

BOARD MEETING

November 17, 2010

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

AGENDA: Darling moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of the "Farmbill Assistant Agreement" agenda item. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of the September 14, 2010, regular meeting were reviewed. Darling moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, 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 \$20,588.53 for October and \$16,488.80 for November, 2010. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

CWF-5-RM	Russell Miller	Waterway	\$ 6,118.61
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Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

SWCD LOCAL COST-SHARE: Wolf moved to approve the following SWCD Local Cost-Share contract payment:

SWCD-23	Mark Lenz	Waterway	\$ 561.72
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Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The board discussed the Budget Committee (Wolf and Knips) and the Personnel Committee (Nelsen and Langseth) will need to meet before the December board meeting.

The MASWCD State Convention will be held in St. Paul, on Dec. 5, 6, & 7th. The five supervisors and three staff plan to attend. Darling moved that each supervisor receive two full day per diems and each supervisor or staff driving their own vehicle, would receive half of the mileage reimbursement. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Nobles Conservationist of the Year, Mark Lenz, will plan to attend the Convention and will be reimbursement for his expenses.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: No Manager report was given; items were included in the agenda.

D.C. REPORT: Stephanie reported she will also be attending the MASWCD Convention this year. There will be a District Conservationist Meeting on Dec. 8th. She also mentioned construction is nearing

completion, with Calvin Rehborg project still hoping for completion this year. Stephanie has a CSP program teleconference tomorrow.

WATERSHED DISTRICTS AND OTHER REPORTS: The Heron Lake Watershed board passed a resolution to attempt to increase their levy amount in excess of the MN Watershed's levy limit. The K-LR Watershed issued payment for the Lupkes Project. Roger Lupkes dam project have setting around intake pipe. They also reviewed their permitting procedures with Stephanie.

The RC&D Board has again been funded by NRCS and will still have their Mini-Grant Program available with maximums of \$1,000.00 for local projects.

NEW BUSINESS: Richard Holmberg, Holmberg Accounting, was in attendance to review the 2009 Nobles SWCD Audit their office recently conducted. Mr. Holmberg reviewed the MD&A statement and reported on compliances and internal controls. He then reviewed the figures on the balance sheet and reported that his firm found no amounts misstated in the financial records and no oversights were made by the Nobles SWCD board. The treasurer has signed the management representation letter and the audit has been forwarded to the State Auditor for their review.

Personnel Evaluations will be conducted prior to the December board meeting and prior to the Budget Committee Meeting. The assigned committee will also be asked to assist with the prioritization of the Disaster Funding projects.

Jane reported that information has come from MCIT stating the SWCD supervisors portions of the Workers Compensation coverage will increase in 2011. Half of the SWCD's in the state carry Worker's Comp for their supervisors and the other half do not. A board resolution is necessary if the District would like to cancel their coverage. After some discussion, the Board decided to continue with coverage in 2011.

The Nobles SWCD has received an application for a CWF Feedlot Improvement Grant for Brian Gengler. The total project costs are \$173,961.00, of which \$20,000.00 will go to the JPO for technical service and \$8,600.00 will be retained by the District for grant administration. Darling moved to approve the CWF Feedlot Improvement Grant application. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Nobles County has been included in the Disaster Declaration from the recent flooding. The SWCD has been allocated \$50,000 of which \$10,000 will be for technical assistance and \$40,000 is cost-share funding. Cost-share policy will need to be developed for the disaster funds and can go up to 100% cost-share. The normal rules are not applicable. A list of projects is needed by December 13th with \$2.2 million to be used.

The WFDRB (West Fork Des Moines River Basin) project has hired a new project coordinator, Lauren Michelson. Jackson SWCD, Jackson ENVIS and Nobles SWCD served on the hiring committee.

The SWAG (Stream Water Assessment Grant) was submitted asking for financial assistance for sampling 6 sites. \$14,000 for labor and \$1,500 for the mileage is included in the two year grant.

MPCA would like the Nobles SWCD to hire a Missouri Watershed Water Monitoring Coordinator that would be shared with SWCD's in 3 other counties. Due to a hiring freeze in the other counties, Nobles SWCD has been asked to front this plan. Ed presented a map of monitoring locations and a spreadsheet of costs for the coordinator possibly housed in Nobles SWCD. Everything covered to hire the individual, except state unemployment costs. The position would start middle of March, 2011. The board suggested pursuing this employment option and report back.

Aaron presented a copy of a 2010 Tree Program survey of the services costs for eight local SWCD's comparing what the Nobles SWCD charges for tree program services. The board felt the current prices were competitive and should remain the same for 2011. Darling moved to approve the tree price list. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The NRCS is requesting services in a new Contribution Agreement for help with CRP Sign-up 39. Plans need to be written for Nobles and Jackson counties and would receive \$480 for each plan. The contribution agreement would be with the MASWCD instead of NRCS directly. Aaron will be receiving training from NRCS and the District could receive up to \$13,000 in reimbursement. Wolf moved to approve the CRP Contribution Agreement. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

SWCD technical staff will need updated NRCS TAA (Technical Approval Authority) to assist with some practices. Stephanie went over the updated TAA. The SWCD Board concurred with ratings and made the recommendation to Area Conservationist.

The NRCS Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed by Stephanie with the Nobles SWCD board. In addition, the board reviewed the "And Justice for All" posters and the civil rights policy statements.

The MN Walk On Access program was reviewed with the board. Ed mentioned there are issues with liability and there are other concerns with the program. Ed asked the Board if they would want to be part of this program. Contracts need to be 40 ac. or larger. \$10,000 is available for the districts to participate in this program and is paid with reimbursable method. Darling moved that the Nobles SWCD board was not in favor of participating in the MN Walk on Access Program. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The 2011 Farmbill Assistance Grant was sent to the District for approval. The Grant is for a 50% employee, for \$15,750.00. Wolf moved to approve the Farmbill Assistance Grant. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Nelsen, Darling, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Gene Foth, Nobles Co. Comm., reviewed items the County has been working on in recent 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, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Meeting adjourned.

Ken Wolf, Secretary