

CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**APRIL 3, 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, ESD-Kelly Condiff, Cass County Land Dept – Josh Stevenson and Ron Potter.

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

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

**John Ringle Reports:**

Copies of the corrected Final Financial Report for 2013 were distributed. Brenda has to make some changes to the one that goes on the website, but the report has been approved by BWSR. M/S Willard Pehling/Thomas Kuschel to approve the Final Financial Report for 2013 as presented. Motion carried.

John explained that the Redistricting proposal has been submitted to BWSR. They will decide whether to approve the proposal or not at their April meeting. Filing for SWCD Supervisor opens in May.

John has received a request from Commissioner Jeff Peterson regarding the land conversions taking place in Cass County. One property owner from Hiram Twsp had contacted Commissioner Peterson with his concerns about ground and well water contamination. This has been a hot topic in the last year or so. Potlatch has been selling off some of the land that has been recently harvested and the land is being converted to agriculture/row crop. In addition, on most of these, wells are being drilled for irrigation. John will be bringing this up to the PC. It is probably about time to establish a group to study the conversion and determine what, if anything can be done. This doesn't just affect Cass. This has been happening in Wadena, Crow Wing and Hubbard. Most of the concern is that adjacent land owners don't want to see the water contamination issue that the City of Park Rapids has been dealing with.

**Cass County Land Department – Josh Stevenson Reports:**

Josh distributed copies of a report on the Pine River to Woman Lake and Longville Stagecoach Road that was prepared by Christy Caine and Grant Goltz. The report has been sent to Dr. Scott Anfinson, the State Archaeologist. A National Register nomination is being prepared for these

properties. Christy and Grant did a very good job of identifying the historic site. The report details articles found and locations of the main building and shop that were used by people traveling between Pine River and Longville. No action is required at this time. The neighboring property owners are interested in selling land from the family to the Land Department. The land sale when approved, will actually allow the Land Department better access to the land that they want to harvest that is adjacent to the Stagecoach Road.

The Land Department will be offering 51 parcels for sale at Public Auction. Several of the parcels are within the city limits of Pillager. The city of Pillager wants to purchase the lots but can only do so through the Land Department and Public Auction.

Josh introduced Ron Potter at this time. Ron is with the Coalition of Recreational Trail Users. The coalition would like to see a new trail map produced. The US Forest Service has one way of publishing their map and DNR has another way of publishing their map. The county has yet another way to publish their map. What would be ideal is to put together one map that combines all three and present it in such a way that the rider could understand when a trail is actually open and where it connects from County to State to US. Ron would like a letter of support from the SWCD supervisors. Jim and Will had some concerns. One being that some of the trails should be designated as foot traffic only. Second being that some of the trails are wet part of the year and dry the rest. A lot of the trails, whether being County, State or US will need to be field verified. The board suggested that Ron work with the different agencies and come up with a draft map first and then come back to the SWCD.

### **Kelly Condiff Reports:**

Kelly presented two new forester contracts to review and sign. Stan Grossman of Itasca Woodland Services Inc and Bud Bertschi. M/S Thomas Kuschel/Willard Pehling to approve and sign both contract. Motion carried.

AIS pledges are coming in. So far we have actually received \$300.00 but Kelly expects to receive no less than \$100.00 from most of the townships in Cass County. We should receive funds from most of the lake associations after they start meeting this spring.

Tom Kuschel had a request from one lake association that would like to see a couple boat access areas removed completely. These are county access and it would be up to the county.

The company that SWCD is contracting with will pay the AIS Inspectors \$10.00 per hour and the SWCD will reimburse at \$14.00 per hour. The county has pledged \$5,000 to the project and the SWCD has pledged \$5,000 to the project. Kelly would like to have one SWCD supervisor help in the interview process for a Coordinator. There are two individuals so far interested in the position. One is Jamin Carlson and the other is Stephany Shearen. This is the only individual that will be hired by the SWCD. \$4,000 from the grant will help fund this position. M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to have John Ringle enter into a contract with Employment Resource Center for the AIS Inspector Positions. Motion carried. M/S Kenneth LaPorte/Clifton Peterson to hire an AIS Coordinator through the SWCD to be paid \$14.00 per hour to be paid out of grant and donated funds. Motion carried.

Cliff will act as a judge for the oral presentation part of the Area VIII Envirothon. M/S Willard Pehling/Clifton Peterson to donate \$250.00 to Area VIII Envirothon. Motion carried.

### **NRCS – Jessica Weis Reports:**

No news about EQIP but there is new deadline dates for CSP. All applications must be ranked and scored by May 30<sup>th</sup>.

NRCS completed the office swap with FSA.

Jessica attended the Indigenous Farming Conference in Mahanomen, attended a High Tunnel workshop and attended a Bridges Academy Career Fair at CLC. She has also completed the ROOT review.

The new administrative assistant is on board and Evan and Jessica have been providing training to him.

**Supervisor's Reports:**

Several of the supervisors attended the Area VIII meeting in Bemidji. A lot of information was distributed. Just a reminder: Please review the four resolutions that Jim passed out. Jim would like to see the Cass SWCD support and present them to Area VIII for consideration.

Ken attended an Organic Workshop that was very interesting.

**Cost –Share Contracts:**

Shingobee Township – CS151(13) - requesting payment of \$2,239.50 for installation of a vertical drain. Cost share contract was approved at \$2,500.00. M/S Thomas Kuschel/Kenneth LaPorte to pay at \$2,239.50. Motion carried.

Steven Parker – CS149(13) – requesting payment of \$1,000.00 for shoreline erosion/riprap. Cost share contract was approved at \$1,000.00. M/S Willard Pehling/Kenneth LaPorte to pay at \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

**Vouchers:**

**M/S Clifton Peterson/Willard Pehling to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Clifton Peterson/Willard Pehling adjourn at 12:30 PM. Motion carried.**

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Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

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Date