forestry and Grazing Practices with landowners. Russell has stated that he has completed most of his goals for his 1st year in Wadena which ends June 11th.

New Business:

Malinda explained that BWSR has notified us that they have new funding for staffing extensions for those who received new staff funding in the CWL Forestry Grant. Anne and Malinda will prepare the application. It would be great to keep Anne in the Forestry position for another year and beyond.

State Cost Share to be encumbered:

08-356 Scott Walz, Lyons Twp, Sec 29 Field Windbreak	\$	557.00
07-357 Ken Derby, Wadena Twp, Sec 22, Shelterbelt replant		<u>80.00</u>
Total to be encumbered	\$	637.00

Tom Schulz made a motion to approve the above listed cost share contracts for encumbrance. Marvin Runyan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

State Cost Share amendment:

08-353 Curtis Maas, Wadena Twp, Sec 17, Field Windbreak increase cost share amount from \$440.00 to \$518.25, added expenses for tractor and driver to pull tree planter
Ken Berg made a motion to approve the amendment of contract # 08-383. Tom Schulz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

State Cost Share to be Paid, contracts complete:

07-338 Bill Carkhuff, Wadena Twp, Sec 20, Field Windbreak	458.25
07-340 Jerry Fisher, Rockwood Twp, Sec 29, Field Windbreak	506.25
08-341 Randon Steinkopf, Wing River Sec 10, Field Windbreak	762.25
08-342 Harlan Thomson, Leaf & Wing River Twps, Sec 25 & 30 FW	168.75
08-346 Murray Jacobson, Wadena Twp, Sec 21, Field Windbreak	178.75
08-347 Randy Wenthold, Shell River Twp, Sec 9, Shelterbelt replant	230.75
08-348 Jim Nanik, Aldrich Twp, Sec 26, Field Windbreak	318.75
08-351 Steve Kingsley, Wadena Twp, Sec 29, Field Windbreak	268.50
08-356 Scott Walz, Lyons Twp, Sec 29, Field Windbreaks	557.00
07-357 Ken Derby, Wadena Twp, Sec 22, Farmstead Shelterbelt	<u>79.00</u>
Total to be paid	\$ 3,528.25

Tom Schulz made a motion to approve the above listed cost share contracts to be paid. Ken Berg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Beaver Grant

Dan Rathcke, Beaver Control trapped 50 beaver c/s \$7.50 ea	\$	375.00
Gary Pederson, Beaver Control trapped 8 beaver c/s \$7.50 ea		60.00
Trail Breakers Inc., cleared dam on Yaeger Lake		<u>216.75</u>
Total to be paid	\$	651.75

Ken Berg made a motion to approve the above listed beaver control grant requests. Marvin Runyan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trail Breakers Snowmobile Club, would like to install beaver control equipment at Yaeger Lake at a cost of \$1,325.00, and request cost share assistance

The board discussed this request and determined that the DNR should take care of this as it does not qualify under the Beaver Grant rules.

Malinda will let Betty White, Accountant for the Wadena County Highway Department know what the balance of the grant is before the next meeting. The balance after paying today’s request is \$2,244.51.

The District was highlighted in “A Citizen’s Guide to Using Monitoring Data”, Kari’s water monitoring program was discussed at length. Also the Menahga Conservation Club had a page for monitoring the mussels in the Shell River. Good job and thanks Kari.

Conservation Cooperator suggestions - must make selection at June meeting.

Meetings or Training Session for approval:

- Public Forum on Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Morris, May 22 - Kari
- MASWCD Area VIII resolution meeting, Bemidji, June 5- \$11.00/person – Board & Malinda
- Agro Forestry & Renewable Energy Tour, Alexandria, June 12, \$20.00/person – Anne & Tom
- Employees Annual Meeting & Conference, Breezy Point, June 23-25, \$375/person

Discussed meetings to attend, all supervisors and staff are welcome to attend the Area VIII meeting, Anne, Tom and any other board members may attend the Agro Forestry Tour and attendance at the Employees

Conference as the Manager sees fit. Marvin Runyan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a four to one vote, Benson voting nay.

Malinda presented a contract from the MN Conservation Corp for work on Spirit and Stocking Lakes, the cost is \$700, it needs a signature. DNR Shoreland Habitat Grant funds will be used. Tom Schulz made a motion to sign the contract with the MN Conservation Corp. Nancy Benson seconded the motion, passed.

Staff training requests from NRCS were reviewed.

Discussed the Green Expo that is being planned at the fairgrounds in the spring, by a Citizens Committee.

Everyone thanked Mary Harrison for this addition of the recycling bins around the county. They are working well.

Meeting Adjourned

Tom Schulz, Secretary

Date