

Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Stangl, Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher and Anez

Staff: Ringwelski, Hanson and McLennan

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Meeting was opened by 2014 Chairman, Cindy Anez

1. Oath of Office Declarations by Marvin and Claude: Oaths of office were read and signed. MSC by Anez/Faber to approve the 2014 Election Results.
2. Election of Officers: Under Normal Rotation, 2015 Slate of Officers will be: MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve the rotation of officers.

Chairman	Marvin Stangl
V. Chairman	Claude Dahmen
Secretary	Bill Faber
Treasurer	Thomas Brutscher
Public Relations	Cynthia Anez

Chairman Stangl took the meeting at this time.

3. Official Date, Time, and Location: MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve the fourth Thursday of Each Month @ 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.
4. Per Diem and Mileage: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve \$75/ Full Board Meetings or Full Day Meetings, \$25 Committees and IRS mileage rate = \$.575.
5. Official Publication: MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve the Morrison County Record
6. Committee Assignments: Marvin named the following Committees:
 - Personnel Committee: Anez and Faber
 - Finance Committee: Stangl and Brutscher
 - WCTSA Representative: Dahmen
 - Water Plan Representative: Brutscher
7. Annual Resolution Approving the Morrison County Local Water Plan as the District's Annual Plan. MSC Faber/Dahmen. On a roll call vote, all supervisors voted affirmative.

8. Grant Agreement Contract Signing Delegation: MSC by Brutscher/Anez approving Contracts to be Signed by District Manager Once Approved
9. Minimum Fund Balance of 3 Months Operational. MSC by Faber/Brutscher
10. Capital Assets Policy Threshold = \$500.00 MSC by Brutscher/Faber

REGULAR MEETING:

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve as read.

Treasure's Report: MSC by Faber/Anez to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Josh Hanson said they have 43 new 2015 CSP applications and completed the work on 68 re-enrollments. 278 payments have been made. There are 45 EQIP applications. Staff all went to EQIP training this past week.

Alan had done survey work on the Platte River Project and worked with Tom Theis. He also completed an Environmental review on Russell Tretter for a new hog barn. Tree sales have slowed down.

Helen shared that she's working on some of the YE reports as is LeaAnn. Lance had completed the E-link reporting.

Commissioner's Report: Randy shared that the bid for fixing the exterior of the old courthouse had come in far less than budgeted and they were investigating the work performance of the low bid company. He felt the building should be more utilized. They are working on balancing the budget and getting all newly elected officials on deck.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ag BMP Report: Helen said over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars is revolving and the YE report and application is due February 1, 2015. A larger amount will be allocated to septic updates for the Fish Trap Lake residents from the inventory that was conducted.
2. Grant Opportunities: Need Approval to Submit Applications for CPL and LCCMR Grant Proposals for the Platte River Project for the County and George Lancaster. MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve of the district applying for grants for this project.
3. Newly Elected Official Outreach: A letter on behalf of the board had been sent out congratulating the newly elected officials.
4. Change in BWSR Wetland Specialist: Helen assisted in interviews on January 21, 2015, interviewing six candidates for the vacancy of John Overland's position. Hopefully the new person will be on staff shortly.

5. BWSR Retirements: Ron Shelito has announced his retirement the first of March. Keith Pohl is done the end of January. There continues to be a lot of turnover in all positions of our partners.
6. ACUB Status and Outreach Efforts: DOD is concerned about dollars not spent as yet. Helen sent out 18 letters and got good response. Lance is busy working up new applications. The LSOHC Phase 4 needs to get obligated very soon as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MASWCD Legislative Agenda was shared with a focus on technical stability of the districts and funding issues.
2. Area 2 Envirothon Sponsorship: \$150 - MSC Anez/Dahmen to approve the donation.
3. Treasurer Training Mandate: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to have Brutscher attend the training session that will be put on towards the end of February. Date and location has not been determined as yet.
4. DRT Meetings Established (Development Review Team) Helen and Randy explained the purpose and format for the new process that will be used for CUP and Variance requests.
5. Irrigation Clinic - March 10, 2015, in Royalton @ American Legion: Helen shared the clinic that will be put on again sponsored by Benton SWCD.
6. Todd Meyer Appeal: The Restoration Order has been appealed to BWSR and an application will be submitted requesting a No Net Loss or Exemption. However, it is staff opinion that it likely won't qualify. Helen granted the attorney a 30 day extension to provide more information and then it will be reviewed by the TEP at their February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

USDA County Offices

Thursday, February 26, 2015

9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Dahmen, Stangl, Brutscher, Faber and Anez

Commissioner: Winscher

Staff: Hanson, Ringwelsk, and McLennan

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Brutscher/Anez to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Alan said wetland issues were fast and furious already. A tree ad in the Record had boosted tree sales. There are already feedlot issues and some ag waste requests.

Helen said she was working on a second agreement with NRCS to handle their wetland workload. She also explained the two DRT meetings that were already held and felt the landowner had an opportunity to make a much better application by holding these informal meetings.

Josh handed out the required reminders for Sexual Harassment and Equal Employment laws.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Winscher said they have studied the septic survey conducted on Fish Trap Lake and showing nearly a 30 percent non-compliance. They are looking at expanding the efforts on other lakes. They also were concerned with the length of time for permitting from the Army Corps on public works projects. It really affects the annual workload. They are dealing with budget issues as always.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wetland Conservation Act Appeal and Potential Appeal
 - A. Todd Meyer placed in abeyance until the lawsuit with the county is resolved.
 - B. Fish Trap Lake Association has concerns over the BNSF additional railway and is wondering why no one required an EIS or EAW. Neither the EQB nor BWSR has any definitive answers on whether we will be petitioned to require one. The mitigation is already completed.
2. BWSR Retirement – Ron Shelito, Regional Supervisor open house on Monday March 2, 2-4 at the BWSR offices in Brainerd.

3. Water Plan Update Resolution Approved by County: The county passed the resolution to approve the update of the water plan. MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve the staff going forward with the update requirements.
4. Clean Water Fund Update: Morrison received no funding this year for the second year in a row which will force additional grant seeking for project implementation.
5. Training for Land Use Decision Makers in Cooperation with Todd, Crow Wing and Wadena Counties: The Red River TMDL and Long Prairie TMDL will join forces and hold a 7 county training session in September for all land use decision makers.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Area 2 Meeting in Alexandria – March 11th. Randy, Claude, and Bill will attend along with Josh, Helen, and LeaAnn.
2. Clean Water Partnership Grant Application – Platte River Project \$53,700.00
MSC by Faber/Brutscher to approve the application.
3. Sentinel Landscape Bill Status: The Rep. Kresha authored bill has made its way through 3 committees so far and not expected to have any opposition. If approved it will be one of the first two designated Sentinel Landscapes in the country.
4. ACUB Funding for 2015: \$880,000 was awarded through REPI for 2015.
5. Cost Share Contract Approval: MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve: The Kenner project will be done by the LFCHS students.
 - a. Jason Boser \$ 588.00 (380) Field Windbreak
 - b. Cari Kenner \$2,133.75 Riparian Buffer
6. Freshwater Society Initiative: The society is seeking financial support to help districts with additional technical staffing needs.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Irrigation Clinic – March 10th
2. District Treasurer’s Workshop – Friday, March 13th, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm (Site TBD)
3. Area 2 Meeting in Alexandria – March 11th in Alexandria
4. Presentation to County Board – March 10th

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

William Faber, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 26, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USDA COUNTY OFFICES

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Dahmen, Stangl, Brutscher, Faber and Anez

Commissioner: Winscher

Staff: McLennan, Hanson and Ringwelski

Secretary's Report: MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Faber/Brutscher to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Josh stated that 21 new EQIP applications have pre-approval. 45 have applied for re-enrollment for CSP, and there are 60 new CSP applications. The new State Conservationist, Cathee Pullman will begin in May.

Alan is doing five Environmental Reviews which will take all the time between now and tree time, 3 are for hog barns, 2 dairy expansion. There are quite a few wetland determinations pending as well as the federal workload.

Helen said she had a visit with Dan Hutton, who does a majority of the tile workload in the county and outlined a better method of working together to avoid all the conflict in the neighborhoods. Lake and River Day as well as a LID Board meeting will be hosted on July 11th at the Scandia Valley Townhall. There is a big battle between two landowners over a beaver pond drainage and trespass which has involved the sheriff's office and DNR. Two more municipalities are working on their well head protection plans.

Commissioner's Report:

Randy Winscher shared the public hearing process over the Scenic View campground expansion. He felt the annual report day from all entities on Tuesday were very informative. He also shared that with a few phone calls he was able to expedite the ACOE permit process for County Road 33.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Legislative Summary: Funding Initiatives, Buffer Legislation - Helen outlined how bills were moving but a lot of language changes are still expected.
2. Area 2 Meeting Report: Bill and Randy said the information was informative and they were impressed with the number of participants. 65 people attended and Morrison hosted the meeting in Alexandria.
3. WCA Summary: Helen shared the status of the following TEP reviewed issues.
 - a. Burlington Northern Appeal Update: Still up in the air regarding an EAW.
 - b. TEP Report on Daryl Counter and Morrill Township Board will change to a ditch maintenance application allowing the side cast towards the road.
4. Treasurer's Training Report: Tom Brutscher said he felt good about our process and status of the District after listening to some of the other district's way of doing business.
5. Irrigation Clinic in Royaltown, March 10th – Alan and Josh attended along with Carrie and Terry. They thought there were more producers than in the past and said some of the farmers were upset with Benton SWCD statement that irrigation is the reason for the poor condition of Little Rock Lake.
6. NRCS / SWCD Certified Wetland Determination renewal contract: A new contract has been entered for 2015 workload. Helen stated there were already over 50 awaiting site checks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cost Share Applications: MSC to approve by Dahmen/Brutscher
 - a. John Okonek #08-15 Well Decommissioning \$ 297.50
 - b. Phil Rudolph #13-15 Forest Improvement \$ 1,515.22
 - c. Keith Muiers #14-15 Well Decommissioning \$ 322.50
 - d. Jody Gottwalt #15-15 Forest Establishment \$ 1,741.95
 - e. Oldakowski Farms LR-49-10-12 WASCB (638) \$24,569.00
2. Buffer Inventory Grant Application to BWSR - \$70,000 - Amy Kowalcz and Helen worked up an application to BWSR to conduct a buffer inventory and drainage survey.
3. Lake Shamaineau - Lake Improvement District public hearing will be May 23rd.
4. MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program through the WCTSA: Another person will be hired by the WCTSA to do the certification program in all 12 counties.
5. Annual Report to the County Board: Helen met with the county board on Tuesday to present the annual report.
6. Tree Week Dates will be the week of April 26th, with pick up on Friday, May 1st.
7. ACUB Open House - April 16th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Camp Ripley
8. New Nitrate Contract with MDA: 5 More Townships to be Tested: We entered a new agreement with MDA for additional nitrate testing. RMB Laboratories will once again be used. The District will be the local sponsor and do the outreach.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2015
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices, Little Falls, MN

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Stangl, Dahmen and Anez

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski and Hanson

Absent: Supervisors Faber and Brutscher

Secretary's Report: MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Josh said 4 more EQIP applications were prepared to rank. 57 CSP applications are being ranked. They are beginning 4 sediment basin projects. Terry will be assigned to Stearns County until August.

Alan said the 1026 workload has begun. The Bob Gruber ag waste pit will resume soon. They are working on gully erosion, terrace repair, and two rain gardens in Royalton.

Helen shared that she and LeaAnn had met with Mille Lacs SWCD Manager Susan Shaw in a follow up to the Treasurer's Training. The BNSF issue has been taking a lot of time. WCA and 1026 work is starting up and she and Alan are preparing some of the paperwork ahead of field visits. They are also starting with some of the P/Z referenced landowners to meet their conditions of their permits.

Commissioner's Report: Randy said the annual spring township board meeting had been held the night before and went well. He is going to look into the decision Benton County recently made to permit tile lines. The Host Ordinance concerning teen age alcohol consumption was defeated. They appreciated the Nitrate Summary Helen had sent to them and were looking at possibly doing a septic inventory of Agram Township.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Camp Ripley ACUB Open House had been held Thursday evening, April 16, 2015. Turnout was fair and a few more people have signed interest forms.
- 2) Buffer Bill Progress: Helen said that Rep. Kresha and Sen. Gazelka will be hosting townhall meetings on Saturday April 25, 2015, to hear concerns about this bill and other matters. Meetings will be held in Royalton, Pierz, and Motley.
- 3) Technical Evaluation Panel Findings:
 - a. BNSF Decision on Environmental Assessment Worksheet: Helen shared that she had met with County Attorney Brian Middendorf as well as brought the matter to the TEP again last week. Middendorf advised that if the TEP found the threshold less than mandated by Mn. Rule 4410.4000 Subp. 27 A and B, then he would not encourage the District to order a discretionary EAW. But if it did meet the threshold, it was up to the board to mandate it or not. The TEP went through each impact site and eliminated those not to be considered under the rule. Six sights remaining did not meet the criteria: ***“B. For projects that will change or diminish the course, current, or cross-section of 40 percent or more or five or more acres of types 3 through 8 wetlands, 2.5 acres or more; excluding public water wetlands, if any part of the wetland is within a shoreland area, delineated flood plain, a state or federally designated wild and scenic rivers district, the Minnesota River Riverbend area, or the Mississippi headwaters area, the local government units shall be the RGU.”***

Helen shared that the TEP did not find the impacts to meet the above threshold and therefore the board needed to make a decision whether to require a discretionary EAW. It is a Governmental decision and not a staff decision to make. The Army Corps has not permitted the project as yet, but are requiring an EA to be done. It is not known as yet what the timeline will be for the Army Corps permitting process.

MSC by Anez, second by Dahmen to not order a discretionary EAW due to the TEP findings. Motion carried.

- b. Township issues: The TEP also visited some road issues in Scandia Valley Township where constant road improvements are required due to the water topping the road. The road had been closed most of the past year. The district wrote a letter to the township board recommending that a portion of the road be removed and legally abandoned due to constant maintenance and unsafe conditions. It is likely that the road was built through a portion of the lake's backwater and therefore sustainability is difficult to achieve since the water abuts the road all of the time keeping the road bed saturated.

Other townships have presented some projects for assistance as well.

- c. Environmental Reviews: The District has provided 6 Environmental Reviews for 2 dairy expansions and four new hog barns. Another hog barn review will need to be done in May. (Peter Faust, dairy; Gerard Waldoch Dairy; Dave Kuhl, hogs; John Brown, hogs; Clyde Gulden, hogs; and Russell Tretter, hogs.)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MASWCD call for Resolutions – Helen shared that it's time to think of resolutions the board may wish to carry forward to the Association.
2. Vacation approval for Alan: MSC by Stangl/Anez to approve vacation for Alan May 18 – 22, 2015.
3. Tree Seasonal Help – There will be four seasonal staff hired for tree week. Three returning from previous years, and one new person. LeaAnn was organized to the hilt and ready to go. Tree pickup will be Friday, May 1, 2015.
4. County Ordinance Revision Process: Commissioner Winscher said they were putting a team together to start the process and if any supervisors were interested in working on the task, to let him know.
5. Resolution to Approve MDA Contracts and Designate Helen as signer – MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve the resolution. Voting yes, Anez, Dahmen, and Stangl. No opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

William Faber, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 28, 2015
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices, Little Falls, MN

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Anez, Brutscher, Dahmen, Faber, Stangl

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski, Hanson

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Faber to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Josh (NRCS) said that 19 of 57 applications were pre-approved. They are doing the field verifications now. Two EQIP applications were preapproved, one for ditch renovation and one cover crop. They have completed 2 sed basins, 1 prescribed burn, 2 compost facilities, 1 tree planting, 1 grass planting, and 1 brush management. They will be starting another 3 compost buildings, 3 ag waste systems, and 1 sediment basin project.

Alan said Environmental Reviews were a heavy work load, now working on three more which will be nine already for this spring. The 1026 workload was also heavy with a number completed already. Bob Gruber's ag waste project will re-start soon.

Helen gave the final legislative summary for the buffer program and funding for SWCDs. However, the Governor vetoed the Environmental bill presently so it won't be immediate. But in the bill, \$100k would be given to each SWCD for 2 years to implement. That would enable the district to finally fund another full time technician and there would be a need for second vehicle.

Commissioner's Report: Randy Winscher gave an update on the LID public hearing for Lake Shamineau, attended by over 100 people. He also outlined the controversy regarding the Fish Trap Lake campground expansion.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. State Cost Share Cancellation: Jason Boser #10-15 \$588.00
MSC to Cancel by Brutscher/Faber.
2. Tree Program Summary: The program profit this year was \$15,882.25 in comparison to \$13,587.63 and sold 9,409 more trees than a year ago. There wasn't a single stem left over and Helen complimented LeaAnn's organizational skills and the crew for their terrific work.
3. Nitrate Clinic Summary: 88 wells were tested showing a continued 19% of higher than 10 ppm safety standards.
4. Jason Wienerman / Carrie Kenner Project: Helen asked if the board had seen the great write-up in the Morrison County record on this school planted project and the need for riparian buffers.
5. Clean Water Partnership Grant Award for Platte River Project: Notice has been received that this application was funded so the request was made to the engineer to complete the design and prepare the bidding documents.
6. Lake Improvement District Public Hearing – Lake Shamineau's LID proposal will now go before the County Board for approval.
7. WCA Violation Status: Helen described the six violations that are presently under enforcement action.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Computer Purchases for Three (3) Stations - \$3,675 Estimate Before Tax / Shipping
MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve the purchase.
2. Area 2 Meeting, Glenwood, MN - June 10th Marvin, Claude, and Josh will attend.
3. Vacation Approval – Helen (June 8th – 17th) MSC by Anez/Stangl to approve.
4. City of Royalton Green Fair Report: Helen shared the success of the first time event organized by Mayor Andrea Lauer.
5. Little Rock Cost Share Application Dale Scholl \$6,400 Erosion Control
MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve.
6. Planning and Zoning Violations and Conditions: Helen shared some of the issues that the District is assisting the county in trying to resolve.
7. Administrative Training Approval for LeaAnn - June 17th – 18th in Duluth
MSC by Anez/Faber to approve.
8. Cost Share Payment approvals: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve:

A. Joseph LeBlanc	#06-15	Reforestation	\$2,030.25
B. Armadillo – Doug Carlson	#02-15	Reforestation	\$2,245.50
C. Jody Gottwalt	#15-15	Reforestation	\$1,741.95
D. Gordon Meyer	#7-15	Reforestation	\$ 860.81
E. Cari Kenner	#09-15	Riparian buffer	\$1,994.43

INFORMATIONAL:

1. Lake and River Day - July 11th (LID Meetings Before) Helen outlined the plan for the day of this biannual event. It will be held at Scandia Valley Town Hall from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USDA COUNTY OFFICES, Little Falls, MN

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Dahmen, Stangl, Brutscher and Anez

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski and Hanson

Absent: Supervisor Faber and Commissioner Winscher

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Brutscher to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Josh said that three more EQIP applications had pre-approval as well as 3 more CSP's. He outlined the projects of each and what work had been done this past month and what was scheduled to be completed.

Alan said that his entire workload was 1026, environmental reviews, and some WCA.

Helen reiterated the 1026 workload and being a little over $\frac{3}{4}$ done with the 66 requests. The news release had been submitted for the next five townships that will be studied for nitrates and LeaAnn was working on the mailing lists for RMB labs. She and Lance are getting ready for Lake and River Day on July 11 at Scandia Valley Townhall. There a quite a few landowners waiting for assistance either with WCA and conditions on county issued permits.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Area 2 Report – Claude and Marvin stated that there was quite a bit of discussion on the buffer bill and legislative outcomes. Two resolutions had been discussed. There was also discussion of reducing the lengths of terms for supervisors. Helen shared that Todd SWCD would be hosting the next area meeting in September.
2. Legislative Summary of Funding: Helen outlined the summary of funding and buffer bill as it's known to date. She will put a new release together once the meeting with John Jaschke is over to help explain the buffer bill to constituents.
3. ACUB Status – LSOHC Phase 6 Application - \$3,000,000 was submitted and the Phase 5 money has been released for use.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Little Rock Project Payment Approvals: Oldakowski & Lanners MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve Lanners payment of \$3,451.25 and Oldakowski for \$6,957.63. The requests for payment will be forwarded to Benton SWCD.
2. Little Rock Application for Cost Share: MSC by Brutscher/Anez to rescind the approval for Dale Scholl last month's action and reapprove for \$13,484.50 for stream bank stabilization.
3. Resolution on Ob Well Monitoring Agreement: MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve the 2016 contract (\$3,840).
4. Environmental Reviews: Kyle Schraut and John Strandberg - Alan and Helen outlined the dairy expansion and hog barn proposals.
5. Water Plan Update Extension Request: MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve the extension request for the LWP update to allow for coinciding with the county's proposed land use ordinance re-write.
6. Lake and River Day - July 11th - Scandia Valley Townhall - Speakers will be Amy Kowalzek on the AIS plan and septic inventory results on Fishtrap Lake; Eric Altena on Fisheries News; Todd Holmann on the LSP initiative; and Helen on LWP update and CWF opportunities.
7. BWSR Briefing with John Jaschke - July 6th, Brainerd - John is meeting all over the state to create a "how to" dialog on the buffer initiative and other issues.
8. Todd County 50th Anniversary – Open House - Wednesday, July 28th
Thunder Lodge, Long Prairie; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

William Faber, Secretary

Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Stangl, Dahmen, Brutscher, Anez and Faber

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski and NRCS Carrie Miller

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Guest: Grant Pearson, MAWQCP Specialist - Stearns SWCD

Secretary's Report: MSC by Anez/Faber to approve the minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Helen shared that she and Alan and attended a review of the 1026 process by NRCS staff in Milaca the previous day. The workload is finally getting caught up somewhat but there are still people waiting awhile. There had been some pre-planning of a CWF application discussions. She and Alan have been in the field quite a bit on WCA/wetland work.

Alan shared that besides the field work on wetland and 1026, which Bob Gruber was under construction at the present time. The wet conditions were making a lot of construction projects delayed. Several more sediment basins co-funded with EQIP had been completed as well.

Carrie presented for NRCS and there are 44 CSP renewals, 4 RCCP for golden wing warbler program, 2 compost facilities, 3 ag waste, 1 sediment basin, 2 pasture mgt., and 1 critical area stabilization. Terry Zapzalka will be returning to the office the first week of August.

Commissioner's Report: Randy explained the decision on the Scenic View Conditional Use Permit expansion. The county will begin the process to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, having put together a team of citizens and partners. They are also working on new policy regarding sex offenders. The county is also looking at the possible need to remodel or update the county courthouse. The Pillager Bridge has been completed and the controversy regarding some of the hog barn proposals are lengthy.

Guest Spot: Grant Pearson, Stearns SWCD – Grant presented a summary of the MN Ag Water Quality Certification process and what that means for producers who participate and get certified. His position is funded by the MDA to expedite and expand what has to date been a pilot program in four locations. He will be seeking SWCD participation in identifying landowners and possibly helping with the certification in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Buffer Legislation Summary: Helen submitted an article in the paper summarizing how the passing of the legislation will play out over the next two years. The mapping when completed next summer will dictate the work area. The governor's bill did not pass in its full form but will still create quite a new workload.
2. Lake and River Day Report (July 11th) Helen shared that all of the commissioners had attended but the day sort of taken over with the concerns over the recent discovery of zebra mussels in Fish Trap Lake. Only about 40 people had attended.
3. BWSR Legislative Summary: Helen shared the new funding to be expected for 2016.
4. Technical Evaluation Panel: The TEP had visited with Tim Stoltman to determine what was in violation: what was old fill, and what was a solid waste issue. A Restoration Order had been developed giving Tim until January 1 to clean up the site.
5. WCA Status on Violations: Helen gave a status report on Wilbur, Kloss, Stoltman, a new one of Fishtrap Lake, and Meyer which was appealed and placed in abeyance but will now be resolved.
6. Cost Share Payment Approval: #15-14 Brandon Sauer \$2,500 MSC by Anez/Faber
7. Cost Share Payment Approval: LR #49-10-12 (Oldakowski) \$24,569 MSC by Faber/Dahmen. This will now be forwarded to Benton SWCD for payment.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Local Work Group – Josh (Monday, August 3rd) Tom Brutscher will attend.
2. Green Fair Folk Festival: Lance and Helen will assist Dwayne Heinen, City of LF in a booth. The festival is held at St. Francis Campus.
3. Budget Hearing - August 11th, 9:00 a.m. Helen and LeaAnn are presenting.
4. Groundwater Summit – Wednesday, August 19th – Stearns County Service Alan will attend.
5. Vacation Approval – Helen August 17th – 20th MSC by Stangl/Anez to approve.
6. Clean Water Fund RFP – Agram Township Septic Inspection; City of Little Falls Grit Chamber, Jane Variano Erosion Project will be the likely projects. MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve the District submitting a CWF application.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

William Faber, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 27, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Stangl, Dahmen, Anez, Faber and Brutscher

Staff: McLennan, Hanson and Ringwelski

Absent: Commissioner Winscher

Secretary's Report: MSC Brutscher/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC Brutscher/Anez to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Ringwelski reported that they were keeping up with the 1026 workload. He had visited a couple of feedlot sites with county feedlot officer Darrin Welle. Golden Plump is encouraging all poultry barn owners to build a second barn. He and Lance attended the ground water conference in St. Cloud and learned some information about confining layers and how to interpret the geo atlas, when available.

Hanson said they were conducting their 10% spot checks, having 40 to do. They also are doing their CSP/EQIP field verifications. The Local Work Group met on August 3rd to set the priorities for practices.

Helen shared that Jason Weirnerman from BWSR was encouraging districts to get more involved with soil health promotion. She will be testifying before the LSOHC council on Sept. 2nd for the Phase 6 application. The county had held their first Comprehensive Land Use Plan meeting. There were at least 40 people in attendance and Ben Oleson has been retained for facilitation and writing.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Request to Extend CWF 2013: MSC by Anez/Brutscher to request the one year extension and the Rain Garden project will expand to other parts of the county and the remaining ISTS funds from the Fish Trap Lake Project will be used to jump start the Agram Twp. Nitrate Study.
2. Cost Share Payment Approvals: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to pay the following:

A. #14-15	Keith Muyers	Well Decommissioning	\$ 322.50
B. #08-15	John O'Konek	Well Decommissioning	\$ 297.50
C. #04-15	Peter Faust	Grassed Waterway	\$1,300.50
3. MASWCD Tidbits Newsletter: The newsletter was distributed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Local Water Plan Update Extension Request: The county board approved and submitted a request for an extension to the LWP update for 2 years so the plan can coincide with the new land use plan. Dan Steward will be taking the request to the BWSR Board this week.
2. Benton SWCD Irrigation Clinic, August 26th, Royalton American Legion @ 9:30 a.m. Helen and Alan shared the information presented at the Irrigation Mgt. Clinic. There were only a handful of irrigators present.
3. Clean Water Fund Application Approval: MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve the application for the City of Little Falls grit chamber and the Variano erosion projects.
4. Area 2 Legislative Forum, Sept. 23rd, Sauk Centre: Marvin and Claude may attend. Rep. Kresha indicated that he would but Sen. Gazelka had a conflict.
5. Central MN Decision Maker Symposium – October 7th, Parkers Prairie Event Center: Don Shelby will be the guest speaker and invitations were sent out by each SWCD to promote the training session for all land use decision makers. There has not been a lot of response yet by municipalities in Morrison County.
6. 2016 Tree Order: LeaAnn has the tree order ready to print and will be distributing it in September.
7. 2015 RIM Site Inspections Completed (56 Morrison; 30 Crow Wing; 5 Cass): Carrie Miller's brother Shawn conducted all of the spot checks for all programs this summer and completed them in a very timely manner.
8. LR Cost Share Application Approval: MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve:
 - a. Jim Schlichting LR49-02-15 \$4,490.00
 - b. Alan Lanners LR49-04-15 \$6,450.00
9. State Cost Share Applications: MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve:
 - a. Morrison Co. PW #19-14 \$2,500.00
 - b. George Lancaster #12-15 \$2,500.00
10. State Cost Share Application Cancellation: MSC by Anez/Faber to cancel
Jane Variano #14-14 \$2,500.00
11. Employee Policy Language Change: MSC to table by Brutscher/Faber
12. BWSR Academy 2015 – October 27, 28 & 29 – Breezy Point: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

William Faber, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Stangl, Dahmen, Brutscher, Anez and Faber

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski and Hanson

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Brutscher/Anez to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Helen shared that the Platte River Restoration project had taken quite a bit of hers and the Public Works time. WCA, trips to cities for LSOHC and LWP extension, etc. and the water festival had all been other work areas.

Josh reported the practices approved and contracts for CSP and EQIP. The workload had been quite heavy all summer with Terry being in Stearns County most of the summer.

Alan shared the training classes he had attended on soils health and plant identification. There were some new ways to review cropping history on the 1026 workload.

Commissioner Report: Randy shared that a controversial matter would be coming before the BOA soon. The county is being requested to dramatically increase the allocation to the Humane Shelter who is operating at a loss, and the sheriff's department is requesting an additional two officers. He didn't know where the county would end up with the levy but it would take a 7% increase to fund the wish lists of all departments.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. George Lancaster (12-15) / County Public Works (19-14/1-16) Amendment Increase: \$5,000 (\$2,500 per) MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve the increase for contracts because the project bid was more than \$10,000 higher than estimated costs.
2. George Lancaster CWF Application \$7,000 MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve the critical area/rain garden portion of the above project to be funded by the CWF 13.
3. Employee Taxable Fringe Approval: Helen presented the language that would meet the CPA advised method of awarding a taxed fringe in lieu of previous health care benefits. This change is due to the Affordable Health Care Act that prevented employers from

being able to reimburse employees health insurance costs. The district had exhausted all possible avenues for group health plan participation.

4. LWP Extension Hearing: Helen and Dan Steward had presented the extension application to the BWSR Board on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, and the extension was approved to September 2017.
5. Water Festival Report: Approximately 450 students came through the 2 day event and it was very well coordinated. Other than not having a driver's license at the gate for one bus driver, the festival went off without a hitch. Helen complimented Lance's strong coordination of the annual event.
6. LSOHC Hearing Report: Helen and Jay had testified before the LSOHC committee for Phase 6 ACUB funding and it seemed to be well received. They are beginning to determine allocations.

Bill Faber arrived at this time. (10:20 a.m.)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Platte River Restoration Bid Award Resolution: MSC by Brutscher/Anez to approve the low bid of Honer Excavation in the amount of \$78,027.75 - MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve the contract signing authority to the District Manager for any other documents associated with this project or the CWP grant.
2. Buffer Implementation Grant Approval and Discussion: Helen explained the grant award of \$25,000 and another \$6,000 for the Ag Water Quality Certification program. Discussion was held about jump starting the mapping but at this time the board chose to approve the grant only. MSC by Faber/Anez to approve the grant.
3. Sentinel Landscape Meeting September 29, 2015 (informational only, the governor signing of this designation was today at the capitol)
4. Long Prairie River Watershed Meeting: September 30, 2015 (9:30 - 11:00 a.m.)
5. Land Use Decision Maker Symposium - Parker's Prairie - October 7, 2015. Approximately 30 people will be attending the event from Morrison County. LeaAnn and Lance will represent the district.
6. LCCMR Hearing – October 7, 2015 - Conservation Drainage Management Application will be heard before the LCCMR Commission. Todd Holmann and Helen will testify. Bill rallied for this application, serving on the Board but will have to abstain from the actual vote.
7. Conservation Tour - Summer of 2016: Helen explained that Alan wished to do another tour next summer and it took dollars and planning so she asked for approval to go forward with an August 2016 tour. MSC to approve by Faber/Brutscher.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 2015
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Anez, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl and Dahmen

Staff: McLennan and Hanson

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Dahmen/Brutscher to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Josh reported that in FY15 has now ended and a total of 90 New CSP contracts were approved and 28 EQIP contracts. They are doing the payments on 41 CSP contracts and have several field verifications to conduct.

Helen said she had presented at the annual township board meeting the night before on the buffer law and the drainage management initiative with the LCCMR funds when received. She and Alan had continued to work on the 1026 workload. Upon request she had met with Mayor of Little Falls and Commissioner Maurer regarding storm water management and policy regarding grant opportunities.

Commissioner Report: Randy Winscher said the controversial variance request on the Mississippi River had withdrawn. They are having discussions regarding roof run-off from poultry and hog barns and also the taxing determination on whether contract barns should be considered commercial or private agriculture. The county is being requested to hire an additional two more Deputies and another Asst. County Attorney.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. LCCMR Hearing: The full \$209,000 application for performance drainage management has been recommended for funding. If awarded the money would be available July 1, 2016.
2. Land Use Decision Maker Training Recap: Randy said the session was good but the keynote didn't really offer much towards the topic of the day.

3. Comprehensive Plan for County Update: Three meetings have been held and the most recent was agriculture. The biggest topic was regarding conditional uses of ag zoned properties for other businesses which then may or may not support the agricultural use surrounding their business.
4. Technical Evaluation Panel Summary: The TEP had visited the site proposed for Manvel Hopwood in Bellevue Twp. wanting to fill adjacent to the Platte River. The TEP did not feel sequencing had been met.
5. Nitrate Clinic Results: The clinic was very successful and busy and the same as in the past. Many tests failing acceptable limits and some with RO systems that may not be needed.
6. Water Plan Survey Outreach: Helen explained where all the survey had been placed for citizen outreach and there seemed to be a steady return of surveys. It is also available on the District website.
7. Royaltan Platte River Restoration Project: The project was completed the week of October 19th and upon engineering sign-off, the payment will need to be made in November. The landowner (George Lancaster) and the County were pleased with the job done.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MASWCD Convention: Helen informed Bill and any other members thinking of attending that she will need their enrollment wishes before the first payroll of November.
2. State Cost Share Application: MSC by Dahmen/Anez to approve.
A. Lance Kurowski 380 Tree Establishment #02-16 \$2,472.00
3. Long Prairie River WRAP Plan: The plan is being posted for comment and should be in final print in December.
4. Ag BMP Loan Program Annual Meeting: November 5th in Little Falls.
5. Cindy's Resignation and Replacement Discussion: Helen asked the board for how they intended to address the vacancy that will be left when Cindy resigns in December. The options are to appoint or leave the seat vacant until the next election of Nov. 2016. The board felt they would just leave it until election rather than appoint.
6. Meeting Dates for November and December: Due to holidays, the meeting dates will be changed to November 19th and December 17th.
7. BWSR Academy 2015 – October 27th, 28th, 29th (Alan & Lance – 2 days; LeaAnn – 1 day): Information only.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 10 a.m.

William Faber, Secretary

MORRISON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, December 17, 2015
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Anez, Faber, Dahmen, Brutscher and Stangl

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski and Zapzalka

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Faber/Brutscher to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented.

Staff Reports:

Terry stated that Josh was in Duluth for the day. CSP payments are going out except those that chose to defer. Plans for EQIP are being developed which include cover crops, ag waste, golden wing warbler habitat, and management for manure, nutrients, irrigation, etc. He also explained the new NRCS easement program possibilities.

Alan said he had nine applications for the MAWQCP program and needed one more to meet the quota. He described the process for certification. Alan Lanners project had been muddled out and was needing more work. The 1026 workload is completed for 2015.

Helen shared the Sentinel Landscape Meeting and how the ACEP program explained by Terry could fit in. The LCCMR revisions were submitted on time. She and LeaAnn had been working on the 2016 budget and Lance was beginning the E-link reporting.

Commissioner Randy Winscher reported on the USDA request to delegate the oversight to dog kennels to the county which was very controversial. The county won the case with the Harms appeal on Fish Trap Lake. They are also concerned about their training program with Public Health not being able to retain the trainees.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. CANCEL Little Rock Project FY12 LR 49-08-12: David Kloss \$8,796.68 Sediment Control Basin: The landowner did not act in time and will have to come back for future funding if he decides to go through with the project at a later date. MSC by Faber/Dahmen
2. CANCEL State Cost Share FY15 11-15: Linda Scheena \$300 Well Decommissioning: We have had no further contact from the landowner so if she comes back in it will be funded at a later date. MSC to cancel by Brutscher/Dahmen.

3. Buffer Update: Helen shared that the DNR was seeking help in determining the maps but a meeting will be held with the County Auditor and the County Board on December 21, 2015, to discuss the benefitted areas of public drainage.
4. Mississippi Headwaters Annual Meeting Recap: The meeting had a lot of good information and Helen and Tim Terrill will be setting up a meeting with the City of Little Falls to hear the presentation by EOR consultants.
5. Comp Plan Update: The final citizen meeting was held and now the technical team and county board will begin to craft a plan.
6. Tree Open House Summary: The day was very successful selling nearly 15,000 trees.
7. Cost Share Amendment: Alan Lanners LR 49-04-15 Increase of \$3,500 due to increase in project expenses and scope. Total Cost Share will be \$9,950. MSC to approve by Anez/Dahmen.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Membership in the MCV (Membership Cooperative Venture) Program (fleet purchasing): MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve the membership.
2. New Grant Signing Authority (Increased Capacity Grant) \$100,000 MSC by Brutscher/Anez to authorize Helen's ability to sign the documents.
3. State Cost Share Applications: MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve the following:

Chad Donner	04-16	(380) Tree Establishment	\$2,085.75
Ray Ginter	05-16	(380) Tree Establishment	\$1,236.00
4. Finance Committee Preliminary Budget Recommendation: MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve the preliminary budget. (see attached)
5. Annual Statements of Economic Interest – New Requirements for Elected Officials. Helen shared the new requirements for all elected officials.
6. Slate of Officers for 2016: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve:

Chairman	Claude Dahmen
Vice Chairman	Bill Faber
Secretary	Tom Brutscher
Treasurer	Marvin Stangl

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. and a small party was held for Cindy Anez who officially announced her resignation as of the December meeting. There is one more year on her term.

William Faber, Secretary