

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2014**

IT IS THE MISSION of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District to provide leadership and technical assistance to landowners and cooperating agencies in the wise use, conservation, and management of Cass County's natural resources.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenneth LaPorte at 10:10 am.

**Present were:** Chairman-Kenneth LaPorte, V Chair.-James Ballenthin, Secretary-Thomas Kuschel, Treasurer-Willard Pehling, Member-Clifton Peterson, Dist. Man.-John Ringle, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Alicia Laturus and MHB-Tim Terrell.

**M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to approve the Rotation of Officers. Motion carried.**

**Rotation of Officers is as follows:**

**Chairman-James Ballenthin**

**Vice Chairman-Willard Pehling**

**Secretary-Thomas Kuschel**

**Treasurer-Clifton Peterson**

**Member-Kenneth LaPorte**

**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Thomas Kuschel to approve the agenda with the following additions: Micropolitan, Groundwater Policy, Envirothon, Cass County Ditches. Motion carried.**

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

**John Ringle Reports:**

John introduced Tim Terrell who is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Headwaters Board.

**Tim Terrell Reports:**

Tim just wanted to introduce himself to the SWCD board and discuss some of the proposed projects and concerns of the MHB. Tim was the District Manager for the Winona SWCD and worked for the Iowa Department of Ag. The MHB covers an 8 county corridor along the Mississippi River and strives to protect and preserve more than 400 miles of the river. The MHB is currently based out of the Crow Wing County Land Services Building.

**John Ringle Reports:**

John explained that he would like to have a draft budget for review at the February SWCD meeting. He is hoping that there will be enough money to fund and intern for the summer months. There will be some USGS training next week for staff to help them with well tracking and location/identification. Just a reminder that the Area VIII meeting is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji. John will attend.

**Kelly Condiff Reports:**

Kelly explained that he and Bob will be attending the USG training. The training will come in handy especially with the ground water monitoring project that is currently under way. SWCD's passed several resolutions at the annual meeting this past year regarding groundwater. One of the biggest issues this past year was the transformation of forested lands to tillable lands. In the past...well drillers would go to DNR for an aquifer assessment after drilling, not before. DNR is changing that to BEFORE a well is drilled. Along with the irrigation issue is the rise in Nitrate levels. There are currently three pilot groundwater management areas in MN. Kelly stated that all of the Cass County ditches have been digitized. There are at least 100 miles of county ditches and 227 miles of judicial ditches. January 13<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applying for grants for AIS. **M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Thomas Kuschel to allow Kelly to apply for AIS funding for CASS SWCD and Cass County. Motion carried.**

**NRCS – Alicia Laturus Reports:**

Jessica is attending the Leader Lions meeting today is finalize the winter workshop. NRCS is working at getting EQIP program projects up to date. There will be no WHIP funds this year. The next CSP signup deadline is February 7<sup>th</sup>. Jess has completed all her required web training for consolidation with FSA offices.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

Cliff mentioned that he tried to call & talk to all the science/biology teachers in the Cass County school systems about the Envirothon. He wasn't real successful. He was able to talk to 2 of them. Of course, finances are an issue and coaching. John received an email regarding the program outline and topics for this year's envirothon. The location for the Area VIII is Lake Bemidji. He will continue to try and reach all the science/biology teachers and perhaps suggest that there will be some funding from the SWCD to assist with transportation. Cass SWCD has not donated funds yet to the AREA VIII Envirothon and most supervisors feel it would be more advantageous to help with transportation costs instead.

**Vouchers:**

**M/S James Ballenthin/Willard Pehling to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Thomas Kuschel to adjourn. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

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Date