

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MARCH 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 10:00 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, and ESD-Kelly Condiff.

M/S Willard Pehling/Clifton Peterson to approve the agenda with the following additions: Draft of proposed resolutions. Motion carried.

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

John Ringle Reports:

John referred to copies of the Final Financial report For Cass SWCD for yearend 2013. Jim Ballenthin questioned some of the figures in the statement and how they are determined. He feels that some of the figures are incorrect and would like to table approval of the report until Brenda can explain the differences. **M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Willard Pehling to table approval of the Final Financial Report for 2013 until the April Cass SWCD meeting. Motion carried.**

John suggested that Cass SWCD should consider changing the supervisor district areas. It has been difficult finding anyone interested in filing for the SWCD supervisor positions because of lower population in unincorporated townships. We lost one of our supervisors this past year that had been on the board for a very long time. Lucky we were able to appoint Clifton Peterson to fill his position. However, Clifton is actually in Jim's district. Redistricting may be necessary to find people interested in being a SWCD supervisor. John suggested moving Blind Lake and Barclay Townships from District III to District IV. Clifton actually lives in Barclay Township so this will put him in the right District even though supervisors are elected county wide. Clifton stated that he would indeed be interested in filing for the SWCD supervisor's position. **M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to move Blind Lake and Barclay Townships from District Three to District Four. Motion carried. Thomas Kuschel, Clifton Peterson and Willard Pehling are up for election in 2014.**

Kelly Condiff Reports:

The newest 9 County Grant has officially been closed. Two new forest plans have just been approved and paid for. As of today, over 7,400 acres have been enrolled in the Tulibee/Cicso Lakes Plan.

Kelly and Will attended the AIS meeting in February 28th. Cass County has now agreed to set aside \$5,000 for the AIS project.

The Area VIII Envirothon Committee is still requesting a \$250.00 donation from Cass SWCD. The committee feels that the envirothon can't keep going unless all the districts are willing to donate. Looks like we will have to discuss how we want to handle this. Last month, Cass SWCD decided NOT to donate to the Area VIII Envirothon and instead help schools with funding so they could attend the envirothon. The Area VIII Envirothon is scheduled for May 7th at Itasca State Park. Clifton and Brenda both volunteered to help with the envirothon. As of today, over 1300 well records/locations have been entered into the Cass County Mapping system.

Discussion followed regarding the return of Cost Share funds. Kelly really thinks we should amend our cost share rate policy.

NRCS – Jessica Weis Reports:

EQIP and CSP have delayed due to the signing of the Farm Bill. Old contracts are being modified.

WHIP is no longer available.

NRCS is swapping offices with FSA.

Jessica attended the Forage Council Workshop in Staples. Attendance was very good.

NRCS has hired an administrative assistant through a contracting company. He started this last Monday and will cover Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing and Morrison Counties.

The Raindrop Logo will be no longer. USDA wants one logo for all its agencies.

A new Hone Bee Initiative has been announced but no info on funding or how the program will work.

Supervisor's Reports:

No one from Cass SWCD will be attending Legislative Days.

John, Jim, Tom and Will will be attending the Area VIII meeting scheduled for March 14th in Bemidji.

Ken would like to attend the Organic Management Workshop scheduled for March 21 in Verndale. M/S Clifton Peterson/Thomas Kuschel to pay expenses for anyone wishing to attend either or both the Area VIII Meeting and the Organic Management Workshop. Motion carried.

Jim presented some proposed resolutions for consideration. Please read these and let's put these on the agenda for next month.

Vouchers:

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

At this time the SWCD Board met with other members of the Liaison Committee including: Commissioners-Neal Gaalswyk and Jeffrey Peterson, County Administrator Robert Yochum, NRCS-Jessica Weis, Cass County Land Department-Scott Noland, as well as ESD/SWCD staff John Ringle, Kelly Condiff and Brenda Davis. Minutes to follow.

Adjourn:

M/S Clifton Peterson/Willard Pehling adjourn at 12:35 PM. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

Date