

SCOTT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
November 18, 2009

Meeting convened at 8:00 a.m.

Members present: Paul Krueger, Linda Brown, Jim Fitzsimmons, Jim Schwingler and Ewald Gruetzmacher.

Others present: Shelly Tietz, Pete Beckius, Katundra Shears and Diane Hrabe

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Paul Krueger, to approve the minutes of October 14, 2009. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Paul Krueger, second by Jim Schwingler, to approve the treasurer's report as read, subject to audit, pay the bills submitted totaling \$85,817.76 (Checks #16367 to 16408). Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Staff report given by Pete Beckius. The Personnel Committee will set up a meeting to go over staff evaluations before the end of the year.

Training updates were given by Dave Rickert on the BWSR Academy at Cragun's in early November. Of 10 sessions, he enjoyed the ones on RIM conservation easements, GA updates and planting native grasses. Jaime Rockney who attended the two-day Minnesota Water Resource Conference in October reported she learned more about water quality findings and new research.

Willie Peters was at the meeting to discuss the Scott WPC cost-share docket committee meeting and the suggested changes regarding grade stabilization, well decommission, water and sediment basin and wetland restoration, prescribed burning, filter strips and streambank stabilization funding. He also said the focus of the group was to offer more education and advertising for riparian buffers and to recommend residue management practices for cost-share dollars too. Ag waste closures, contour farming, cover crop and feedlot waste runoff cost-share funding were dropped.

Pete attended the recent MCD meeting and reported that the NRCS will not be supplementing the Landscape Restoration Program in 2010.

Motion by Jim Schwingler, second by Linda Brown, to approve a NPEAP equipment request for \$922.39 for a tripod, range poles and prism for the total station. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Jim Schwingler, second by Jim Fitzsimmons, to approve the NPEAP Audit letter and pay the \$1,500 fee. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

The Personnel Committee met twice (October 28 and November 10). Members were Jim Fitzsimmons, Katundra Shears, Ewald Gruetzmacher and Pete Beckius, and Shelly Tietz, Linda Brown, Paul Krueger and Paul Nelson joined the committee for the interviewing process. At the first meeting, the committee reviewed and scored 31 applications. The top seven applications were further reviewed, and interviews with the top four applicants were held November 10. Those interviewing were Pete Beckius, Shelly Tietz, Linda Brown, Paul Nelson, Jim Fitzsimmons and Ewald Gruetzmacher. The interviewing committee scored each of the four applicants, with Tony Kuphal receiving the highest score. He accepted the position at a Grade 12, Step 1 salary. He will join the district on December 7, 2009. Motion by Paul Krueger, second by Linda Brown, to approve the Personnel Committee's selection of Troy Kuphal. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Shelly Tietz gave an update on the upcoming MASWCD convention. Supervisors Linda Brown, Ewald Gruetzmacher and Jim Schwingler as well as staff members Pete Beckius, Troy Kuphal, Willie Peters and Doug Schoenecker will be attending the convention on December 7 and 8. The Scott SWCD Outstanding Conservationists of the Year – Jesse and Judy Theis – are among the eight semi-finalists for this award and will be attending the convention as well.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Jim Schwingler, to pay the \$15 on-line fee for Scott Schneider who completed the Certified Crop Adviser Course recently. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Diane Hrabe reported on the Metro Area (formerly Area 4) MASWCD meeting she and Doug Schoenecker attended on November 12 at Cabela's in Rogers. Those in attendance were encouraged to invite county commissioners and assessors to their board meetings. The featured programs were "Improving Water Quality in the Mississippi River National Recreation Area and Minimum Impact Design Standards.

Pete Beckius reported on the DAPP open house on October 27 that drew 200 people. Other recent meetings included the Natural Area Coordinators meeting on November 16 that focused on Scott County trails and land acquisition and the Sand Creek Watershed Public Meeting on November 19 that looked at Clean Water Legacy funds and input on cost-share practices. Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Jim Schwingler, to approve comp time for staff attending these meetings. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0

Pete Beckius gave an update on the Education Coordinator position that will be hired to help townships, cities and other organizations meet MS4 requirements. The District will continue with its children's educational events, but the new position will coordinate adult conservation education programs. The contract is in the process of being finalized.

In regard to preparations for the Annual Work Plan, a 2010 draft will be presented for approval in January or February after Troy Kuphal begins.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Paul Krueger, to approve the District Cooperator Agreement for Luke Friendshuh. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Linda Brown, to approve the FY2010 State Cost Share final payment of \$375 for Theresa McDaniel, State Cost Share Contract #10-02, for a Well Decommission Project. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Linda Brown, to approve Scott WMO Escrow Agreements for Luke Friendshuh and Jim Schwingler. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons second by Linda Brown to approve Scott WMO cost-share contracts for technical assistance for Tim O'Loughlin, contract #09-36, rock inlets; Jim Schwingler, contract #09-37, rock inlets; Mark Dawald, contract #09-38, streambank stabilization; Chris Hagen, contract #09-39, grade stabilization; Carol Preuhs, contract #09-49, well decommission; Casey Family Limited Partnership, contract #FS09-40, filter strips; Borchardt Farms, contract #FS09-41, filter strips; Slack Farms, contract #FS09-42, filter strips; Allen Menke, #FS09-43, filter strips; Cliff Ebert, contract #09-55, grassed waterway repair; Larry Entinger, contract #09-56, rock inlets; Larry Entinger, contract #09-57, well decommission; Harlan Laabs, contract #09-58, well decommission; and Luke Friendshuh, contract #FS09-62, filter strips. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Paul Krueger, second by Jim Schwingler, to approve the following Scott WMO final payments for Michael Wolf, contract #09-12 for \$4,400, filter strip; Mark and Naomi Besser, contract #09-22 for \$6,041, and return \$2,734 back into the fiscal 2009 account to be re-encumbered; City of Jordan, contract #07-22 for \$10,000; Carol Preuhs, contract #09-49 for \$514; Esther Kragh, contract #09-45 for \$16,071, and return \$1,929 back into the fiscal 2009 account to be re-encumbered; and Theresa McDaniel, contract #09-50 for \$375. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Linda Brown, to draft a letter of support to acquire bordering wetlands from a private landowner in the Savage Fen. The land is needed to buffer the fen. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Pete Beckius gave an update on the Minnesota Conservation Corps Technical Services. Ryan Holzer had applied for funds that would allow the District to hire college students to do streambank work. More than \$500,000 in Clean Water Legacy funding is available. The students would work on streambank erosion sites. The District's application is on hold until BWSR develops and finalizes guidelines for this program.

Pete Beckius also gave an update on the Landscape Restoration Program. The Anoka Conservation District will be transferring \$62,000 a year from the Clean Water Legacy grant they received to the Landscape Restoration Program for a period of two years to supplement the staff costs.

Katundra Shears reported on the WAE allocations from NRCS. There will be only 175 hours approved for Ryan Holzer's time to work on NRCS programs in the new fiscal year.

Shelly Tietz reported on the BWSR technical assistance option that the District can utilize with FY2010 cost-share funds. The Board has until June 30, 2010, to make a decision on whether or not to use these funds for practices or technical assistance. Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Paul Krueger, to use all FY2010 state cost-share funds for conservation practices, not for technical assistance. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Motion by Jim Fitzsimmons, second by Jim Schwingler, to approve a donation of 200 seedlings to community organizations and clubs (2009-2010 tree program) through the District's tree program. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

Pete Beckius updated the supervisors on the website contract that was signed with Luke Schwingler for \$3,500. The goal is to have the redesigned website in place by the end of February 2010.

Pete Beckius, Katundra Shears and Paul Nelson, along with NRCS state office staff, discussed the WRP/WMO opportunity to piggyback WRP funds with WMO funds because of a RIM funding shortage and low ranking of applications due to metro location.

Motion by Jim Schwingler, second by Paul Krueger, to approve the Contribution Agreement Final Release of Claims (NRCS contract #68-6322-9-4006) for invoice #2009-73 dated July 23, 2009, for \$2,682.50. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

The Land Steward of the Month is Brian Luce.

Motion by Jim Schwingler, second by Paul Krueger, to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m.. Ayes: Krueger, Fitzsimmons, Schwingler, Brown and Gruetzmacher. Nays: 0.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 8:00 a.m.