

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Kuschel at 10:04 am.

Present were: Chair.-Thomas Kuschel, Vice Chair.-Willard Pehling, Treasurer-J. David Harder, Member-Calvin Martin, Dist. Manager-John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and County Administrator - Robert Yochum.

M/S J. David Harder/Calvin Martin to approve the Rotation of Officers. Motion carried. Rotation of Officers is as follows:

Chairman – Willard Pehling	Vice Chairman – James Ballenthin
Secretary – J. David Harder	Treasurer – Calvin Martin
Member – Thomas Kuschel	

M/S J. David Harder/Calvin Martin to approve the agenda with the following additions – PERA, Elections, Mileage Rate, and JPB Mtgs. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

John's Report:

John received a letter from the Initiative Foundation saying that Cass SWCD could graduate from HOP if we were to host a meeting and review the benchmarks and submit a work plan. John does not feel that we are ready to submit a work plan at this time. **M/S Calvin Martin/Thomas Kuschel to request an extension until October 2008. Motion carried.** John will submit the request to the Initiative Foundation. John will try and find a facilitator for a meeting to be held sometime in April. We should be able to complete the work plan by that time.

Supervisor's Reports:

M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to approve .505 as the rate for mileage reimbursement for 2008. Motion carried.

Jim Ballentin was not present but had called and questioned why Cass SWCD had never enrolled in PERA. Calvin has always been concerned that if he enrolled in PERA it would somehow effect his railroad retirement. Brenda will check into this and report at the next SWCD meeting.

Bob Yochum visited with Cass SWCD regarding WesMin RC&D. The County Commissioners are not sure that Cass County itself has really benefited from any grants sponsored by WesMin RC&D. Dave Harder asked if Bob Yochum new why MCIT wouldn't make a larger payment to WesMin. Bob replied that without knowing the wording/contract/date he couldn't reply to that question. Bob thought that even though WesMin was supposed to just hold title to Smoky Timbers for awhile....they might have to sell off a chunk to pay the debt due. Cal did not know which of the counties that belonged to WesMin have actually donated to the shortfall. He would try to find out and report back. Cal also mentioned that he strongly urged at least one of Cass County Commissioners to attend the WesMin RC&D meetings. Bob wondered if Cass County or Cass SWCD donated to the shortfall....would they be liable if this were to happen again. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to request that WesMin RC&D provide documentation of membership responsibility to both Cass County and Cass SWCD. Motion carried.** John did not know of any Joint Power Board Meetings scheduled in the near future.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/Thomas Kuschel to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:03 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Member – Thomas Kuschel, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and NRCS – Richard Schossow.

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda with the following additions – Legislative Days, PERA, SWCD Forestry Conference. Motion carried.

M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

The January 22nd workshop at Leader was very well attended with 65 people registering. Rick has 1 EQIP application to review. Area II will receive \$95,000 in WHIP money. The Cass County Extension and Forage Council will be meeting February 2nd at the Backus Land Department....SWCD Supervisors should attend.

Rick mentioned that James Ayres will be retiring in April 2008. He will let us know if there is some type of retirement party planned.

Supervisor's Reports:

Willard Pehling, James Ballenthin and J. David Harder will attend the Area VIII meeting scheduled for March 7th in Bemidji. Brenda will send in the registration.

No info came in from WesMin RC&D.....postponed any decisions regarding payment until Calvin Martin is present and information is received from WesMin.

Brenda contacted PERA. There is no requirement that all supervisors join PERA. James Ballenthin and Willard Pehling are not interested. Thomas Kuschel and J. David Harder need to check into a few other things first. Follow up at next SWCD meeting.

James Ballenthin would like to attend Legislative Days scheduled for late February. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to pay expenses for Jim to attend Legislative Days. Motion carried.**

James Ballenthin stated that he would be interested in attending the Forestry Conference being held at Breezy Point on March 26-27. **M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to pay expenses for Jim to attend the Forestry Conference. Motion carried.**

Brenda requested permission to attend the Spring Administrative Session to be held at the Black Bear Casino March 17-18. **M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to pay expenses for Brenda to attend the Spring Administrative Session. Motion carried.**

Vouchers:

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MARCH 6, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:08 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Member – Thomas Kuschel, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and NRCS – Richard Schossow.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve the agenda with the following additions –Audit Report, Extension Report. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Rick and Tom attended the Extension Mtg. At this time Cass County is trying once again to get a full time extension person. Whoever and whenever.....if a person is hired....the total needed for wages will be \$80,000. An office and support staffs are still needed which would add to the expense. The position would not generate any funds for Cass County. The county has put a hiring freeze in place so who knows what will happen.

There are currently 686 beef farmers in Cass County.

77 EQIP applications have been approved in Cass County since 1998.

1 WHIP plan has been approved.

Rick distributed a flyer regarding Jim Ayres retirement party. Any one interested in going should confirm.

John's Report:

Cass County has been approved for several grants for this coming year. Some are from the Initiative Foundation, some from BWSR and some from MPCA. Funds from one of the grants will be used to produce a brochure explaining the importance of Shoreline Vegetation.

Kelly Condiff – one of the summer interns from last year would to come back and coordinate the Lakeshore Vegetation Program. If John can work it out...the fees will come out of the same grant as what the brochure does.

John mentioned that if anyone was interested....there is a Low Impact Design Workshop scheduled in Backus on Tuesday March 11th.

No applications coming in for woodlot management yet.

Supervisor's Reports:

Jim attended Legislative Days at the Capital. House File # 2285 should be watched carefully. There is a big split in RIM funding between the House and Senate.

Jim will attend the forestry meeting at Breezy Point next week. John mentioned that as many as 10 conservation easements have closed using money from a grant for just that purpose.

Jim distributed a booklet that was produced by MASWCD. Jim made copies and distributed them to the legislators.

None of the supervisors are interested in participating in PERA at this time.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to pay the \$250.00 for Area VIII 2008 dues. Motion carried.

Jim distributed copies of the proposed Development Standards. The proposed changes go to the Planning Commission on April 23rd. Mike Wetzel is calling a review meeting of the PAC, BOA and SWCD on March 27th.

Cass County is not is the “zone” for the Native Buffer Cost-Share program. The program is hoping to get rid of evasive species by replacing them with native species. A 15 year contract must be signed to qualify for the program.

8 of the counties in the WesMin RC&D area have agreed to donate \$3,900. There are 14 counties in the RC&D area. Cass and Crow Wing are two that are not willing to donate at this time. The RC&D is

appealing the decision made by the insurance company. **Motion was made by Calvin Martin to pay the \$400.00 for WesMin RC& D dues for 2008. Vote failed because of no second.**

M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to donate \$50.00 to the MN Conservation Volunteer Magazine. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/Thomas Kuschel to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
APRIL 3, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:10 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS – Richard Schossow, BWSR – Ron Shellito and Dan Steward.

M/S James Ballenthin/J. David Harder to approve the agenda with the following additions – Landscapers Meeting, Longville School Forest. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

John's Report:

John mentioned that after placing the add in the papers for the Forestry Program, one application has been received.

In response to the supervisor's questions about Lottery Money allocations, John distributed a brochure showing how the money is distributed. For 2007 the Total Revenue was \$424.25 Million. Net Profits to State Programs was \$112.35 Million.

The Development Standards Meeting went pretty well. Jim did an excellent job of handling the meeting and answering questions. We are nearing the end of two years of work. The public hearing is scheduled for April 23rd. Cass County Administrator would like to see a draft of the standards placed on the website. The county commissioners would like to postpone enactment of the Development Standards until January 1, 2009. The changes to the zoning maps should be approved and would go into effect at the same time. M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel for the Cass SWCD to approve and endorse the changes made to the Development Standards as approved at the March 27th Meeting. Motion carried.

Development of the district's long range plan (which was funded by the Initiative Foundation) has not gone any further because John and Jim have been so busy with the Development Standards. We should discuss this at the next SWCD meeting.

The meeting at the Land Dept with various forestry associations present went very well. If some kind of partnership could be formed.....perhaps we could use their mailing list and reach a more general population. Kelly Condif will come back and work for ESD this summer to finish up the Shoreland Revegetation Sites. His wages will come from various grants and donations from Lake Associations. M/S Thomas Kuschel/James Ballenthin to dedicate \$2,000.00 towards Kelly Condif's wages. Motion carried.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Rick explained that the Farm Bill had been extended for 30 days. Some of the new working in the Farm Bill will reduce funds that help support the Extension Service. NRCS has several people retiring within the next 1 ½ years.

Supervisor's Reports:

Three supervisors's attended the Area VIII meeting. The resolution process was discussed. Frank Moe attended the meeting as well. BWSR stressed that with the financial state.....SWCD's will be held more accountable. The next Area VIII meeting is scheduled for June 5th. This just happens to be the next regularly scheduled Cass SWCD meeting. M/S James Ballenthin/J. David Harder to change the Cass SWCD meeting from June 5th to June 4th. Motion carried.

Jim attended the forestry meeting and the landscapers meetings. Both of which were very well attended. Jim questioned BWSR guys why there wasn't more funding and effort to control the spread of the Emerald Ash Bore. Ron Shellito explained that he believes DNR is on the lookout for it but that it takes awhile to identify or "find" it. This would be a good time for Cass SWCD to draft a resolution in support of the control and prevention of infestation of the Emerald Ash Bore.

John suggested that maybe one the ERS could do a presentation at the Longville School Forest. He will let Dave know ASAP.

The BWSR Guys:

Dan stated that Cass/Crow Wing/Aitkin SWCD's have been working very well together regarding the Conservation Easements. RIM has received very good support from the legislature this year. BWSR has had a large turn over of staff, especially in St. Paul. Jim Lemmerman is retiring in May. BWSR may not replace him. It would help if the SWCD's "suggested" that his position needed to be refilled.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/J. David Harder to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S Jim Ballenthin/Calvin Martin to adjourn. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MAY 8, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:04 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, and NRCS – Richard Schossow.

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to approve the agenda with the following additions –Long Range Plan, Longville School Forest and Leader Workshop. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/Calvin Martin to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

John's Report:

The Development Standards have been approved by the County Commissioners and will now go to the second hearing. John thought that once all the hearings had been held, the Development Standards would go into effect immediately, not January 1st as first believed.

John is going to be giving a speech June 18th at Northern Lights Casino regarding Conservation Design and the Development Standards will surely be discussed there.

John recently received an award from North Central Lakes Collaborative recognizing his innovation and promoting of shore land stewardship practices.

Kelly Condif will come back to work for ESD this summer. He will be working on the Re-Vegetation sites. So far 5 people have signed up to participate in the re-vegetation sites and no advertising has been done. The \$56,000 grant will pay for some of Kelly's wages but not all. The DNR grant is a little more cumbersome also. We must disburse funds 1st and then request reimbursement from DNR.

John explained the Lakes Area Clean Water/1,000 Rain Gardens project. The project and its sponsors would appreciate any support. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to approve and set aside \$1,000.00 for the project. Motion carried.** Check will be made out to Crow Wing SWCD.

Chris Pence did a very good demonstration at the Longville School Forest.

John mentioned that Robert Wright and Chris Pence manned a booth for ESD/SWCD this past weekend at the Community Center. The Home and Garden Show was very well attended with around 1,700 people attending. Lots of good comments and lots of good ideas.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

The Farm Bill has been granted a two week extension. The subsidy portion of the bill is what is holding things up. The Cass and Crow Wing emergency boards met. Anywhere from 250 to 300 new calves were lost in this last snowfall. Tom Kuschel lost 16 so far. FSA will be sending a letter out to all FSA participants, reimbursement may be possible for calves lost but you must be able to document when and how they died. David Holmberg is in the process of trying to update his feedlot permit. One of the neighbors is fighting the permit process and says that Dave is spreading way too much of his manure in way to concentrated an area. MPCA feels that Mr. Holmberg is in compliance.

Cass SWCD must approve payment of \$500.00 from WesMin RC& D to the Leader Lions and Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council. **M/S Calvin Martin/Thomas Ksuchel to allow payment of \$500.00 to the Leader Lions and Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council. Motion carried.**

Supervisor's Reports:

Supervisors up for election this year are Cal, Dave, Jim and Will. A Guide to the Election Process can be found on the MASWCD website.

A reminder.....new resolutions must be submitted by July 21st to MASWCD to be considered at this year's convention. Jim presented two resolutions for possible consideration. One of the proposed resolutions pertained to Forest Land Essential for Economic and Environmental Health and Safety. The second resolution pertained to Insuring Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Water Resources. Lots of discussion about

how a moratorium would affect reclass/split/variance process. Jim explained that he intended the resolution to deal with timber land of large parcels, not the size that Cass SWCD is trying to deal with (Forestry Program). Will briefly explained a large timbered piece that was indeed split and developed. It would have been a prime example for this resolution. **M/S James Ballenthin/J. David Harder to submit the following resolution (see attached Res #1) for consideration and approval. Motion carried.** The second resolution did not get quite as far. J. David Harder made a motion to submit the following (see attached Res #2) but the motion failed because there was no second.

The Area VIII meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2008. Last month we moved our June SWCD meeting to the 4th to accommodate the Area VIII meeting. Dave, Will, Jim and Tom will attend the Area VIII meeting.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to adjourn. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
JUNE 4, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:06 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, and NRCS – Richard Schossow.

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to approve the agenda with the following additions – Area VIII Meeting. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/Calvin Martin to approve the consent agenda with one correction – Rick[s] report in the May minutes should state that the payment to the Leader Lions should be \$818.00 – not \$500.00. Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Reports:

Jim explained that the Development Standards were approved on June 3rd and will go into effect on or about July 16th. Jim explained that Kelly Condif was working out well so far, the grant allows for around 20 projects. Jim mentioned that there were changes made to the Forest Tax Law Section 2C. The tax benefit has been extended for those applying for Conservation Easements.

The Area VIII meeting starts at 10:00 on the 5th. Jim, Dave, and Will will be attending for sure. The resolutions will be discussed first. Jim made some changes to the Insuring Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Water Resources Resolution. **After discussion a M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to submit the following resolution (see attached Res #2) for consideration and approval. Motion carried with Calvin Martin abstaining. Cass now has two resolutions to be considered at the Area VIII meeting.**

Wadena SWCD is having their 50th year celebration. It will be held on June 20th. Anyone interested in attending should go. **M/S Calvin Marting/J. David Harder to pay expenses for anyone that attends. Motion carried.**

Cal’s position if up for election, he will not file again. Jim and Dave will file again. Will is not sure if he will file again or not.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Rick explained that the Farm Bill was vetoed by President Bush but that Congress overrode the veto. There is still no budget approved yet. EQIP was opened up again. The Grassland Reserve Program was extended also. Only 32,000 acres will be approved for CRP this year.

Cost-Share Application:

Request for payment of CS133(06) was received from Charles & Nancy Archer. **M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to pay CS133(06) in the amount of \$3,302.00. Motion carried.**

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor’s

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
JULY 3, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:02 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist Manager – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, and NRCS – Richard Schossow.

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda with the following additions – Area VIII Meeting, NCMN JPB, MASWCD 2008 Awards. Motion carried.

M/S Calvin Martin/Thomas Kuschel to approve the consent agendas presented. Motion carried.

John's Report:

John met with the county board on 7/1/08. As of right now the county is releasing 14 to 16 employees. Zirla Nelson and Christopher Pence are two that will be released. Both have 14 days to bump into another position. Kelly Condif must now become an SWCD employee if we want him to stay on as a summer temp. Is the SWCD agrees to pay him...his wages will paid through SWCD and then billed to the DNR grant. Some of his wages can be taken out of the County/SWCD budget. **M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to accept Kelly Condif as a summer temp employee (July 3 to September 8) and pay his wages from the SWCD funds. Motion carried.**

John explained that the newest wetland-banking site has been approved by BWSR and all property owners. John Rardin is working on the water control structures today. Once completed, Jon Hodgson of NCMN JPB will inspect. The site is located one mile west of Maddens on Hwy 77.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Rick explained that 8 new EQIP applications have been approved.

Rick attended the PAC Meeting to answer any questions regarding Dave Holmberg's feedlot expansion. His request was tabled after a very lengthy discussion. Dave has applied for an MPCA permit that allows for up to 999 animals. As of right now, he has 699.3 animal units. The site will need to be de watered. The forage council will meet July 10th to schedule a fall tour.

Supervisor's Reports:

The next NCMN JPB is 07/14/2008 in Bemidji. Will Pehling will attend. The next Area VIII meeting is scheduled for 9/12/2008 in International Falls.

Five resolutions were submitted at the last Area VIII meeting, three from Crow Wing SWCD passed. The two from Cass SWCD did not pass but there was a lot of discussion on both.

Cal will not be running for SWCD supervisor this year. He has decided to "hang it up". Perhaps Ken LaPorte or Mike Sams would be interested in running. Cal will talk to Ken.

The supervisors discussed nominating the Leader Lions/Crow Wing Forage Basin Council for an award at the MASWCD convention. It was decided that Jim Ballenthin should also be nominated because of his work with Area VIII, Section 1116 of the Ordinance and his service on the BOA. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to nominate the two mentioned above for awards for FY2008. Motion carried.**

Tom mentioned that the county commissioners have approved the new mileage rate at .585 per mile. He thought the district should approve the rate as well. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/Calvin Martin to approve the mileage rate at .585. Motion carried.**

Wadena SWCD's 50th anniversary tour was nice but near as many people attended as expected.

Cost-Share Application:

Request from Charles and Nancy Archer to reconsider approving additional cost share funds up to \$2,315.00. The final cost share amount was \$11, 234.00 with an additional 55 feet of shoreline rip rapped and planted.

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the request for additional cost share funds in the amount of \$2,315.00 and to pay that amount as well. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:03am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist Manager – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, and NRCS – Richard Schossow & Colleen Ostrich, Kelly Condif and Nate Harder.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve the agenda with the following additions – NC MN JPB and MHB. Motion carried.

M/S James Ballenthin/Calvin Martin/ to approve the consent agendas presented. Motion carried.

Shoreland Vegetation Project – Kelly Condif

Kelly gave a brief slide show of how he sees the Shoreland Vegetation Project. He mentioned that there are basically 5 steps involved to fulfilling a “contract”. The first step is contacting the interested party. 2nd step is the site visit which can take a while. 3rd step is deciding what works and what the landowner wants. 4th step is finding and purchasing the plants – this can be difficult because the local nurseries don’t always have the amount needed. 5th step is planting – a lot of shoveling because most of the work is in the 1st half of the setback zone. Kelly’s last day is August 22, 2008. We will miss him.

John’s Report:

John submitted a preliminary SWCD Budget. There is considerable pressure from the budget committee and the commissioners to lay off one more ESD employee. John has explained the them all that ESD/SWCD just can’t do our job if we loose one more. August 26th is the next scheduled budget hearing. Will and Jim will attend with John.

The outlet structure at the wetland banking site is 6/10 or 7” to low. Jim Rardin will fix it and Jon Hodgson will inspect it again. The cost of the structure comes to @ \$13,000.00.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Rick introduced Colleen Ostrich – the new Area Manager. Colleen was working with RC & D before she came to NRCS. Nine EQIP contracts have been approved. The Leader Lions Tour is scheduled for August 27th. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Supervisor’s Reports:

The next Area VIII meeting is scheduled for International Falls on September 11 & 12. Jim will attend.

Will Pehling attended the JPB meeting. The JPB works on an average of 8 projects per county involved in the JPB per year. However, Cass has had very few projects within the JPB.

M/S Thomas Kuschel/James Ballenthin to approve the 2009 BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant in the amount of \$139 – RIM, \$22,356 General Services, \$12,966 Cost-Share. Motion carried and signed by Will Pehling.

Ken Laporte has filed for SWCD Supervisor from District 2.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor’s

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:06 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist Manager – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, and NRCS – Richard Schossow and Kelly Condif.

M/S James Ballenthin/J. David Harder to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve the consent agendas presented. Motion carried.

Shoreland Vegetation Project – Kelly Condif

Kelly reported that eight sites have been completed so far this year. Kelly will be returning next year to work on the rest of the sites.

DNR has a new grant program that Cass ESD/SWCD should be in a very good position to apply for. There is a pre app meeting in Little Falls in October that John will be going to.

John's Report:

John has to be in court on October 2nd. Can the meeting be changed to October 9th? M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to move the October Meeting to the 9th instead of the 2nd. Motion carried. John will see if Kelly would be available on the 9th it would be a good time to tour the re-vegetation sites. John and Jim attended the Budget Hearings. A lot of the discussion centered around solid waste fees and what solid waste fees can be spent on. The SWCD budget was approved. REMEMBER.....The next HOP meeting is scheduled for October 30th. The SWCD MUST attend.

Supervisor's Reports:

Will, Tom and Jim attended the Leaders Lions Tour. The pasture tour was very interesting and the pastures were doing very well in spite of the dry weather. The tour at the Staples Ag School wasn't all that well but there was a new director there and he just wasn't real familiar with everything yet. After that they proceeded to the Little Falls ethanol plant. That was very interesting as well. Jim will attend the Area VIII meeting in International Falls on September 11th and 12th.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:01 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist Manager – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, and NRCS – Richard Schossow and Kelly Condiff.

M/S Calvin Martin/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda with the following additions – Leader Lions Tour. Motion carried.

M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve the consent agendas presented. Motion carried.

John's Report:

John submitted the HOP preliminary plan to the Initiative Foundation. The foundation suggested that Cass SWCD request a one year extension. M/S James Ballenthin/Calvin Martin to request a one year extension to complete the Cass HOP plan. Motion carried. Cass SWCD does not need to attend the HOP session for October.

John explained that Kelly would be our tour guide this afternoon as we visit the revegetative sites. John and Kelly will attend a meeting October 17th to go find out some information pertaining to a special DNR grant. No new budget items to discuss at this time.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Five new EQIP contracts have been signed. NRCS is under a Federal Audit. There is a continuing resolution for budget until March 09. Rick has received two new stock watering pond applications. NRCS has a new grazing specialist who will be housed in Perham. Rick will attend a meeting to schedule the winter Leader Lions Tour. Jim wanted to know if sometime in 2009, Rick or someone from NRCS to do a presentation to the SWCD explaining the various USDA/NRCS programs.

Supervisor's Reports:

Jim attended the Area VIII tour and it was very good again this year. He expressed wishes that more Cass SWCD supervisors would attend the Area VIII meetings. Cal reported that he hasn't been attending any RC&D meetings but is still getting meeting reports if anyone is interested. M/S James Ballenthin/Calvin Martin to move the November 6th meeting to November 13th. Motion carried. M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to move the December 4th meeting to December 11th. Motion carried. Brenda will make reservations and take care of registration for all attending the convention. Discussion and voting on the proposed resolutions followed.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:03 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist Manager – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis.

M/S James Ballenthin/J. David Harder to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

M/S James Ballenthin/Calvin Martin to approve the consent agendas presented. Motion carried.

John's Report/Supervisor's Report:

Kelly Condiff, Jim Ballenthin and John attended a DNR Grant meeting that was held in Little Falls. John thinks that Cass County may enter into an agreement with Crow Wing County and apply for the grant. The grant would provide funding for two lakes in Cass County and two lakes in Crow Wing County. Paula West will put together the draft grant application and then it will be reviewed by Cass and Crow Wing before it is sent to DNR. The deadline dated is December 5, 2008. Only two grants in the amount of \$75,000.00 will be awarded in the state of MN.

Jim and John met with Professor Wille at BSU to discuss small woodlot assessment strategies. Professor Wille suggested that a BSU student could do some literary research to find out what material is available for small woodlot operators and produce a list of those materials for Cass SWCD before we go ahead and produce any more brochures. The cost of the research would be \$10.00 per hour for about 100 hours OR \$1,000.00. *Where would the money come from you might ask.....***from Cass SWCD! M/S J. David Harder/James Ballenthin to approve and set aside \$1,000.00 for the research on woodlot literature. Motion carried.** John will contact Professor Wille.

Congratulations to retired Cass County ESD employee Ken LaPorte. Ken is the newly elected Cass SWCD supervisor for District Two. Brenda has already registered him for MASWCD Annual Convention and will send him an agenda for the December SWCD meeting that is to be held at the home of Calvin Martin (lunch menu following attached to the agenda). There are a couple of other meetings that Ken may want to attend before he actually takes the Oath of Office. Brenda will forward that information to him also. **M/S Calvin Martin/James Ballenthin to cover meals and expenses for nominees and their spouses, supervisors and their spouses that will be attending the MASWCD Annual Convention. Motion carried.**

We received the NACD 2009 Membership Invoice. Before any payment is made.....Brenda will see what we paid in 2008 and report at the next meeting.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/J. David Harder to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Pehling at 10:08 am.

Present were: Chair.-Willard Pehling, Vice Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary -J. David Harder, Treasurer – Calvin Martin, Member –Thomas Kuschel, Dist Manager – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, Kenneth LaPorte and Elaine Martin.

M/S J. David Harder/Calvin Martin to approve the agenda with the following additions.....MHB, Area VIII Managers/Chairmans Mtg. Motion carried.

M/S James Ballenthin/J. David Harder to approve the consent agendas presented. Motion carried.

John's Report/Supervisor's Report:

John and Jim attended a DNR Shoreland Incentive Grant Mtg in Little Falls. The meeting itself was ok Cass will work in conjunction with Crow Wing County to apply for the grant. With the budget the way it is...maybe there won't be a grant!

Cass SWCD has received a letter of request from MHB for financial support...either a letter (from Cass SWCD to the commissioner's) recommending they support MHB or direct funding from Cass SWCD. John read his letter of response to MHB. Jim and Dave thought it might be a good idea if Cass SWCD/MHB/ESD meet. Cass ESD does a good job with permitting...why are we duplicating?

The expected reduction in Local Government Aid this year is between \$900,000 and 2 million. John has no idea if the County will lay off more people or not. The board and John thought it would be a good idea to form a budget/action meeting between the MHB, SWCD, Land Dept., and certain Lake Associations and the sooner the better. The groups/agencies that act fast stand a better chance of hanging in there! M/S James Ballenthin/Thomas Kuschel to give John Sumption permission to set up a meeting between all the agencies/organizations mentioned above and to try to get it scheduled for early January 2009. Motion carried.

Jim and John will attend a Manager/Chairman work group meeting January 7th.

NRCS – Richard Schossow:

Rick has been working on the NRCS national audit. Out of the last 41 contracts, 18 of them need further information according to the audit demands. People from the NRCS Area Office are actually doing the audit. The audit has to be by December 31st.

The next Leader Lions workshop is scheduled for January 27, 2009.

The Local Work Group increased points in some areas and decreased points in some areas.

Supervisor's Reports:

Cal received a letter from Dean Schmidt of RC&D. In his letter Dean mentioned that RC& D will continue to support projects submitted from Cass County but would certainly like to see the SWCD represented at the RC& D meetings.

M/S J. David Harder/Calvin Martin to appoint newly elected supervisor Kenneth LaPorte to be the liaison from Cass SWCD to RC&D. Motion carried.

The convention was fairly well attended even though several districts will be facing budget issues. There is no expected increase in MASWCD dues this year. The meeting facilities were exceptional but parking was horrible. Brenda should check with MASWCD and see if we can't get a article about the Leader Lions receiving an award and get it printed in the paper.

Vouchers:

M/S Calvin Martin/J. David Harder to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date