

BOARD MEETING

February 17, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held February 17, 2010, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Rick Nelsen. Present were: Rick Nelsen, Lynn Darling, Ken Wolf, and Paul Langseth. Also present were: Ed Lenz, District Manager.; Jane Steffl, Financial/Contracting Officer; Aaron Crowley, Dist. Tech.; Stephanie McLain, D.C.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 20, 2010, regular meeting were reviewed. Darling moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, and Langseth. 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 \$10,264.57. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Rick Nelsen, Lynn Darling, Ken Wolf, and Paul Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: A draft copy of the 2010 Annual Plan was distributed. The plan has been revised to relate directly to the Nobles County Water Plan and is complete except for accomplishment figures from NRCS. Langseth moved to approve the Annual Plan, with NRCS's figures added. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The 2010 SWAG Grant is currently being altered by MPCA staff. MPCA is adding and changing sampling parameters. Lenz hopes to have a contract available for next month.

The MASWCD Day at the Capitol and Legislative Briefing will be held February 17-18th. Wolf, Langseth and Nelsen plan to attend. Reservations have been made and driving arrangements will be discussed after the meeting today.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Ed stated that the WCA reporting has been completed for 2009. He would like to attend a couple WCA Technical Training Courses and the certification test this year. The board suggested he register for the Wetland Delineation Refresher Course June 21 & 22nd in Mankato and the Wetland Delineation Certification Exam on the 22nd.

Ed would like to have rental rates set for the Dew Drop Drill. The trailer will be picked up soon and is complete and in Jackson. The manufacturer suggested a \$200 refundable deposit and \$75.00 minimum charge. Langseth moved to approve the drill rate at \$7.00 per acre, with a minimum charge of \$75.00 and a \$200 refundable deposit. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Scott Rall has contacted the office about the Pheasants Forever 2010 sponsorship. This year's sponsorship would be \$250.00 and include 2 tickets to their banquet, March 26th. He also suggested having an SWCD/NRCS display at the banquet. Langseth moved to sponsor Pheasants Forever at the \$250.00 rate. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ed has checked into the costs associated with sending out a District newsletter and possibly partnering with Environmental Services and the local watershed districts. It was decided it may be a little late for this spring, but will definitely have to start working on a newsletter for this fall.

Ed reviewed the meetings he has attended this past month and several upcoming meetings. He also reported to the board that the 2010 Area V Envirothon was cancelled due to a large reduction in the schools that registered. Mary will plan to spend the hours allocated towards the Envirothon, to the Environmental Fair this fall.

D.C. REPORT: Stephanie reported there were nine CSP contracts that have been obligated with several meetings for the \$40,000 cap. There will be another sign-up for CSP in April or May.

The deadline for the present EQIP sign-up is Feb. 26th. The new practices added to EQIP this year are high tunnels and conservation drainage. The deadline for WHIP sign-up is also Feb. 26th and GRP deadline is March 12th.

WATERSHED DISTRICTS AND OTHER REPORTS: The Okabena-Ocheda Watershed met Feb. 2nd. Langseth reported Pheasants Forever purchased another property in the Worthington Wellhead Area. Langseth reported that there will be an Ocheda Lake Property Owners meeting on Feb. 18th to identify issues landowners have around the lake.

The Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed is meeting tomorrow night. Stephanie is planning to attend to present a project proposal for a sediment retention pond and request cost-share from the watershed. The new K-LR ARRA funding will need to be obligated by June 15, 2010. Two landowners that had signed applications have been changed to the EQIP program instead.

NEW BUSINESS: The 2010 Tree Program was discussed. Aaron reviewed a tree report with the Board and the expected revenues for this year.

The 2009 Annual Report was discussed. Jane reviewed the Report, the Financial Statements and District's fund balance report with the board. After some discussion, Langseth moved to approve the 2009 Annual Report. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The BWSR Technical Assistance Option for State Cost-Share Base Grant was presented to the Board. The Nobles SWCD will apply for \$10,000 of their 2010 State Cost-Share funding to help fund technical assistance for projects related to the K-LR JPB ARRA program. Langseth moved to apply for the BWSR Tech. Asst. Option grant for \$10,000. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Clean Water Legacy funding was discussed. Ed reported there was a public release regarding applications that were approved by BWSR. Nobles SWCD will receive cost-share for 8 or 9 projects. Agreements should come out in March.

The next regular board meeting will be held March 17th at 7:30 a.m.

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

Ken Wolf, Secretary