

BOARD MEETING

March 17, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held March 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, Jim Knips and Paul Langseth. Also present were: Ed Lenz, District Manager.; Jane Steffl, Financial/Contracting Officer; and Stephanie McLain, D.C.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 17, 2010, regular meeting were reviewed. Knips moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips and Langseth. 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 \$19,633.41. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

LOCAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM: Knips moved to approve the following Local Cost-Share payment:

SWCD-21	Jess DeKam	Conservation Use Acres	\$ 600.00
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Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, Knips and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

STATE COST-SHARE: Darling moved to approve the following FY2010 State Cost-Share contract:

2010-3	Mike Loosbrock	Farmstead Windbreak	\$ 717.00
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Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, Knips and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The 2010 SWAG Grant was reviewed with the board. Langseth moved to approve the MPCA 2010 SWAG Grant. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, Wolf, Knips and Langseth. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The 2010 Pheasants Forever Banquet will be held March 26th. Stephanie and Aaron will plan to attend to promote use of the new Dew Drop Drill and answer any questions landowners may have. The drill will be on display at the banquet at Pheasants Forever's request.

D.C. REPORT: Stephanie reported there were 41 EQIP applications in the last sign-up. 24 of the applications were livestock, 9 were beginning farmers, 4 were cropland, 2 were high tunnel, one was nutrient management initiative and 1 was a general application. There were 3 WHIP applications also. The funding deadline for these contracts is April 1st.

Stephanie is now finished as acting District Conservationist in Cottonwood County. A new D.C. has been hired for that office.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Ed reported he has been asked by Jeremy Maul, Wetland Specialist, to review a proposed landowner information sheet for distribution to landowners that fill out a wetland permit. The sheet also includes an Official Permit Short Form for no-loss and exemption requests. When approved by BWSR staff, Nobles could be used as a trial location for the Information Packet and Short Form.

The Nobles SWCD website has been redone and posted with the required information. Ed asked the board to review it and make comments on the content and quality. The District presented the 2010 Annual Report to the County Commissioners in March, 2009 and will request to be added to their agenda again in April. The SWCD/NRCS will be having an open house on April 23rd, the same day as the District tree pick-up. The board made suggestions for activities and advertising of the Open House.

Pheasants Forever would like to add their logo to the Dew Drop Drill. They would also like to see all the partners add their logos and to have the drill parked at the Long Branch during their banquet. The board was in favor of adding the District logo and having the drill displayed at the Pheasants Forever Banquet.

Ed will be on the interview committee for the WFDR Watershed Coordinator position. The Committee will be meeting after this meeting today, to go over resumes and work on scheduling interviews. Ed then reviewed the meetings he has attended since the last SWCD meeting; and the upcoming meetings and workshops.

WATERSHED DISTRICTS AND OTHER REPORTS: The Okabena-Ocheda Watershed held a public meeting last week for updating their rules.

Langseth reported on the last BWSR meeting. Governor Pawlenty vetoed RIM funding for the RIM/WRP Partnership. BWSR may get hit hard with budget cuts. State Cost-share will likely be reduced again for this coming fiscal year.

The K-LR Watershed board met and reviewed a cost-share contract for Roger Lupke's sediment pond. Lupke's project will receive cost-share to the same level as other EQIP contracts.

NEW BUSINESS: The 2010 MASWCD Day at the Capitol was discussed. Langseth, Nelsen and Wolf attended the briefing and met with the legislators. They reported there was a push for RIM, and it's unallotment. They met with Hamilton, Magnus and Vickerman. BWSR budget cuts were a big item and Vickerman announced his retirement.

The Personnel Committee reported Aaron Crowley's probationary period has been extended six months. A mid-year adjustment for Employee Insurance Reimbursement was discussed and will be reviewed at a later date.

The next regular board meeting will be held April 21st at 7:30 a.m.

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

Ken Wolf, Secretary