

Morrison SWCD Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2009
8:30 a.m.
Morrison County Courthouse, Meeting Room 3

Present: Supervisors Anez, Holmgren, Dahmen, and Brutscher. Staff: McLennan and Lutes. Absent: Supervisor Stangl and Commissioner Don Meyer.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Holmgren/Brutscher to approve as read.
Treasurer's Report: MSC by Brutscher/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Steve Lutes reported on the timeframe that would be likely for hearing how many CSP contracts will be approved. Morrison County was among the highest 10 counties in the state for applications. Treve Sauer was nearly completed but the 7-8 inches of rain had stopped construction on any others that might be done this fall. He said a Local Work Group meeting would be held in December to set the priorities for EQIP 2010 signup. Bill Hunt is retiring at the end of the year so a new State Conservationist will be hired sometime in the future.

Helen shared the changes in withholding payments bi-monthly both for federal and state. She apologized for not having the staff evaluations done but will have them to present to the board at their December meeting. The application by BWSR for Lessard Heritage funds to compliment the ACUB program has made it to a hearing and the group will testify at the December 9th meeting in the cities.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. BWSR Academy Report:
 - a. Segregation of Duties: Helen stated that the staff will give full reports in December of the sessions they attended but since the audit report will be given soon, she shared the one session conducted by the State Auditor's Office regarding Segregation of Duties. Beinhorn will speak about the need for elected officials to become better involved.
2. AgBMP Report: Helen shared that over \$860,000 is now revolving in loans through the AG BMP State Revolving Loan Fund. With the emphasis on ag waste management, there is still the opportunity for minimum tillage equipment and other practices.
3. Native Buffer Program Payment: MSC to approve by Brutscher/Dahmen.
 - a. Sheldon Prozinski \$5,000

NEW BUSINESS:

1. BWSR Grant Application Approval: MSC by Holmgren/Dahmen to approve the applications prepared for the Clean Water Fund grants.
2. Technical Assistance Option for State Cost Share: Helen shared the information regarding flexibility in using State Cost Share grants for technical assistance. Due to the financial health at the present time of the district, she did not recommend taking advantage of the process. It was felt the money was needed to assist landowners with the smaller projects since it has already been reduced by half due to budget cuts to BWSR.
3. Connecting Local Water Management to State Water Quality Program: The MPCA had shown their overall multiple year planning budget and which watersheds will be addressed in which years. Therefore, grant applications should be built on that connection.
4. Crow Wing River SWAG Grant: Crow Wing River SWAG grant application was prepared by Crow Wing SWCD and Wadena SWCD and will have some monitoring sites in Morrison County which will be handled by the Crow Wing SWCD. The Crow Wing River is a 2010 scheduled watershed for the MPCA so the grant will likely be approved.
5. River SWAG Grant approval: A grant had been submitted for monitoring the Mississippi River, Platte River, Two Rivers, Pike Creek, and Skunk and Spunk Rivers. RMB prepared the grant on behalf of the district and will do the monitoring if funded.
6. The December meeting was changed to Wednesday, December 23rd, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Claude Dahmen, Secretary