

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2009**

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, Member-Thomas Kuschel, ESD-Paul Fairbanks, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Richard Schossow, newly elected supervisor Kenneth LaPorte

**M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the Rotation of Officers. Motion carried. Auditor Sharon Anderson swore all elected supervisors in at this time.**

**Rotation of Officers is as follows:**

**Chairman –James Ballenthin  
Secretary – Willard Pehling**

**Vice Chairman – J. David Harder  
Treasurer – Thomas Kuschel**

**Member – Kenneth LaPorte**

**M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**John's Report:**

John informed the supervisors that the budget committee has been directed to review departmental suggested budget cuts and to meet again on January 27, 2009. It really appears that someone will be laid off. How many and who is not known at this time. The courthouse bargaining unit was questioned if they would renegotiate the contract but the union voted not to at this time. Perhaps because the county commissioners approved a three percent wage increase for themselves and all non union department heads. John stated that *maybe* they should lead by example and freeze their wages at what they were getting at 2008 year end and *then* talk to the union. John encouraged all supervisors to attend the budget meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Liaison committee meets on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners Kangas & Demgen will meet with supervisors Ballenthin & Harder.

John and Jim were on a conference call with the Initiative Foundation regarding the districts HOP plan. The Initiative Foundation feels that Cass should extend our plan by at least one year. The next HOP meeting is February 19<sup>th</sup> in Little Falls. The district needs to revise the goals that were originally adopted. The top goal was originally getting the Forestry Program up and running that is not going so well. Will wanted to know if we could still accomplish all our goals with just the grant money or might some district funds have to be added. John thought we could still reach all our goals with the grant money.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to adopt the amendments to the districts HOP plan as proposed by the Initiative Foundation, John and Jim. Motion carried.**

The Leader Lions is requesting \$1,000 in funding from WesMin RC&D to conduct the workshops for 2009. Ken is supposed to get a list from Dean Schmidt showing what projects in Cass County have been supported or gotten funding from WesMin RC&D.

**NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick explained that 250 flyers had been sent out for the next Leader Lions Tour which is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/Willard Pehling to approve the request from the Leader Lions to WesMin RC&D for \$1000 funding. Motion carried.**

The National Audit for the Walker Office has been completed...*on time*. Rick managed to get every contract certified. EQIP funding for this year should be ok but 2010 funding could see some drastic changes. He is processing EQIP payments this week.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the mileage rate at the current IRS mileage rate of .55. Motion carried.**

**M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to pay registration/meals/lodging for Jim Ballenthin and Ken LaPorte to attend the Legislative Days in St. Paul on February 23 & 24. Motion carried.**

John and Jim attended the Area VIII manager/chairman meeting in Bemidji on January 7<sup>th</sup>. A few questions came out of the meeting. The next Area VIII meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. Cass SWCD must help facilitate the June meeting with Beltrami SWCD. Jim volunteered Cass for handling registrations. The location for that meeting will probably be at the Beltrami Electric Building.

The district's policy handbook needs to be reviewed at the February meeting.

**Vouchers:**

**M/S Thomas Kuschel/Willard Pehling to pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried.** Voucher payments included MCIT, NACD dues and MASWCD dues.

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:03 am.

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

**M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the agenda with the following additions – Request from Land Department and Meeting with Pat Schuett of BSU, Motion carried.**

**M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**Brenda's Report:**

Brenda briefly explained that she had spoken with Beltrami Electric...we can get into the room at 9:00 and the staff will help us arrange tables. The caterer is Market Place Food and Drug. The fee for registration and meal has been set at \$13.00. So far only 5 people have registered but 35 + are expected.

Brenda has been working on changes to the website and presented some possible changes. **M/S Willard Pehling/James Ballenthin to proceed with the changes to the website as presented. Motion carried.**

Brenda would like to attend the administrative session to be April 1&2 in Thief River Falls. **M/S J. David Harder /Willard Pehling to pay for expenses for Brenda to attend the administrative session in Thief River Falls on April 1&2. Motion carried.**

**NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick has processed 12 EQIP signups so far and 4 WHIP signups.

A teleconference was held with the US Forest Service on 03/03/09. The purpose of the call was to discuss the possibility of the NRCS moving into the “new” US Forest building when it is completed (expected date some time in 2012). Rick has been with the NRCS here in Cass County for 10 years. In the 10 years, 2 x's they have tried to close his office and the main reason for that is because he is not housed with a USDA center.

A March 19<sup>th</sup> planning session is scheduled for the summer Leader Lions Farm Tour.

NRCS has a new grazing specialist, his name is Jeff Duchene.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

Jim briefly reviewed the MN MASWCSD Forestry Association program and requested that Cass SWCD consider joining the association because of our efforts to get the Forestry Program up and running in Cass County. **M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas**

**Kuschel to join the MN MASWCD Forestry Association and to pay the \$60.00 annual dues fee. Motion carried.** Jim will find out when and where and how often the association meets and report at the next Cass SWCD meeting. The district can then decide who should represent Cass SWCD at the meetings.

Checks for Kelly Condiff, BSU, Area VIII Envirothon, Area VIII Association, WesMin RC&D dues are included with the vouchers. **M/S J. David Harder/Kenneth LaPorte to pay them as presented. Motion carried.**

Jim explained that Pat Schuett of BSU will be here on March 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss a work strategy plan to get the Forestry Program up and running. John will not be able to make the meeting but Will would like to attend.

Ken and Jim attended Legislative Days at the Hill. The session is always very interesting and informative. Jim will draft and send off thank you letters to those that they got to meet with.

Regarding the letter from Josh Stevenson and the Cass County Land Department, Jim stated that he believes there to be more to the proposal than what the Land Department is stating. With that said, there still is a very good reason for the district to join forces with the land department. **M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to approve and adopt the proposal presented by the Cass County Land Department. Motion carried.**

Jim suggested that for the April meeting, Cass SWCD should have the usual business meeting in the am, break for lunch and then reconvene to discuss the ESD Director position and the relationship between ESD and SWCD. All present thought this would be a good idea as well. The April meeting date needs to be changed as well because Brenda will not be here on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. **M/S Kenneth LaPorte to change the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to April 9<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.**

**Vouchers:**

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

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Thomas Kuschel/Willard Pehling adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:00 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Secretary-Willard Pehling, Treasurer-Thomas Kuschel, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present were Pat Schuett, Dean Schmidt, Josh Stevenson and Robert Yochum.

**M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to approve the agenda with the following additions – Water Plan Review, Area VIII Envirothon, Resolutions. Motion carried.**

**M/S J. David Harder/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**John's Report:**

Dave Enblom of the Cass County Highway Department had submitted an application (Pug Hole Project) last year for funding from the Clean Water Legacy Grant. The request for funding was turned down. Dave would like permission from the SWCD Board to resubmit the application. The area of concern is still a problem area. After reviewing the application the SWCD Board could see certain areas of the application that needed to be addressed yet. Since the project has to be done in stages, the board thought the application should be broken out into the stages with timelines and dollar amounts per stage. **M/S Willard Pehling/J David Harder to have Dave Enblom appear before the SWCD Board with the proposal broken into stages with deadlines and dollar amounts per stage. Motion carried.**

The Clean Water Legacy budget proposed by the Governor has been submitted to the state legislature and, if approved, 30 million will go into BWSR. MPCA would get a good chunk of money as well.

John and Tamie Fairbanks made a presentation to the Central Lakes Collaborative last night. The program went very well. Funding is a *BIG* concern.

Kelly Condiff will be back this summer to finish off the shoreline re-vegetation projects. Brent Rud of Cass ESD has been working very hard on revising the Water Plan. John attended a meeting on 04/08/09 in Bemidji and hopefully the Cass County Water Plan Revisions will be approved by the end of May.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

Jim introduced Pat Schuett (a student at BSU). Pat just finished compiling a list of existing literatures on Private Forest Lands for Cass County SWCD. Pat explained to the board that during his research he found out that more and more land owners were not interested in monetary value of the forests. They are looking more for the hunting privileges and green space for privacy. A lot of the land owners thought that if they

applied for federal or state funding to manage their forest, some of their property rights would be diminished. However, several of the land owners that did participate in federal or state programs were really good at encouraging neighbors to do so also. Usually if a landowner participated in one federal or state program or are members of a wildlife organization, they were likely to participate in other programs as well. **M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to move forward in forming and scheduling a forestry planning meeting. Motion carried.** April 29<sup>th</sup> would work well for most of the SWCD supervisors. John will get something planned and notify everyone.

**Brenda's Report:**

Brenda explained that she had given the proposed SWCD website stuff to the MIS department to make the necessary changes. As of today....a few changes need to be made, the site should be ready by next month.

The Administrative session in Thief River Falls was good. One of the districts told of a harrowing experience with pay equity requirements.

**Supervisor's Reports Continued:**

Robert Yochum and Josh Stevenson addressed the board at this time. Bob explained that after the Liaison Committee Meeting, he was surprised at the effect that the NRCS has with SWCD status and affiliation. The Service Agreement between Cass County and Cass SWCD definitely needs to be rewritten and signed. One good example of a benefit to the district, through the agreement, is that the district doesn't have to file Pay Equity. One very important item on the agenda for the next commissioners meeting is to appoint the SWCD board as the Natural Resource Advisory Committee to the Cass County Land Department. The district will be reimbursed the \$250.00 for WesMin dues per the county budget agreement. Bob understands the desire for at least one member of the SWCD board to act on the committee that will be hiring to fill John's position. John's last day with the county will be January 8, 2010. Internal applications will be reviewed first, then a state wide search. There will probably be an overlap of wages while the new person learns the ropes.

Josh distributed a Land Asset Management Policy for the supervisors to review and comment on. He explained the current policies and the new items for consideration. Jim wondered if Josh could provide the SWCD with the counties Land Management Plan before they commented on the policies. John mentioned that DNR will have identified critical areas on 17 of Cass County's lakes by this year end. By adopting a new Land Asset Management Policy, it will help Cass County identify if any of these areas are suitable for acquisition.

BREAK FOR LUNCH – **WesMin RC&D - Dean Schmidt** gave a brief presentation of various programs/groups from Cass County that has received funding support through WesMin RC& D.

**Reconvene – NRCS Richard Schossow:**

Rick went through the "Freedom of Information Act" with a slide show to the board. A copy of the approved April minutes must be sent to the Area Office to show that the information was indeed reviewed. The MOU between Cass County SWCD and NRCS

was reviewed but not signed. Cass SWCD has a unique situation because they have no employees, however according to the Service Agreement, all ESD employees could be considered SWCD employees. Rick could not remember the last time that anyone from SWCD was in the field with him or the employees completed any USDA Farm Program work. The MOU is supposed to be signed by an employee of the SWCD not a supervisor. No one signed the MOU at this time because they do not have access to the USDA net work system and the SWCD employees do not work on farm bill programs. The tribe is talking about becoming their own Tribal Conservation District.

**Supervisor's Reports Continued:**

No one had a chance to review the SWCD operating policies so they will be reviewed in May.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the Cass County/Cass SWCD Service Agreement subject to changes concerning temporary/part time employees. Motion carried.**

The March Area VIII meeting went very well. Receipts covered all expenses. Jim had no news to report regarding the Forestry Association meetings etc. WHA is sending 5 teams to the Envirothon. Robert Wright and Brent Rud are going to make a soils presentation to Kyle Duclos' class before they go to the Envirothon. ESD Director Position will be discussed at the May meeting. John distributed copies of his job description to everyone. Right now there will be a 5 member review team for his position. There will be 2 commissioners, 1 SWCD supervisor, the Cass County Attorney and Robert Yochum.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder - Essential Duties of the ESD Director should read as follows – Manages, directs, and oversee fulfillment of counties duties of the ESD/SWCD under the Cass SWCD – County Service Agreement. Motion carried.**

**M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to appoint James Ballenthin to the committee in charge of hiring the ESD director. Motion carried**

Resolutions will be discussed and reviewed. It was decided that the resolution regarding No Net Loss of Public Lands should be resubmitted for consideration again this year. Jim will make any necessary changes and have ready for review.

**Vouchers:**

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

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Thomas Kuschel/Willard Pehling adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
MAY 7, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:07 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Secretary-Willard Pehling, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present Josh Stevenson.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the agenda with the following additions – Longville School Forest, Land Department Policy, By Law Amendment for Area VIII and two proposed motions. Motion carried.**

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**John & Josh Report:**

Josh has developed a Third Party Agreement for people to sign when they “gift” land to the Cass County Land Department. A lot of people think that if they gift land to the county it will not be developed. This is not true. The land is gifted to the county and the county will trade or sell it if the deal is “right”. Josh, Jim and John had some comments/changes to be considered for the Land Departments Land Management Policy. After discussion several changes were made. A final draft will be prepared and brought before the SWCD in June for final approval. Josh will provide the SWCD with copies of the “draft” version of the Policy& Procedure Manual for the Land Department well before the final version goes out for public comment and hearings.

John, Jim, Tom, Will, and Ken attended the Small Woodlot Planning Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Others in attendance were Josh Stevenson and Pat Schuett of BSU. John is to get in contact with Rick Horton of DNR immediately to advise and assist with identifying the key leaders in wildlife organizations, what kind of criteria is needed from a forester so that we can place an RFP. John spoke with Rick H. and he feels that it is still better to identify high priority areas in the county and then contact private land owners within those priority areas. After some discussion it was decided that the RFP should be drafted so that it doesn't specifically require a forester but at least a wildlife planner. **M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to have John draft the RFP and send it out ASAP with a closing date of June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009. The contract will awarded at the June 4<sup>th</sup> SWCD meeting. Motion carried.**

John contacted Dave Enblom of the Highway Department. Dave stated that the Pug Hole Project is an “All or Nothing” project. He thanked the SWCD for consideration of any financial support but if the whole project can not be funded....he would withdraw.

Kelly will be back next week to start work with the Shoreline Restoration Projects again. John has some sites lined up for him to start planning/planting. There are two LCCMR proposals that might work well with the Shoreline Restoration process.

### **NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the cutoff date for EQUIP applications. There has been no county allocation yet this year. The final dollar amount should be known soon.

The Summer Leader Lions Tour has been scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> starting with breakfast at 7:45 AM at the home of Mike Sams. Several new forage seeding plot sites will be visited.

Several different agencies will be sponsoring an “Evening of Local Food and Water” event scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event will be held at the Nisswa Community Center and the cost is \$20.00 a person. Our very own Thomas Kuschel will be providing some of the “BEEF”!

### **Supervisor’s Reports:**

The board discussed changes to the SWCD District Policies at this time. Changes were made to Policy #A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, D-1 and D-3. **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to have John Sumption make the necessary changes to the policies so that the SWCD board could review and approve the policies at the June SWCD meeting. Motion carried.**

Changes were made to the Cass County/Cass SWCD Service Agreement and the County Board has already approved the Service Agreement. **M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to approve and sign the Cass County/Cass SWCD Service Agreement as presented. Motion carried. Signed by James Ballenthin and J. David Harder.**

Jim explained that the personnel committee for the ESD directors’ position will be meeting with all of the ESD staff next Friday. The reason for the interviews is so that the committee can get a feel on just what “kind” of person is needed for the position. After the interviews, the position will be placed within the county for the required period and will go out to the general public after that. A “new” hire is expected some time this late fall.

Jim had prepared three resolutions for the SWCD to consider. The first resolution pertained to No Net Loss – changes made. **M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the changes and submit the resolution. Motion carried.**

The second resolution pertained to Forest Land – changes made. **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the changes and submit the resolution. Motion carried.**

The third resolution pertained to Sustainable Water – changes made. **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the changes and submit the resolution. Motion carried.**

Dave informed everyone that if they were interested, the dock in the Longville School Forest needs repair work done and those interested in helping should report to the school forest on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jim spoke before the county commissioners at the last commissioners meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. He requested a SWCD representative be on the ESD Director hiring committee. They approved. He informed them of the SWCD's intent to act as the Natural Resource Advisory to the Cass County Land Department. They were thankful. He recommended approval of participation with WesMin RC&D. They said OK. He informed them of the proposed changes to help with funding for property owners with approved variances but was required to revegetate. They were hopeful.

The next Joint Powers Board Meeting is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji. Dave and Will will attend.

Cost-Share Year End Reports for 2006 and 2007 were signed by Chairman James Ballenthin. At this time, \$4,325.50 for year 2007 will be returned to the state.

**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/J. David Harder to deny the Cost-Share application of Todd Josephson because he has not submitted the required approval documentation from the City of Hackensack, stating the need for riprap. Motion carried.**

**Vouchers:**

**M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
JUNE 4, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:03 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Secretary-Willard Pehling, Treasurer-Thomas Kuschel, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present Kelly Condiff.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the agenda with the following additions –Joint Powers Board, and WesMin RC&D. Motion carried.**

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the consent agenda with one correction being – under the Longville School Forest – should say boardwalk not dock. Motion carried.**

**Kelly Condiff Reports:**

Kelly explained that he has completed 8 shore land restoration sites with a total of 20,000 square feet replanted. One of the next restoration sites may be a Woman Lake Access Site. Kelly is meeting with Woodrow Twsp tonight to discuss the project and then he will meet with DNR onsite on Tuesday to see what their ideas and concerns may be. This is the last year for spending the DNR grant money. There is a grant out there that Kelly would really like the SWCD to apply for. The grant would be a multi county application. He has already talked briefly to Hubbard and Beltrami SWCD's. Kelly would like to see the restoration sites expanded outside of the shoreline (such as storm water sites). **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to give Kelly Condiff permission to talk with and contact other agencies and to make the preliminary application for the grant. Motion carried.** Kelly would like to get a group of the agencies together for a meeting but he would like to have at least one Cass SWCD supervisor present. It was suggested that Kelly attend the next Area VIII meeting and make his presentation there. **M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to retain Kelly Condiff as a SWCD summer intern. Motion carried.**

**John's Report:**

John explained that three responses were received to the RFP that was sent out. The format of the three that were received was discussed. After some discussion M/S Kenneth LaPorte/J. David Harder moved to contract /retain he services of Eric Eggen. Motion carried. John will send out a letter of approval/denial to all that responded. John explained that Cass SWCD needs to have an audit done. John and/or Brenda will contact the CPA that was supposed to have done the last audit and see what is up. John

and/or Brenda will check into a “new” CPA and get some prices estimates before the next SWCD meeting.

### **NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

The EQIP sign up ended May 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were a total of 15 applications, but 3 have cancelled already. Only 3 of the remaining 12 were approved. There were a total of 284 submitted from Area II. The tribe did submit an EQIP plan that got funded. The majority of the plan is for tree planting. There were 3 WHIP applications submitted and only 1 was approved.

The Leader Lions Summer Tour is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Jim wanted to know if Rick could determine how many landowners were actively applying EQIP/WHIP practices along the Lake Margaret Watershed. Rick will get what info he can. Jim thought it would be a good idea to send out a newsletter to encourage more participation.

### **Supervisor’s Reports:**

John submitted the suggested changes for the Land Department Policy to Josh Stevenson but has not heard back from him yet. There were some additional changes that should be made also. Final changes will be made and hopefully the Land Department Policy can be approved at the next SWCD meeting.

Changes were discussed and made to the SWCD Operating Polices. M/S Willard Pehling /Kenneth LaPorte to approve the changes, as discussed, to the SWCD’s Operating Policies. Motion carried. John will have the final form ready for signature by the next SWCD meeting.

Jim attended the Forestry Association Meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. He recommends continued participation in the group. The next meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup>. He requested per diem and mileage as he attended the meeting without prior approval. M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to pay per diem and mileage for James Ballenthin’ attendance at the Forestry Association meeting. Motion carried.

The resolutions that Cass SWCD drafted were reviewed at this time. Some changes probably need to be made to them but this would need to be done at the Area VIII meeting. Jim, Will, Ken and Kelly will attend the Area VIII meeting. Brenda will send in the registration fee.

M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Willard Pehling to adopt the JPB Resolution as it pertains to the “original” JPB Agreement dated January 1995. Motion carried. M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to appoint J. David Harder as the Cass SWCD representative to the JPB. Motion carried.

Ken attended the latest WesMin RC&D meeting. He gave a brief report on the Smoky Timber property. Dean Schmidt submitted a “Funding Wish list” to Collin Peterson. Don’t know what kind of funding to expect in the remaining 2009 Legislative Session or in the 2010 Legislative Session.

### **Vouchers:**

**M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
JULY 2, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:06 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Treasurer–Thomas Kuschel, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present Kelly Condiff and Josh Stevenson.

**M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda with the following additions –SWCD Audit, Shore land Grant Application, SWCD Website. Motion carried.**

**M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the consent agenda with one correction being – under the Area VIII Meeting – J. David Harder will attend - Motion carried.**

**Josh Stevenson’s Report:**

Josh distributed copies of the Land Departments Easement Policies. Josh stated that right now a survey and a recorded access easement is required before a private land owner can legally gain access to private land if no road exists. The Land Department preaches “no forest fragmentation” but there are still loop holes in the policy. If an existing access road exists, and another land owner wants access through that road and is denied access by the current land owner of the easement, then the land owner requesting the use must petition the current land owner for a cart way. Anyone that has an access through county land to access private property (before 2001), it isn’t a legal easement and is considered a “Right to Access”. Josh explained that when and if an easement is granted, the Land Department does not maintain the easement. John suggested that it would be less of a headache if the landowner gained access by petitioning the township and the township goes through the county. Josh said it would probably be easier, there have been times when, after an easement is granted, that the township has been petitioned to take over a road and then gets mad at the county for requiring that the road meet township specks (because they generally don’t want to take over the road). The county can pull all easements they feel there is a better way to access the property. Right now there are 3,000 to 4,000 acres of county land that the public & even the county can’t get to because the surrounding land owner has only granted access for timber harvest purposes.

**John’s Report:**

John explained that Eric Eggen met with John and he is interested in doing the leg work and the field work for Small Woodlot Planning. He would like to see the fee go up to \$250.00. The next step in the process is to schedule a meeting of agency heads/directors. A brochure should then be developed and placed to the DNR Forestry Office, ESD and at the Land Department.

According to the latest info from BWSR, the 2010 NRBG is down just a little from 2009. Most of the block grant is used for salaries.

**NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

The summer Leader Lions Tour is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>. The bus leaves from Leader at 7:00 am. Tom, Ken, and Will are planning on attending. Rick distributed a map of the Lake Margaret Watershed. He could not get a real good break down of the applications/practices going on in the watershed but hoped he could get more info for the August meeting.

He has been busy with EQIP.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

Minutes from the Area VIII meeting were distributed. All of the resolutions proposed by Cass were approved with some minor changes.

Kelly made a very good presentation regarding the possible DNR grant. Several of the districts expressed interest in participating in the project but of course wanted to know who was going to handle the money and where would the satellite office be located? Kelly thought the first question should have been more like what kind of work and how much can be done? Clearwater SWCD will host the fall Area VIII meeting.

Dave attended the last JPB meeting. The new tech's name is Brad Kennedy.

Ken attended the WesMin RC&D meeting. WesMin received a \$2,000 check from the Sheila Barsness case.

Must have an update on the SWCD Website and on the Audit for the August meeting.

John explained the special "Seed" mixture that Kelly developed for Cass County. The price is \$90.00 for one bag and \$5.00 for the other bag. Variance applicants can use this mixture for shore land restoration per variance conditions.

**M/S J. David Harder/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the OB Well Contracts as presented. Motion carried.**

Jim explained that the Interview Committee for the ESD Director position will be interviewing 6 applicants. One applicant is from Maryland, one is a lawyer from St. Cloud.

**Vouchers:**

**M/S Thomas Kuschel/Kenneth LaPorte to pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/J. David Harder adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
AUGUST 6, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:03 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Treasurer–Thomas Kuschel, Dist. Man. – John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis. Also present Kelly Condiff and Josh Stevenson.

**M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda with the following additions –Stakeholders Committee for City of Lake Shore, Clean Water Funding Proposal. Motion carried.**

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

**John’s Report:**

John has heard from everyone interested in the Woodlot project. DU is not interested in participating. The next thing to do is to schedule a meeting with the associations that are interested.

The links to the various agencies needs to be put onto the website yet. Some of the “stuff” has been removed already. Most everything is on the website that needs to be there. John should place some info on there about the Woodlot project and various other projects.

John sent out an email to Steve Hughes at Aitkin SWCD about the audit. He has not heard back from him yet. Laney...the accountant that Ken knew is not qualified to do audits for governmental agencies. Brenda called Morrison SWCD to see who does their audit but hasn’t heard back from them yet.

**Josh Stevenson’s Report:**

A copy of a Power Point presentation was distributed to the board. The consensus of the meeting was that the land department should grant easements but the easements should be approved by the township first. All easements that are granted, the land owner would be responsible for maintaining the easement. Josh would like to see the applicant of the easement get township approval before the easement application is made to the Land Department. Josh will prepare a summary the comments from the Power Point meeting and the SWCD meeting for the September SWCD meeting.

One of the supervisors wanted to know if there was anywhere in the county that NO timber harvests was allowed. Josh stated that Bear Island and McKinley Prairie are two areas where no timber harvest is allowed. Most of the areas where timber harvest takes place, a 3% “island” are left. The island is a good representation of the timber that was there originally and also provides wildlife habitat and protection.

### **Kelly's Report:**

Kelly stated that he has completed 19 Shoreline Revegetation projects this year. The total number of square feet restored is 50,883. There were 13 lakes involved and he is still working on 5 projects. The largest project involved 14,300 square feet. The concrete and asphalt is supposed to be removed from the old Woman Lake access by August 13<sup>th</sup>. Once the site is complete, it should look like a retention pond. There is a project on Long Lake where the total cost of the project is expected to run around \$6,000. The property owner is putting up \$3,000 and the Lake Association is putting up \$1,500, the grant will pay for \$1,500. Kelly wanted to know if the SWCD would be willing to pay the Lake Associations share to Bonnie Hinicker of Sunshine Gardens. The district would be reimbursed once the lake association gets there funding from the Initiative Foundation. **M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to guarantee payment to Bonnie Hinicker of Sunshine Gardens for no more than \$1,500.00, for the Baldwin project on Lake Lake. The district will be reimbursed by the Long Lake Association through a grant from the Initiative Foundation. Motion carried.**

### **NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick was not able to be present but did give a report to John to be read at the meeting. The report stated that the Lake Margaret Association was attempting to obtain funding from various groups so they could proceed with further studies involving the Lake Margaret Watershed.

The City of Lake Shore is proceeding with a Stakeholders Committee for the purpose of implementing the 2008 Total Maximum Daily Load Study that was approved by the MPCA. There are looking for a representative from the SWCD board to serve on that committee. **M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to appoint Ken LaPorte to the committee. Motion carried (make sure Ken is informed and is willing to serve).**

The summer Leader Lions Tour was very successful. It seems that more and more are attending the tours. Jim wanted to know if the “tour” was actually promoting new farming practices. Tom had attended several of the tours and he really feels that the information has been well received and some are definitely trying some new things out.

### **Supervisor's Reports:**

The next Area VIII meeting is scheduled for September 11th in Bemidji. Jim will attend for sure.

The WesMin report was distributed to everyone.

Next BOA appointment is January 2010. Jim is willing to continue as SWCD representative. Things may change is the BOA and PAC are combined. One things that needs to be addressed in the next budget session is the fees fro variances and conditional uses.

Jim explained the interview process for the new ESD director. It was a very interesting and informative process. The directorship is being offered to John Ringle. He has great writing techniques and has a great working relationship with the tribe. He has accepted the position and will start October 1, 2009.

M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to accept and sign the Fiscal Year 2010 SWCD Base Grant Agreement. The Cass SWCD Allocation is as follows: \$68.00 – RIM,

\$21,630.00 – General Services, \$8,001.00 – Cost Share. Motion carried. Signed by Chairman James Ballenthin.

**COST-SHARE Application:**

A cost-share application was received from Bryce & Cathy Norelius for Bank Stabilization. The original estimate was \$11,920. Only \$10,120 is actually eligible for cost-share. The district could only pay a maximum of 50% or \$5,060. The SWCD board reduced the eligible amount to \$7,215 because they did not felt that the cost and amount of the boulders was too high. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/J. David Harder to approve the cost-share application based on \$7,215.00 at a rate of 50% or \$3,607.50. Motion carried. Signed by Chairman James Ballenthin.**

**Vouchers:**

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

**Adjourn:**

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

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:02 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Secretary-Willard Pehling, Treasurer-Thomas Kuschel, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man.-John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present Josh Stevenson and newly hired ESD and SWCD Director John Ringle.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve the agenda with the following additions –SWCD Audit. Motion carried.**

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

**John's Report:**

John introduced the "New" John at this time. John Ringle has been hired to assume the ESD and SWCD directorship. He will start October 5, 2009. The commissioners have decided that it is best to overlap his start time and the "Old" John's stop time.

John explained that he and Paula West attended a hearing regarding LCCMR funding. One item that changes with the Farm Bill is that the charitable deduction will be reduced from 50% to 30% at year end 2009.

Crow Wing County is cutting their funding to the SWCD by 70%. Beltrami County has zeroed out their funding to the SWCD.

John and Jim will meet this afternoon with members from the Ruffed Grouse Society to discuss their participation in the Small Woodlot project.

Heather Baird informed John that there have been no cuts to the Shoreland Revegetation Project and she would like to see it continue through 2010 and 2011. John and Kelly will be meeting with Heather to discuss the particulars.

**Josh Stevenson's Report:**

Josh distributed a Summary to date of the policy changes to the easement/access policy. At this time there are 5 items that property owners must have completed before they even approach the Land department about access/easements. If the SWCD has no other recommendations....the changes will go into the Land Department Forest Resource Management Plan. Jim suggested that something should be mentioned about the power of the Land department to close and access/easement if there are consistent violations or damage done. Josh explained that the department has the authority but agrees it should go into the plan as well.

**NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick announced a new farm program called the Conservation Stewardship Program. The signup is now to the end of September 30<sup>th</sup>. If there are any Small or Private Forest Landowners interested in this program, they will have to sign up with FSA first. All the contracts run for 5 years.

The Leader Lions Winter Workshop will be going to a 2 or 3 day event this year. The speaker is coming out of Canada. The committee is meeting September 14<sup>th</sup> to finish finalizing the program.

### **Supervisor's Reports:**

Ken has agreed to act as the SWCD representative to the Stakeholders Committee for the City of Lake Shore. His first meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tom, Dave and Jim are attending the Area VIII fall meeting.

Ken gave a brief WesMin RC&D report. The Boy Scout camp has officially been transferred now.

Brenda has been playing phone tag with a Accountant by the name of Keith Porter. He has done Morrison Counties audit for several years. He is licensed to do governmental audits. **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to withdraw any agreement that Cass SWCD had with Hugh Heinecke to do the SWCD audit. Motion carried.**

### **Vouchers:**

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

### **Adjourn:**

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:07 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Treasurer–Thomas Kuschel, Member–Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man.–John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present Josh Stevenson.

Cass SWCD wishes a speedy recovery to Willard Pehling!

**M/S Thomas Kuschel/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the agenda with the following additions –SWCD Audit, Pine River & Homebrook Watersheds, and Lake Margaret Stakeholders Meeting Motion carried.**

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

**Josh Stevenson’s Report:**

Three changes were made to the Cass County Land Departments Forest Resource Management Plan. **M/S J. David Harder/Kenneth LaPorte to recommend adoption of the changes to the Cass County Land Departments Forest Resource Management Plan. Motion carried.**

**NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick spoke with FSA, they would like a letter from Cass SWCD requesting a list of the ag producers within the Lake Margaret Watershed. There were only two applications for the new Conservation Stewardship Program. The winter session for the Leader Lions has all been approved.

**Supervisor’s Reports:**

John and Jim will be attending the BWSR Academy because they will be speaking at one of the sessions. Jim will attend Nov 3 & 4, Ken will attend Nov 3 & 4, John will attend Nov 3, Tom will attend Nov 3. **M/S J. David Harder/Thomas Kuschel to pay registration fee for all those attending. Motion carried.**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> MASWCD Annual Convention will be held December 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> in Duluth. Jim, Tom, Ken and Will will attend all three days. Dave will attend Tuesday only. **M/S Thomas Kuschel/Kenneth LaPorte to pay registration and reservation fees for all those attending. Motion carried.**

**M/S J. David Harder/Kenneth LaPorte to move the December SWCD meeting to December 10<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.** Tom volunteered to hold the meeting at his home.

The board reviewed and voted on the MASWCD Resolutions at this time.  
The MN Forestry Association would like to recommend participation in RIM.  
Jim attended the Area VIII meeting. Copies of the minutes can be obtained from him.  
Ken attended the WesMin RC&D meeting. There was a good news article regarding Smoky Timbers transfer of title.  
The Lake Margaret Stakeholders meeting had a pretty good turnout. Ken, Commissioner Demgen and individuals from the cities involved in the watershed attended. The committee will meet every other month to discuss goals and progress. The one "hot spot" that was identified was Hwy I Sod.  
The chair of the Pine River Watershed is stepping down. No news yet as to who will be the next chair. The watershed is looking into a Clean Water Legacy Grant.  
The estimate for the audits is \$5,000.00. **M/S J. David Harder/Kenneth LaPorte to contract with Keith Porter to do the SWCD audit for 2006 and 2008. Motion carried.**  
Discussed a possible grant opportunity involving composting. Brenda or Jim will contact Vern Masse of Hubbard County to see how the Hubbard County Composting Project works. **M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Thomas Kuschel to have John pursue the MPCA grant for composting. Motion carried.**

#### **John's Report:**

John and Paula West attended a LCCMR meeting. There is a lot of competition with LASARO funding. John and Paula decided to leave the application before LCCMR at it stands. Should hear by the next SWCD meeting whether or not any funding will be granted to Cass County.  
John has been trying to schedule a meeting with the Deer Hunters Association to discuss the SWCD small woodlot plan. He has been unsuccessful to schedule a meeting with them. Several of the other groups that John has met with think combining efforts should get somewhere.

#### **Vouchers:**

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

#### **Adjourn:**

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

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:00 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Secretary-Willard Pehling, Treasurer-Thomas Kuschel, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man.-John Sumption, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present John Ringle.

**M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the agenda with the following additions –SWCD Audit, appointment to BWSR, and establishment of resource protection areas. Meeting Motion carried.**

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

**John S.s' Report:**

John spoke with Kathy Haertel of the Initiative Foundation and she informed him that the SWCD needs to follow up on the Benchmarks. The total grant amount was \$5,500.00. Brenda will check to see if the SWCD has received any money from the Initiative Foundation. Willard suggested that we fill the questionnaire out as a group. Everyone thought this would be a good idea and this could probably be done at the December meeting. Copies of the questionnaire will be sent out with next months agenda. John explained that there are three vacancy openings to various BWSR committees. If anyone is interested, please apply directly to BWSR.

**John R.s' Report:**

The Clean Water Legacy Grant combines the BWSR and MPCA applications into one this year. Some of the items need that ESD and SWCD are applying for need County Commissioner approval. Some of the projects that Clean Water money could be used for include sewer compliance checks on Roosevelt Lake and the Pug Hole Project just to name a few. The application must be into BWSR by December 1, 2009. There has been a switch in the approval process.....more to those that perform, versus those that need.

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to approve an application from Cass SWCD/ESD to BWSR for Clean Water Legacy funds. Motion carried.**

**NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick stated that everything for the Leader Lions Winter Workshop has been approved.  
**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Willard Pehling to donate \$500.00 to help with the expense for the Leader Lions Workshop. Motion carried.** The dates for the workshop are

January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Central Lakes College at Staples. The SWCD/ESD should have a booth at the workshop. There was only one application for the Conservation Security Program from Cass County. Rick still does not know if the application has been approved.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

Ken, Tom and Jim attended the BWSR academy at Craguns. Ken and Jim attended several of the wetland sessions and felt that everything was duplicated. Tom felt that the Wetland session on Ag Land could have been done in half the time. The session on the Emerald Borer was interesting. It's a sure guarantee that we can't stop the progression of the beetle but perhaps we can slow them down. Tom attended the Green Acres session. He questioned why the SWCD's are required to certify the production history when NRCS does this already?

Brenda will contact Keith regarding the audit. Hopefully it will be done by the December meeting.

Ken, Will, Jim and Tom will attend the MASWCD convention for all three days. John will attend for one day only. Brenda will make arrangements.

**Vouchers:**

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

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
DECEMBER 10, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Ballenthin at 10:08 am.

**Present were:** Chair.-James Ballenthin, Vice Chair.-J. David Harder, Secretary-Willard Pehling, Treasurer-Thomas Kuschel, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Managers-John Sumption and John Ringle, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis and NRCS-Richard Schossow. Also present Lee Westfield and Linda Kuschel.

**M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the agenda with the following additions-AMC Report, Cost Share Project, Shoreland Grant, Meeting with Beltrami SWCD/County, Weeds, Appointment to BOA/PAC. Motion carried.**

**M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.**

**John S.s' Report:**

John Ringle sent in the application for the Clean Water Legacy Grant funds. There were a total of nine projects in five categories and a total of \$445,000 applied for. Some of the projects included in the grant application were the Pug Hole Project, Lakeshore Buffer Study, McKeown Lake Erosion Project, Ten Mile Lake Shoreland Buffer Project, Roosevelt Buffer Project, Septic Compliance Sweeps, and \$'s for Imminent Health Sewer Replacements.

Discussion followed regarding the follow up procedure on conditions placed on conditional uses and variances. John S. replied that because of staff, money, time, whatever....conditions of conditional uses and variances weren't followed up on all that well. John R. stated that whether Cass County gets any LCMR funds, follow up checks will be done!

Cass/Crow Wing/Wadena counties applied for a grant to do an assessment of the Crow Wing Watershed. The grant was approved and RMB labs of Detroit Lakes will be running the water samples.

John spoke with Commissioner Jeff Peterson. He is concerned about the spread of knapweed and the lack of control. MPCA is interested in BioControl. Part of the BioControl means no spraying and no mowing. Two different kinds of beetles are used and can take three to seven years to stop the spread of knapweed. Tom will work with Ansel Township to gain approval of the idea. The biggest area of concern is at the junction of the Nimrod Road and Highway 64.

John mentioned an email from Beltrami SWCD. There is over \$36,000 yet of AgBMP loan money that needs to be spent. If it isn't spent it will have to go back. There are no projects in Cass County at this time that could utilize the funds.

John R. mentioned that at the AMC convention an Aquatic Evasive Committee was formed.

Feedlot animal units is going from 300 animal units to 900 animal units. The AMC supports this decision by MPCA. It was also mentioned that DNR will combine the Waters and Ecological Departments.

### **Lee Westfield for Josh Stevenson:**

Lee distributed copies of the “draft” long range plan for the Land Department. Pro West did the last plan which was done in 2001. He requested that the SWCD Board review the draft plan and get back to him within thirty days with any changes or suggestions. There were a few questions that Lee could not answer so he took notes and stated that he or Josh will respond back at the next SWCD meeting. Jim B. suggested that copies of the draft be made available to DNR and the Forest Service.

### **NRCS – Rick Schossow Report:**

Rick distributed copies of the Winter Workshop Registration. The workshop is a three day deal but there is option for just two days. Cass and Crow Wing SWCD’s will sponsor a booth at the fair. Ken and Tom will coordinate the manning and setup of the booth.

Rick sent FSA a letter requesting a list of names of the producers in the Lake Margaret Watershed. He has not heard anything from them as of yet.

He has also been very busy certifying EQUIP projects.

ANOTHER RETIREMENT! Rick will be retiring in May of 2010. The area office wants to keep the Walker office open but the “new” state conservationist will make the final decision. The SWCD/County really needs to send a letter to the area office regarding the Walker office. **M/S Kenneth LaPorte/J. David Harder to have Willard Pehling work with John Ringle to draft a letter of support. Motion carried.**

### **Supervisor’s Reports:**

Every year the SWCD appoints one of the supervisors to represent the SWCD at WesMin RC&D; it is time once again to make that appointment. **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to appoint Kenneth LaPorte to be the liaison from Cass SWCD. Motion carried.** WesMin RC&D dues for 2010 are due....they are \$400 again. **M/S Willard Pehling/J. David Harder to pay the 2010 dues of \$400 and to request reimbursement from Cass County. Motion carried.**

The HOP survey must be completed. Those supervisors with computers and access to the Internet can complete the survey on line. The rest must complete the paper version. HOP must go on the January agenda. John S. or John R. will contact Donna at the Initiative Foundation to see if we can complete our HOP in February. If so, we can collect the balance of the \$5000.

Will attended the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) at the MASWCD convention. The FOIA must be reviewed and signed by the SWCD meeting. Jim attended the Greenacres session at the convention. Greenacres must be certified by May 1, 2010. One of the biggest items at the convention this year....TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN

DESTINY! John S. stated that more and more SWCD's may have to "share" employees and funds.

Dave and Jim met with Beltrami SWCD. All of Beltrami SWCD's funding from Beltrami County was cut. Beltrami County and Beltrami SWCD "may" try a Joint Powers arrangement. Lots of details to work out though. Crow Wing SWCD's funding was from Crow Wing County was cut as well. The relationship between the county and SWCD aren't as good though. All of the SWCD's employees have been let go. Keith Pohl (the district manager) has cancer so he is just working when and where he can. Unsure yet as to what will happen there. Jim wondered if Cass SWCD should be the catalyst to get all three districts together and see what or if some kind of "sharing" couldn't be worked out. Do we involve the county commissioners or do we just stick to the SWCD's? Discussion followed and the decision was made to extend an invitation to just the SWCD's at this time. See where that goes and then if necessary, extend the invitation to the counties. Who knows where or what the outcome will be but it's time to start working/sharing, especially when so many of the goals are the same.

Brenda explained that the audit firm will be at the office on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> if necessary to complete the audit. Hopefully some kind of report is available before years end.

Ken mentioned that he had been approached by Commissioner James Demgen. Jim D. wants to appoint Ken to the PAC instead of Mike Wetzel. Would this be a conflict if Jim and Ken were both on the same board once it is combined? The SWCD did not think so because Jim D. would appoint Ken as a general civilian and Jim B. would be appointed as the representative from the SWCD. Will is on the PAC now but he is stepping down. He says it is time to cut back from all the committees he serves on. **M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to appoint James Ballenthin to act as the SWCD representative to the BOA/PAC. Motion carried.**

**Vouchers:**

**M/S Thomas Kuschel/Kenneth LaPorte to pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S J. David Harder/Willard Pehling to adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

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Date