

**Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District
Ruby Rupner Center – Hormel Nature Center
Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

Managers Present: Al Layman Steve Kraushaar
 Jim Gebhardt Mike Merten
 Kevin Kiser Mike Jones

Others Present: Bev Nordby, Administrator
 Jeanne Crump, Mower SWCD
 Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD
 Matt Taylor, Mower SWCD
 Tim Ruzek, Outreach Coordinator
 Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD
 Matt Benda, Peterson, Savelkoul & Benda, LTD
 John Schulte, JHS
 Chris Hughes, BWSR

Members of Public Present: Charlie Peterson, Tom Oots, Pat Byron, Dave Hillier, Sue Olson

Chairman Al Layman called the board meeting to order.

Agenda

Two items were added to Discussion and Updates, Fence across Cedar and Outreach. Kraushaar made a motion to approve the agenda with two additions. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Layman, Kraushaar, Jones, Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser

Opposed: None

Public Input

No Public Input.

Action Items

Secretary's Report

Kiser presented the minutes from the March 21, 2012 board meeting. Kraushaar made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21 board meeting. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Layman, Kraushaar, Jones, Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser

Opposed: None

Treasurer's Report

Jones reviewed the Treasurer's report. Layman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Kiser seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Layman, Kraushaar, Jones, Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser

Opposed: None

Jones reviewed the payables with the board. Merten made a motion to approve the payables for April. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Layman, Kraushaar, Jones, Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser

Opposed: None

CRP Incentive

Cost Share Committee

The Cost Share Committee, Merten, Gebhardt and Kraushaar, met to discuss different options for the CRP Incentive. Hanson updated the rest of the board on the outcomes of the meeting. The Committees recommendation is the following;

Program Eligibility

Conservation Reserve Program Re-Enrollments, within the entire Cedar River Watershed
Specific criteria:

- Incentive payments will be made on all eligible land re-enrolled in the Federal CRP
- Landowners must sign a CRWD cost-share agreement

Payment Method and Rate

- CRP pays an annual rental rate. The producer is locked into that agreement with USDA. Therefore, the district will pay out a lump sum incentive, upon enrollment. Landowner will provide copy of CRP-2, to document contract acres and duration.
- District will pay landowner incentive of \$50/Acre/Year X Contract Duration. Payment will be made with one, lump sum payment.
- There will be a cap of \$35,000 for this program. The payments will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, until the funding is exhausted.

Jones made a motion to approve the CRP Incentive as recommended by the Cost Share Committee. Kiser seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Layman, Kraushaar, Jones, Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser

Opposed: None

Discussion and Updates

Rules Discussion

Taylor updated the board on new issues that have come in for permits; underground utilities, road ditches and trees. Benda, Schulte and Taylor talked about the issues. The board discussed different options. The board gave guidance to the staff on these issues.

Permitting

Schulte updated the board on the new school planned for Austin. He will have more information at the next board meeting.

Ditch cleanouts and culverts are currently the main permits in the watershed.

Biennial Budget Request

Chris Hughes explained the Biennial Budget Request (BBR) to the board. Nordby explained the process that staff will be going through for the BBR. Discussion was held.

Fence Across Cedar River

Layman informed the board about the fence that has been put up across the Cedar River by Lansing. Hanson will check into this and get back to the board.

Outreach

Ruzek updated the board on the Vision 2020 meeting that he attended. He informed the board that "Enhancing the Cedar River" is among the top 10.

Ruzek updated the board on the items that he has been working on, to include; webpage update, Facebook, photo contest for the fair and other miscellaneous items.

Manager's Reports

President's Report

Layman talked about the fact that this will be his last meeting.

Thankyou to Al & Harlen

The board thanked Layman and Peck for their time and work with the CRWD.

Other Manager's Report

Jones-Talked about the Steele County board meeting that he attended.

Gebhardt-Updated the board on the SEMASWCD meeting that he and Merten attended. Thanks to Layman.

Merten-Thanks to Layman.

Kiser-Talked about the Dodge County board meeting that he attended.

Kraushaar-Talked about how fortunate the District is to have Ruzek working on the Outreach.

Thanks to Layman.

Dave Livingston-Thanked Kiser for attending the Dodge County meeting. Thanks to Layman.

Kraushaar made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Layman seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Layman, Kraushaar, Jones, Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser

Opposed: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Submitted by,

Kevin Kiser, Secretary, jkc