

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 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 James Ballenthin at 10:03 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Chairman-James Ballenthin, V.Chair.-Willard Pehling, Secretary-Thomas Kuschel, Treasurer-Clifton Peterson, Member-Kenneth LaPorte, Dist. Man.-John Ringle, Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, NRCS-Jessica Weis, ESD-Kelly Condiff and Cass County Land Dept.-Josh Stevenson.

M/S Willard Pehling/Clifton Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

M/S Clifton Peterson/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

John Ringle Reports:

John distributed copies of what he drafted for the 2014 SWCD agenda. We have already been approved for an additional \$1,000 from the county so we are at \$7,250 for 2014. We have our 2014 base grant and cost share already. That is set at \$18,275 and \$8,347. Total proposed budgeted revenues for 2014 is \$147,634. Total proposed budgeted expenditures, including projects is \$144,241. **M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to approve the Cass SWCD 2014 budget as proposed. Motion carried.** John also distributed copies of the Cass SWCD Work Plan for 2014.

John, Jim and Ken attended the Area VIII meeting in January. Jim mentioned that the next Area VIII meeting will be March 14th in Bemidji. The summer meeting is scheduled for June 6th and the fall meeting is scheduled for September 26th and 27th.

Cass County Land Department –Josh Stevenson Reports:

Josh wanted to discuss the counties Winter Extension Policy. Because of the extreme cold temperatures several of the timber permit holders have lost work days and have requested a change to the existing permit policy. The current policy states that “No permit shall be extended except for good and sufficient reason. In the event an extension is granted, it shall be for (1) additional year at the rate of 10% of the appraised value of any uncompleted cutting blocks or for six (6) additional months at the rate of 5% of the appraised value of any completed cutting blocks with wood on the landing for hauling. The balance due is required on all sales before an extension will be granted. No one (1) year extensions will be granted on any sale that is two (2) years past the original expiration date.”

Josh is proposing the following for approval because of this year's extreme winter conditions.

- 1.Sales that Expire in the Spring of 2014 will qualify for the 2014 Winter Extension.
- 2.Permit Holders will be required to pay our existing extension fee.
- 3.Cass County will not require the balance due on the sale to be paid in full before an extension can be purchased for qualified sales.

M/S Willard Pehling/Clifton Peterson to approve the three (3) changes, as mentioned above, to the Current Winter Extension Policy. Motion carried.

Kelly Condif Reports:

Kelly mentioned that the MECA session at the casino was very well attended by LGU's but not many contractors attended as he was hoping. The session was good but he really wished they would have addressed lots that involved 1-3 acres. This is normally what we would see affected here in Cass County unless it was for a commercial site and even most of those don't get much larger than 5 acres.

Kelly applied for 2 AIS grants that were \$5,000 each. Both are strictly for hiring AIS inspectors. A grant in the amount of \$60,000 has been approved for Hubbard/Cass to implement and study the judicial ditches in Hubbard and Cass. The judicial ditch laws states that a native/perennial buffer must be installed and remain within ? feet of a judicial ditch. Will wanted to know if any water sampling would be done. Kelly stated that if there is staff time, he was hoping to do water samples at peak flow times.

Kelly may attend the Forest Pest Detectors workshop on March 14.

NRCS – Jessica Weis Reports:

EQIP deadline is February 21. Funding has been cut by 20%. CSP deadline is February 7. The NRCS GIS payment system was done for a week for an upgrade. Jessica has attended WRP and Golden Winged Warbler training. She has also met with the Leech Lake programs specialist to go over potential projects for the tribe and discussed the new way of contracting with them.

Supervisor's Reports:

Cliff, Will and Tom attended MECA. Will attended AIS. Jim attended Area VIII meeting. Ken attended the Resilient meeting. Legislative Day at the Capitol is scheduled for March 24 and March 25. Jim will be going and Ken may go. Ken and Tom will be attending the Cover Cattle Workshop in Staples on February 11.

Cliff made some more contacts with the schools regarding the envirothon. What can he officially offer them to encourage them or help them attend? **M/S Willard Pehling/Clifton Peterson the offer each school attending the envirothon up to \$250.00 to help cover expenses. Motion carried.**

Vouchers:

M/S Clifton Peterson/Thomas Kuschel to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

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

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date