

BOARD MEETING

December 15, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held, December 15, 2010, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Rick Nelsen. Present were: Rick Nelsen, Lynn Darling, Jim Knips and Ken Wolf. Also present were: Ed Lenz, District Manager; Jane Steffl, Financial/Cont. Officer; Aaron Crowley, Dist. Tech.; Stephanie McLain, D.C. and Gene Foth, Nobles Co. Comm.

AGENDA: Wolf moved to adopt the agenda. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 17, 2010, regular meeting were reviewed. Darling moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable were presented and reviewed. Wolf moved to approve the reports, subject to audit, in the amount of \$21,110.60. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The 2010 State Convention was reviewed. All supervisors and staff were in attendance.

The MPCA-Missouri Watershed Water Monitoring Coordinator was discussed. The board was looking into what the staff would be allowed to do for the office. Lenz hopes to have Kelly Nerem of MPCA in attendance at the January meeting to discuss the position and its benefits.

The SWAG (Stream Water Assessment Grant) was discussed. Ed applied as MPCA requested, to conduct testing based on the involvement of the Missouri River TMDL. Basically we were told it would be funded because of the involvement of the Missouri River TMDL.

The CWF (Clean Water Fund Grant) was discussed. Langseth project was funded. Grant administration Funds will be available for the District, JPO will receive Technical Assistance Funds, the landowner will provide local match.

The Flood Disaster Declaration was discussed. Eight landowners have fixed terraces this fall and will ask for funding to approve the cost-share for the fixes. Ed distributed a draft copy of 2010 Flood Disaster Declaration Cost-Share Policies for the board to review. The SWCD needs to set policies and can go up to 100% cost-share. Nobles County received \$50,000 for the fixes with 20% for administration. This will be discussed again at the January board meeting. Wolf moved to accept the 2010 Flood Disaster Declaration Cost-Share Policies as presented. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

D.C. REPORT: Stephanie reported the sign-up deadline for EQIP is January 31st. Staff has put together over 50 estimates for work to be done. The WHIP deadline is also January 31st and CSP application deadline is January 7th. There will be an informational meeting for CSP on January 4th in the office. Stephanie attended the MASWCD Convention and the NRCS District Conservationist's met the following day for a separate meeting. They discussed a position management plan and how each office should try to develop a plan to be able to meet with landowners more efficiently in 2011.

WATERSHED DISTRICTS AND OTHER REPORTS: The Okabena Ocheda Watershed meeting was held while supervisors and staff attended the State Convention. Dawn Madison, NRCS, attended their

meeting and discussed the problems Paul Busse has been having since the road was redone. The O&O Watershed agreed to cost-share a diversion and terrace; and will pay an incentive on the CRP on the site. The O-O Watershed increased their SWCD services contribution from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

The Heron Lake Watershed reviewed their Rock Intakes Grant. The Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed did not meet in November and their December meeting will be held tomorrow night. There will be a RC&D meeting coming up the end of January, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS: The Personnel Committee met Dec. 10th to review employee evaluations and health insurance proposals. No insurance quotes had been received at the time of the meeting and it will be looked at again at the January meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8:40 a.m. to discuss employee evaluations and review salaries.

The meeting was reopened at 9:10 a.m.

Darling moved to approve the 2011 Nobles SWCD Budget with the following changes in employee salaries:

District Manager: 3% COLA

District Finance/Contracting Officer: 3% COLA

District Technician: \$1.00/hour increase

Insurance will be reviewed at the January board meeting.

Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Steffl obtained quotes from three local companies for a new color copier with scanning and networking capabilities and presented a comparison of these to the board. After some discussion Knips moved to purchase a new copier not to exceed \$6000.00. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The 2011 Annual Plan was discussed. Lenz has been working on the Plan, and a draft copy will be ready for the January meeting. The plan is due to BWSR by March 15th.

Gene Foth, Nobles Co. Comm. reported the County has been working to finalize budgets. This will be Mr. Foth's last meeting and the board thanked him for his contributions to the SWCD's meetings.

The next regular board meeting will be held December 15th at 7:30 a.m.

Darling moved to adjourn the meeting. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Wolf. Opposed: None. Meeting adjourned.

Ken Wolf, Secretary