

BOARD MEETING

January 19, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held, January 19, 2011, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Rick Nelsen. Present were: Rick Nelsen, Paul Langseth, Lynn Darling, and Jim Knips. Also present were: Ed Lenz, District Manager; Jane Steffl, Financial/Cont. Officer; Aaron Crowley, Dist. Tech.; Stephanie McLain, D.C. and Bob Demuth Jr., Nobles Co. Comm.

AGENDA: Langseth moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of the State of MN, Southern MN Flood Relief Grant. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 15, 2010, regular meeting were reviewed. Knips moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth, and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable were presented and reviewed. Langseth moved to approve the reports, subject to audit, in the amount of \$38,898.70. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

STATE COST-SHARE: Langseth moved to approve the following 2010 CWF Grant payment:

CWF-1-TB	Tim Blume	Terrace payment	718.50
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Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth, and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Knips moved to approve the following 2010 CWF Grant payment:

CWF-3-GB	George Bents Jr.	Terrace payment	688.62
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Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth, and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Langseth moved to approve the following 2010 CWF Grant payment:

CWF-10-BL	Brad Lynn	Terrace payment	1,527.46
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Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth, and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Knips moved to approve the following 2010 CWF Grant payment:

CWF-12-DR	Darwin Reyne	Terrace payment	1,161.50
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Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth, and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Crowley reported that landowner with 200 trees with winter kill, has replaced some of the trees and would need to replace 60 more trees. He is requesting 50% cost-share on the project. Knips moved to provide 50% cost-share on the replacement trees for Mark Ommen. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth, and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed has cancelled their January board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The MPCA Missouri Watershed Water Monitoring Coordinator position was discussed. If MPCA were to hire someone and place the Nobles SWCD as the fiscal agent, they would fund 100% of the costs for an

employee, excluding office expenses, for a two year period with a possible extension for an additional two years, or March 11, 2011 to June 30, 2013. The individual hired would be involved with water sampling and writing a TMDL for the watershed. Langseth moved to hire an MPCA Missouri Watershed Water Monitoring Coordinator. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Clean Water Fund Grant was reviewed. A work plan has been submitted for Brian Gengler's Feedlot project. Lake Ocheda shoreline project for Langseth Family was approved this week. The JPO will be engineering the project. There remains \$90,000 for CWF funds in the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed.

The Disaster Declaration for Nobles County was discussed. Ed has had 10 landowners submit bills for the repairs and has applied for an additional \$140,000. There is roughly \$2 million to spend in state.

Employee Health Insurance was reviewed. After having received quotes from three agents (Henderson Financial & Insurance, Rall Financial Services and SW/WC Service Cooperative), it was decided the reimbursable insurance plan the District is currently offering is the best fit, until we get into a larger insurance pool. Langseth moved to have the Nobles SWCD employees insurance remain with the reimbursable insurance. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Ed reported there was a Farmbill Assistance meeting recently presenting the new developments with the CRP programs, the walk-on hunting program and that the Farmbill Asst. program funding is unknown past July 30, 2011. Depending on the District's involvement with the Missouri River TMDL, Ed suggested purchasing a vehicle for our technician's use and the Ford pick-up could be used by the Water Monitoring Coordinator until the position is complete. This would basically be replacing the Ford two years earlier than planned.

A large amount of reporting and application materials need to be completed by the end of the month, or soon after, such as e-LINK program/project reporting, Ag BMP Loan Program, Surface Water Assessment invoicing and work plans, Clean Water Fund work plans and the Nobles SWCD Annual Plan and Report. Staff will work on reporting well sealing for Nobles County Environmental Services as part of the NRBG funding.

Computers in the office are now hard wired to internet and the new printer/copier use. Ideas Computer was asked to propose a bid for additional computer hardware, including replacement of aging computers, external hard drive and firewalls. He also asked for information from them on email-security software, website service and IT support. The bids will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Ed has been appointed the Area 5 Director of the MACDE state employee's board of directors. There will be about four meetings annually in St. Cloud.

The board discussed cancelling the cell phone service agreement the District currently has with Verizon Wireless for three cell phones and going to a stipend for the District Manager. Langseth moved to set a stipend of \$50.00 per month for the District Manager to use his personal cell phone for business use and pick up a track cell phone as needed for the District Technician and Missouri TMDL Coordinator. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

D.C. REPORT: Stephanie reported the CSP program deadline is this Friday, Feb. 4th. The WHIP program and EQIP have had some improvements made to the programs and their sign-up deadline will be March 5th.

Twenty-nine counties have been listed in the Federal Flood Disaster Declaration and there is additional funding for the RIM WRP program. Outreach will be needed to promote this program. There is a need for additional WAE hours and the District was asked to submit a request to NRCS.

There will be an RC&D meeting later today in Slayton. Lynn, Ed and Stephanie plan to attend. There will be Wind Erosion Prediction training held by NRCS and District staff is invited to attend. Also staff will attend training on Pipeline Watering Systems.

WATERSHED DISTRICTS AND OTHER REPORTS: The Okabena Ocheda Watershed meeting was held with officers remaining the same as last year. A Lake Ocheda Landowner's meeting will be held February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Farmers Room.

The SWPJPO has well over \$100,000 of technical assistance funds coming into the area this year, there are some concerns with the districts that the JPO staff is overextended and may need some additional assistance if the high workload continues.

NEW BUSINESS: The 2011 Nobles SWCD Election of Officers was held. Langseth made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers:

Chairman:	Lynn Darling
Vice-Chairman:	Ken Wolf
Secretary:	Jim Knips
Treasurer:	Paul Langseth
PR&I:	Rick Nelsen

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

The following committee assignments were made for 2011:

Personnel Committee:	Paul Langseth Rick Nelsen
Budget Committee:	Ken Wolf Jim Knips
RC&D:	Lynn Darling (Jim Knips, alternate)
SWPJPO:	Jim Knips (Paul Langseth, alternate)
KLR-JPO:	Lynn Darling
O-O WD:	Paul Langseth
H-L WD:	Rick Nelsen
K-LR WD:	Ken Wolf

Each year the District is required to designate financial institutions where District funds will be deposited. Langseth moved that the Nobles SWCD use the following banks during 2011: Wells Fargo, Bank of the West, and First State Bank Southwest, all of Worthington. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The District has purchased a new photocopier and the old Sharp MX M350U copier was discussed. Langseth moved to donate the Sharp copier to St. Mary's School in Worthington. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Day at the Capitol for 2011 was discussed. It will be held in St. Paul, February 28-March 1st. Reservations will be made for Rick Nelsen, Paul Langseth and Lynn Darling to attend the meetings.

The Southern Minnesota Flood Relief Grant was presented to the Board. Langseth moved to approve the grant in the amount of \$50,000.00. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Langseth and Knips. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting will be held February 16th at 7:30 a.m.

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

Jim Knips, Secretary