

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 24, 2013

9:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

Present: Supervisors Brutscher, Dahmen, Faber, Stangl, and Anez. Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski, Hanson, and Zapzalka. Commissioner Don Meyer.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Supervisors Anez, Brutscher, and Faber read their oaths of office and signed the necessary forms.

### Re-Organizational Meeting:

1. Official Date, Time & Location of Meetings: MSC by Dahmen/Anez to keep the meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA County Offices.
2. Per Diem and Mileage: MSC by Anez/Stangl to approve \$75/per diem for full board meetings, and \$25 for committee meetings.
3. Official Newspaper: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve the Morrison County Record
4. Official Depositories: MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve Bank of the West for checking purposes, all banks of Morrison County and Stifel Nicholas for investment purposes.
5. Committee Assignments: Chairman Brutscher has made his appointments as follows:
  - Personnel Committee – Faber and Anez
  - Finance Committee – Stangl and Brutscher
  - Water Plan Representative – Brutscher
  - WCTSA Representative – Dahmen
  - Little Rock Committee - Stangl
6. Annual Resolution Approving the Local Water Plan as the District's Annual Plan: MSC by Dahmen/Faber, on a roll call vote, all supervisors voted yes.

### Regular Meeting:

**Secretary's Minutes:** MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** MSC by Anez/Faber to approve as presented.

**Staff Reports:** Josh reported that they are doing cost estimates on EQIP applications and ranking. He outlined the variety of practices in the applications. The next ranking period will be Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. He also had attended a meeting with Benton Co. and Golden Plump where the company is requiring composting facilities at all of their growers. There are 80 GP facilities in Morrison County.

Helen shared that nitrate letters from the Dept of Ag had been mailed out to Buh and Culdrum Twps. They were now targeting a couple more townships which might include Agram, Belle Prairie, and Swan River. The city of Little Falls was seeking some additional information on geology of the county to help them determine the potential of new city wells. USGS was very prompt in getting them the answers they were seeking. The GEO atlas will be produced by June of 2013.

Alan said he had four irrigation permits to do plans for. He and Josh had attended a U of M Nutrient Management meeting where they are emphasizing grid sampling in fields. There have been a lot of wetland inquiries associated with land sales. Tree sales were about the same as 2012.

Terry stated that he and Carrie are working on sediment basins and terraces for gully erosion projects.

**Commissioner's Report – Don Meyer** said they were working with three new commissioners and determining which committees would be served. He was in favor of getting rid of per diems and did not like the press saying it would keep them from attending meetings. He felt the public would know quickly if they didn't still represent the county at meetings.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Marvin shared that he had attended the last Little Rock stakeholders meeting where they presented the TMDL plan and asked for input.

1. Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement Approval: MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve:
  - a. Feedlot Water Quality Contract Approval for Ben Novak \$135,575.00
  - b. Clean Water Assistance for Fletcher Creek \$ 18,575.00
  - c. Accelerated Implementation Grant \$ 71,250.00
  - d. Community Partners Conservation \$ 26,965.00
2. Non-Point Engineering Assistance Report: Helen shared the 2011 report from Ross as it pertained to how many jobs Ross and the staff had done in each county. A request for them to design the rain gardens for Royalton was submitted.
3. 2011 Audit Report: The report was issued to the board and asked that they look it over and either call with questions or bring it back to the Feb. meeting for discussion. Helen shared that the audit was a little late for submittal to the state and they had to keep after Beinhorn to get it done.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. ACUB (Army Compatible Use Buffer Program) Update: Sadly, there was no REPI funding awarded this year. Marty and Jay were in Wash. DC trying to secure new dollars. Rep. Kresha and Sen. Gazelka as well as Morrison County had submitted letters of support to Congressman Nolan.
2. Grant Agreement Authorization: Authority Granted to District Manager to Sign Cost Share Contracts on behalf of the District, following Board Approval of contracts. MSC by Anez/Stangl to approve.
3. Minimum Fund Balance Policy Approval: Minimum for 2013 would be \$86,000.00 for three months. MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve.
4. Capital Assets Policy of Threshold: \$500.00 threshold for depreciation and purchases. MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve.
5. Crow Wing Watershed Meeting Report. Helen shared that in the Civic Engagement efforts, she had suggested reaching younger audiences by contacting high schools and CLC. She will be helping with some newspaper articles.

6. Cost Share Application for Kevin Kasella #11-13 was approved by motion of Faber/Anez, for \$3,057.00. This project will be a sediment basin structure for gully erosion, co-funded with EQIP.

**Upcoming Meetings or Events:**

1. February 4<sup>th</sup> - Ag BMP Handbook – MPCA in Baxter, 1:00 pm
2. February 8<sup>th</sup> - Meeting with Cove Road Participants
3. February 13<sup>th</sup> - Local Water Plan Task Force Meeting, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
4. February 18<sup>th</sup> - George Washington's Birthday – Office Closed
5. February 20<sup>th</sup> - Technical Evaluation Panel Monthly Meeting
6. February 21<sup>st</sup> - Camp Ripley Annual Meeting
7. February 21<sup>st</sup> - ACUB Town Hall Meeting for Landowners - 6:00 pm ✓ *postponed*
8. February 28<sup>th</sup> - Supervisor's Monthly Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

*Marvin Stangl*

Marvin Stangl, Secretary

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MORRISON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE MORRISON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:**

Supervisor Claude Dahmen offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**WHEREAS**, the Morrison SWCD has been delegated to re-write and administer the Morrison County comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP); and

**WHEREAS**, the Morrison County CLWMP included a map and description of the soil classifications within the conservation district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Morrison County CLWMP has been approved by the BWSR and has been determined to be in compliance with all laws and rules governing water in the State of Minnesota, and

**WHEREAS**, the Morrison County CLWMP has been approved by the Morrison County Board of Commissioners, and

**WHEREAS**, the Morrison County CLWMP identifies high priority erosion, sedimentation, and water quality problems in accordance with BWSR rules and guidelines.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT THE** Morrison SWCD adopts the Morrison County CLWMP as its Comprehensive Plan for calendar years 2013 through 2014.

Supervisor Bill Faber seconds the adoption of the resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following votes:

In a roll call vote, the following supervisors voted:

Cynthia Anez	aye <u>X</u>	nay _____
William Faber	aye <u>X</u>	nay _____
Marvin Stangl	aye <u>X</u>	nay _____
Claude Dahmen	aye <u>X</u>	nay _____
Tom Brutscher	aye <u>X</u>	nay _____

Motion carried

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Attested by: Marvin Stangl **Marvin Stangl, Secretary**

## Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2013

9:00 a.m.

USDA Government Center

Present: Supervisors Brutscher, Dahmen, Stangl, Anez, and Faber. Staff Ringwelski and McLennan. Absent: NRCS Staff and Commissioner Don Meyer.

Secretary's Report: MSC by Anez/Stangl to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Helen shared the Feb. TEP where the county Public Works had presented all of their road projects. She and Alan were recruiting more rain gauge monitors. The Record has requested an Ag Week article. The annual WCA report had to be submitted three times indicating that the state office is struggling with their reporting system. It also had to be submitted in two different formats that said exactly the same thing, a bit of redundancy.

Alan said trees were selling well. He's doing a couple of large plans for the Long Prairie River project, Cove Road. Pending ag wastes for spring are Hubner and Novak. Also waiting for funding and technical assistance is a large erosion project on Two Rivers. The winding river is eroding crop land and although a few river barbs improved it dramatically, there are a few more needed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. LCCMR Appt. – The Board congratulated Bill Faber for being appointed to the LCCMN Committee. He outlined their responsibility for the board.
2. Nitrate Review – Lance and Alan had prepared a summary of nitrate testing over a period of years for the county, showing no less than 11% of wells testing higher than 10 ppm. They also showed the past year's well log results showing the effects of the draught on some of the USGS wells. Coupled with the precipitation records shows the areas of the county that are affected the most.
3. Local Water Plan Meeting: Much of the above information had been shared with the LWP task force. Jim Lilienthal gave several good comments and presentations from Angler's for Habitat. Well head protection plans and assistance to those cities to meet their goals will be a focus of 2013 as well as the other normal goals through the plan. It was determined that we are fairly on task with the plans goals and objectives.
4. Wellhead Protection Plan Meeting with City of Little Falls and MDH (MN Dept of Health) Helen had written an article in the paper to encourage people to be aware of the well head protection plans and areas of protection. John Jaschke had even read the article since he had been traveling through the county that weekend. Helen and Dwayne Heinen from the City of Little Falls water plant will be doing some public awareness radio spots and also set up a live interview with the radio station.

5. Camp Ripley Annual Meeting: Alan and Helen shared the document published by Camp and all the information from 2013 covering everything from surface water health to wolf numbers. Helen said people need to remember that the Camp is 53,000 of Public Preserve besides being a military training camp. The camp has received national honors numerous times for their environmental programs.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MAWQCP Pilot Application (MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program) A pilot watershed grant application was submitted for the Little Rock watershed focusing on waste management bmp's for poultry producers in the watershed for Benton and Morrison counties.

2. Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Cooperative Agreement Approval: MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve the partnership agreement.

3. Area 2 Envirothon Support - \$150.00 MSC by Dahmen/Stangl to approve the contribution.

4. Area 2 Meeting - Thursday, March 21, 2013, Litchfield MN? Helen, Marvin, Claude, and Cindy will attend. Helen said she thought Josh would be going as well and perhaps would drive the NRCS van.

5. State Cost Share Applications: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve:

a. Cove Road Cooperative Application – Shoreland Stab.	#12-13	\$5,000.00
b. Ray Ginter – Conservation Forestation	#13-13	\$1,283.34
c. Dawn Hofstad – Shelterbelt	#14-13	\$ 720.00
d. Morrison County Public Works – Fletcher Creek	#15-13	\$ 865.69
e. Howie Grams – Conservation Forestation	#16-12	\$1,401.09

6. MN Forest Resource Council Grants to Pillager/Staples School and Little Falls Schools to be channeled through Morrison SWCD: MFRC will be giving two \$5,000 grants to be used with the above schools for reforestation projects. The teachers from all three schools will be working with the District on three identified projects.

7. Legislative Update: Helen shared the status of bills she is watching and also passed out the MASWCD tidbits.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary

See attachment for March calendar events

## **Morrison SWCD Board Meeting**

**Thursday, March 28, 2013**

**9:00 a.m.**

**USDA County Offices**

**Present: Supervisors Dahmen, Stangl, Brutscher, Anez, and Faber. Commissioner Don Meyer. Staff: Ringwelski, McLennan, and Hanson. NRCS AC Dave Copeland.**

**Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Stangl/Anez to approve as read.**

**Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve as presented.**

**Staff Reports: Josh Hanson announced that NRCS was operating with a continued resolution. They are working on 5 ag waste systems. They are also dealing with a lot of pasture conversion and elimination of trees converting to cropland.**

**Alan said there were several spring projects in the planning: Cove Rd., Lakewood Health on the Long Prairie River. He and several others in the office had attended Benton SWCD's Irrigation Clinic and told of the various topics discussed. Trees were going okay and they were gearing up for delivery but the dates are iffy due to so much snow cover.**

**Helen shared that she was working with MFRC on their school projects. Two will be done by Little Falls School District, one for the county and one on private lands. The Lakewood Health planting in Motley would be done by Staples and Pillager classes. She is also reviewing potential grant applications but struggles with the match requirements. So many grants, including WCA require a 1:1 match and there are no new funds to match these projects. The board discussed fees to landowners as match requirements but it was felt there would be little participation if charged. She also stated that the district was being requested to do run off plans for two campgrounds and one private cemetery as a result of the Planning Commission and BOA decisions.**

**Commissioner's Report: Don Meyer stated that so much of what they do revolves around zoning issues. He felt that some Conditional Use Permits should not expire, particularly if it's short term discontinuance of feedlots.**

**Guest Report: Dave Copeland, NRCS Area Conservationist: Dave has 16 counties in his area and attempts to visit each district board meeting at least once a year. Reiterated about the continuing resolution and what possible implications there are with sequestration if any. They had a 2.5% cut and some positions will not be filled. There could be an 8% cut in 2014. An 85-15 ratio in their budget (85% staffing) is desirable and allows for better dealing with budget cuts. CRP and EQIP were operating and CSP may be offered. There are a series of webinars available on soil health. There will be a Civil Rights review in May and Little Falls is one of the offices to be reviewed.**

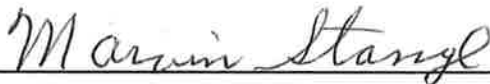
**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Area 2 Meeting – Claude, Cindy, Marvin** said that the meeting was quite informative, particularly the presentation by the climatologist
2. **Legislative Update:** Helen shared the update on the State Nursery bill and the consolidation of districts bill as well as others followed by MASWCD.
3. **MFRC (MN Forest Resource Council Agreement)** Helen has submitted an annual work plan for the following projects. Whether they can continue with MFRC will be questionable since the grants require a match, and to be paid upfront and then reimbursed. She said this was becoming a common theme in grants and creates a financial flow problem for the district.
  - a. **Long Prairie Project-** Pillager and Staples School District
  - b. **Little Falls High School Projects-** Howie Grams and Fletcher Creek
4. **ACUB Landowner Meeting:** Tom – Helen attended the annual meeting which wasn't well attended this year. Tom spoke to the audience on why the program was desirable to him as an agricultural producer and two other landowners spoke as well.
5. **Irrigation Workshop Report – March 25<sup>th</sup>** Alan shared during his staff report.
6. **Land Use Training – Brainerd March 22<sup>nd</sup>** Helen and Claude attended this annual meeting put on by MCIT/AMC. It mostly centers around what can and cannot be denied safely and how ordinances should read on certain topics.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **LCCMR Applications:** Due in June, Helen is looking at some possible applications for equipment and staffing to do drainage and culvert surveys.
2. **Fish Trap Lake Association Meeting:** Amy Kowalzek and Helen will be meeting with Fish Trap Lake Association on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April to discuss how to proceed with the CWF project for septic inspection.
3. **Radio call in show on Well Head Protection:** Helen is attempting to set up a radio program to discuss well head protection plans in the county. There are a number of cities that now have them completed.
4. **Buckthorn Control:** Due to an ad in the Record by Crow Wing SWCD, the district is receiving quite a few inquiries about buckthorn control. It seems to be quite expensive (\$1,000-2,500 per acre) She asked for board direction on setting a rate or whether they wanted to cost share these practices. The board felt it was of less importance than water quality and soil loss practices and perhaps should be absorbed by landowners. There are other agencies that deal more with invasive species.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary



## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
9:00 a.m.

### Little Falls USDA Center

Present: Supervisors Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl, and Anez. Commissioner Meyer. Staff: Hanson, Ringwelski, and McLennan.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Helen shared the weather was forcing a lot of delays in normal workload. Some ditch maintenance has been done, but organizing May activities with the postponed tree week would cause some inconveniences. She has been working on rescheduling efforts. She also shared some concerns on wetland delineations for tax exemption purposes and the ramifications.

Alan had visited some feedlots and had a training session with Katie Winkelman from Benton SWCD on irrigation scheduling.

Josh shared a Civil Rights review with the board in view of the upcoming audit in May. He also explained about all the required posters that are in the foyer. He outlined the different practices approved under EQIP.

Commissioner's Report: Don Meyer said the county was getting a lot of complaints from farmers regarding the property tax increases on ag land. Discussion was held regarding homestead credits, green acres, etc.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tree Program Delayed: Due to the late spring, tree delivery and distribution week has been delayed to the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> with pickup on Thursday and Friday, May 1-2. However, since the sports arena was booked for a circus, the program has been relocated to the old Crestliner facility. Cards have gone out to the customers.
2. Legislative Update: Helen shared the threat to BWSR Clean Water Funding by the house and had sent letters to both Rep. Kresha and Sen. Gazelka. Normal NRGB funding and General Services appeared to be approved at same level as 2012. The bill to force watershed plans looked to be going forward which meant a lot more planning, paperwork, meetings, and time spent on what was really already taking place. Watershed management was and has been going on for many years.

3. Cost Share Cancellation – Ricky Wallace #05-12 Well Decommissioning \$137.50 MSC to cancel by Stangl/Dahmen. Carried.
4. Easements in Morrison County – A map of all the RIM easements and ACUB easements were shared with the board, showing what type of easements and locations. These easements are all perpetual. Some limited RIM easements from the beginning of the program had expired.
5. Practices of 2013 and Funding Sources – A spreadsheet and map were shown of all the 2012-13 projects. We don't get a lot of practices in the very north of the county, mostly lake country. However, we do work those areas extensively due to WCA and shore land management and Water Plan issues.
6. Clean Water Fund Projects Update: Amy Kowalzek and Helen met with the Fish Trap Lake Association to organize the Accelerated Implementation of Septic Ordinance inspection. P/Z is sorting through all of the parcels and identifying those homes that have no recent history of inspection or have not been inspected since the last standard was adopted. The Lake Association is sending out a newsletter informing the people and sharing that this effort was their request. Inspections will occur in 2014 after an RFP has been awarded to one or more inspectors. Once completed the county will follow through with compliance enforcement. Amy and Helen will also attend the lake's annual association meeting and be on hand for questions. Low interest loan fund information will be made available.  
Lance, Alan, Ross Reiffenberger, and Helen had also met with Royalton mayor, Andrea Lauer to jump start the rain garden initiative. The best sites were identified and the mayor will be doing the initial contact with citizens and the property owners. Ross will design the practices.  
The Novak feedlot abatement has already been designed and will be constructed this year.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolutions Submitted by Stearns SWCD: Read and discussed. The TMDL one was so difficult in the concept that no real thoughts were given. The board supported the ob well increase resolution.
2. Well Head Protection Plans for Royalton, Buckman and Camp Ripley: Helen shared that several of the municipalities have either completed, are on second stage, or are beginning their well head protection plans. The LWP supports ground water protection efforts and outlines these plans for support. Several strategies for educational efforts have been made recently to support primarily the City of Little Falls but all plans in the same manner. Helen wrote an article for the Record in March and the City and Helen are working on some ads for the radio.
3. Radio Program on April 30 for Drinking Water Supply Management Areas and Nitrate Clinic: Along with the discussion above, Helen and Dwayne Heinen from the City of Little Falls will be doing a radio program with Rod Grams discussing Drinking Water Systems Management Areas and what that means in land use and protecting our public drinking

water supplies. This will be followed with the Nitrate clinic May 6-10 which is MN Drinking Water Protection week.

4. Water Plan Meeting Cancellation: Due to the back log of work, and nothing new to report, the May 8 LWP meeting was cancelled. Next meeting will be in August.
5. Cost Share Application: Michael Randt, #17-13 shelterbelt \$582.75 MSC by Dahmen/Stangl to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Marvin Stangl Marvin Stangl, Secretary

## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Little Falls USDA Center

**Present:** Supervisors Brutscher, Dahmen, Anez, and Stangl. **Commissioner Don Meyer. Staff:** McLennan and Hanson. **Absent:** Supervisor Faber.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to approve as presented..

Guest – Jason Weirnerman presented a resolution that he requested the district to carry forward at their June 6<sup>th</sup> MASWCD meeting. The board read and approved the resolution on a roll call vote. All voted in favor.

NRCS report: Josh Hanson reported on the Civil Rights audit performed Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is talk of a new CSP sign up but no dates given yet.

Commissioner's Report: Don stated that there was some interest on the board to look and public ditch assessment procedures.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tree Program Summary: LeaAnn prepared a tree program summary showing a \$17,759.87 profit, just under a \$5,000 increase over 2012 program. The facility was really more convenient than the Sports Arena so we may seek that space again for 2014. The tree crew was top notch again. LeaAnn had gifted everyone on the crew a special t-shirt at her own expense as a surprise and Helen thought it was a neat idea but should be budgeted for 2014. It was bright and easily showed who customers needed to seek out in the garage. Loading and unloading was far easier with the parking situation at the former Crestliner building.
2. Pillager, Staples/Motley, and Little Falls Community school tree planting projects: Doug Ploof, LFCHS had taken students to plant the Fletcher Creek project and the Howie Grams reforestation project. Staples/Motley and Pillager sent three classes to plant the Long Prairie River project at Lakewood Health Center in Motley. That project got a YouTube video on the air and publicity from Staples World and the Brainerd Dispatch. The MN Forest Resource Council grants will be used to pay the schools for planting and transportation.
3. AgBMP Loan Septic Issues: Helen met with Region 5 representatives, two county commissioners Don Meyer and Duane Johnson, and Amy Kowalcek and Deb Gruber to straighten out a mistake that had been made by Region 5 funding septic upgrades in Morrison County, using a fund that didn't cover Morrison County. Those loans had to be transferred to the allocation administered by the District and there were some budgetary adjustments needed to cover the over spending.

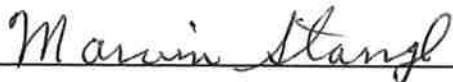
It was agreed that Region 5 will be one of the multi-lenders for Morrison, and Helen will allocate funds for Amy to facilitate septic loans out of Planning and Zoning and copy loan documents to Helen to keep funding straight. The Dept of Ag was present as well and said there were additional funds available presently if the county needed more money.

4. Cost Share Payment Approval: MSC by Stangl/Dahment to approve the following:
- |                              |        |             |
|------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| a. Howie Grams               | #16-13 | \$ 1,894.24 |
| b. Jim Hilmerson, Jr.        | #07-13 | \$ 1,467.98 |
| c. Gerry Palo                | #09-13 | \$ 2,185.65 |
| d. David Brill               | #03-13 | \$ 1,012.68 |
| e. Ron Beam                  | #06-13 | \$ 709.80   |
| f. Michael Randt             | #17-13 | \$ 581.84   |
| g. Lisa Dumont               | #05-13 | \$ 400.00   |
| h. Adam Roering              | #04-13 | \$ 327.84   |
| i. Dawn Hofstad              | #14-13 | \$ 720.00   |
| j. Dave Kliber               | #10-13 | \$ 582.85   |
| k. Morrison Co. Public Works | #15-13 | \$ 865.69   |

NEW BUSINESS:

1. State cost Share Frequency Policy Recommendation: Helen shared that for the first time, applicants were being turned down due to lack of funding. She asked if the board felt a new process should be adopted that might include not funding the same landowner more than 3 times in a decade. The board directed that rather than taking that approach, they felt anyone postponed, should get first attention with the next allocation. The district will go ahead and take the applications, dated, and then act on them with the next allocation.
2. Region 5 Nominee: MSC by Anez/Dahmen to nominate supervisor Diana Jacobson from Crow Wing SWCD.
3. Linc Passes: Helen explained the two trips that will be required to get the linc passes required by NRCS. The first trip is June 29. Everyone in the office must go except Carrie Miller.
4. E-link Training – Lance & LeaAnn, June 25<sup>th</sup>, Brainerd (informational)
5. County Budget Request: Don Meyer said he felt strongly about the district's need to request additional funding for all that is being done. MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve a request for \$100,000 a \$15,000 increase over 2013 funding.
6. Administrative Training – LeaAnn, June 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, Mahnomon Helen had approved this training opportunity for LeaAnn.
7. Area 2 Meeting – June 6<sup>th</sup>, Willmar: Marvin, Claude, Cindy and Helen will attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary



## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Little Falls USDA Center

**Present:** Supervisors Brutscher, Dahmen, Faber, Anez and Stangl. **Commissioner Don Meyer. Staff:** Nouis, Ringwelski, Zapzalka. **Absent:** Manager McLennan (attending ACUB Meeting @ BWSR Office, St. Paul, with Marty and Jay, regarding split rule issue)

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Stangl / Faber to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Anez / Dahmen

Staff Reports: Terry Zapzalka reported NRCS staff have been working on CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) applications for the entire last month. He also gave a brief description of the CSP Program and what it entails. Discussion on average payment to landowner: Pasture Land = \$10 to \$15 per acre; Crop Land = \$20 to \$30 per acre. The CSP Program is a 5 year program.

Alan Ringwelski reported that the Cove Road Project on Lake Alexandria is now completed. He gave a brief description of the project, procedure and funding breakdown. Adamek Brother's where the contractor for the project. Wayne Wolters filter strip project was completed before Morrison County received the huge amounts of rainfall. The District has been fielding many phone calls, as well as landowners coming into the office, with wetland issues. The primary complaints are water run-off from neighboring properties onto theirs, due to the high amounts of rainfall recently. Biggest issue at this time is the Radmacher / Batcha properties, Elmdale Township. Radmacher's tiled land is causing water to funnel onto Batcha's property. Site visits have been performed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Lance and LeaAnn attended E-link Reporting Training at CLC College Campus in Brainerd. Approx. 24 District staff attended. Main presenter was Conor Donnelly, BWSR. E-link is now a web based program. Much faster than previous version and seems to be more user friendly. A lot of bugs to work out of the program yet being is has just been launched in the past couple of weeks.
2. LeaAnn attended Administrative Training Session in Mahnomon, MN. Attended by Area I, II, III & VIII Admin. Approx. 30 Support Staff and some District Managers in attendance. Topics covered were: Michael Peterson Co., new auditor took James Maiser's clients; Jeff Hrubish on new grant process, MCIT on District Insurance coverage; Presentation from staff at Bergeson Nursery, Fertile, MN; CPR/AED/Stroke training from Nationally Certified Paramedic & Manager; Motivational Speaker, Ann Dolence, presentation on 'Attitudes are Contagious'; Open Discussion and Networking among peers. Great Sessions!
3. Marvin, Cindy and Claude attended Area II Meeting, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Found parts of the meeting to be very interesting and informational. Resolutions were passed, District Board will be receiving them in the mail. MASWCD Legislative Reports were distributed to each Board Member. Claude attended WCTSA Meeting, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion on grant updates, performance update,

bid approval for upcoming audit/fiscal year end and new survey equipment purchased for \$2,000.

4. Cost Share Payment Approval:

- a. Cove Road Project #12-13 \$5,000 = State Cost Share / \$9,750.76 = 319 Grant Todd County SWCD, MSC by Stangl / Faber
- b. Todd Krajsa #08-13 Shelterbelt = \$582.84, MSC by Anez / Stangl
- c. William McComb – State Cost Share #07-12 Rain Garden = \$2,081.83, MSC by Dahmen / Stangl

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lance gave an overview of the current Ob Well Agreement. Reading take place monthly from April through November. District receives \$15 per well. The number of wells to monitor will increase from 15 to 17 this year. Approval of Ob Well Agreement: MSC by Fabre / Stangl
2. Application Approval: Platte Township #18-13 Well Sealing Application, \$150.00, MSC by Stangl / Fabre.
3. Alan reported that Dale Saehr's Environmental Review was completed for his proposed hog barn. Don Meyer brought up the discussion that has taken place regarding this project at the Morrison County Board Meetings. Pierz Fish Lake high nitrate levels are currently an issue. Tests and studies are concluding that high nitrate levels found in drinking water may be a contributing factor toward health issues. Recommendations are being discussed at the State, District and County levels to test each well and septic system for nitrate levels. More documentation and information is being acquired and discussion will resume at the next, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Morrison County Board Meeting.
4. Alan reported that the engineer for the rain garden initiative in Royalton stated the rain garden does not contribute to ground water problems. They have two more interested parties. One of the interested parties is by the water park.
5. Region Five Delegate Ballots were handed out to each Board Member. Ballots were completed, signed and mailed.
6. BWSR Legislative Summary Report was handed out to each Board Member.
7. Alan presented the board with Notice of Decision on Daniel Sauer property. Landowner requesting to clean a ditch, however, no evidence of previous ditch can be located. Request Denied. MSC by Anez / Faber.
8. Alan posed more discussion on the possibility of distributing one or two scholarships every year to individuals going into Natural Resources Career.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary

INFORMATIONAL:

- Nutrient Management Info Meeting with Golden Plump - July 1<sup>st</sup> - Alan
- County Budget Presentation - July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. - Helen
- Congressional Meeting at MC Government Center, Meeting Room 1 (Fed. Farm Program)
  - July 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



## **Morrison SWCD Board Meeting**

**Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**9:00 a.m. USDA County Offices**

**Present: Supervisors Stangl, Dahmen, Brutscher, and Faber. Staff: McLennan and Hanson.**

**Absent: Supervisor Anez and Commissioner Don Meyer.**

Secretary's Minutes: MSC Stangl/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC Dahmen/Faber to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Helen shared that Alan was in the field with WCTSA staff today and were visiting a site that received damage after construction, an ag waste done last year that wanted to make some changes, and they were working on Hubner ag waste as well. A lot of wetland activity still and some shoreline restoration calls made. Tiling is causing a lot of landowner/neighborhood disputes.

Josh reported that the sequestering was not really affecting NRCS at this time but there has been a reduction in staff state wide. 59 new CSP contracts had pre-approval. 33 new EQIP. They had 159 1026 requests and have nearly completed those determinations. Terry will be assigned to Stearns County for the next six weeks and someone from other offices will be in Little Falls each of those six weeks. There is the potential to get some cover crop funding.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Golden Plump / Little Rock Team Meeting – Alan had attended the second meeting and it was a consensus that there was a need for a nutrient management staff person. Benton SWCD applied for funding to hire another person to support that effort.
2. HSPS Meeting with MPCA – Helen (analysis model for land use scenarios) Helen shared that of the two presentations by consultants working for MPCA, the model being designed by RESPEC had the most potential. It still won't mean much at a local level unless they make it user friendly for land use decisions.
3. Dale Saehr Hog Barn Decision: The County Board did approve the controversial application but placed 8 conditions on the permit. One being that hog manure could not be applied within 2000 feet of the lake.
4. County Budget Hearing Report: Helen and LeaAnn met with the county's budget committee and asked for a \$15,000 increase over 2013, citing the reduction in other revenues and rising costs of doing business.

5. Federal Farm Program Hearing with Congressmen Nolan and Peterson: Helen and Josh attended the meeting. Quite a lot of concern from the federal representatives in how and why the Farm Bill has not been passed. The meeting was pretty well attended.

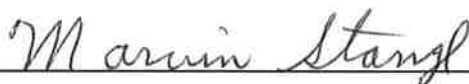
NEW BUSINESS:

1. LCCMR Tour Visit Regarding ACUB (Legislative Citizen Commission on MN Resources) Helen presented the ACUB program to the commission at their stop at Crow Wing State park.
2. ACUB Update: Jay and Marty returned from Wash. DC with a \$1 million dollar commitment to BWSR. The Phase 3 LSOHC funding was available beginning July 1. There are some glitches with the program on the table though so no new applications are going to be taken until the matters are resolved.
3. E-link Reporting Delay: Lance is trying to get all of the reporting done but there are some glitches in the program. Therefore, BWSR has extended the reporting deadline.
4. CRP Contribution Agreement Opportunity: Josh and Helen outlined the con-call regarding the opportunity for districts to do the CRP planning. In Morrison there are 20 CRPs and a possible 10 Continuous CRPs. The district will be paid \$480 per contract signed. She proposes to use the earnings to fulfill some commitment to the WCTSA.
5. Phase IV LSOHC (Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council) There will be preliminary hearings in August. The newest phase does not have a DNR fee acquisition section after some controversy raised about vetting process so it's unsure how well this application will be received.
6. Federal Farm Program Wetland Certification Contribution Agreement Possibility: Josh said there was also maybe going to be an opportunity to contract with the district to conduct NRCS wetland certifications. More will be shared as we know it.

INFORMATIONAL:

1. Local Water Plan Meeting – August 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 12:00
2. ACUB Meeting - August 7<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary

# Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2013

9:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

Present: Supervisors Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, and Stangl. Commissioner Don Meyer.

Staff: McLennan, Hanson, and Ringwelski. Absent: Supervisor Cindy Anez

Secretary's Report: MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve as read. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Alan reported on the CRP contracts he and Lance are doing under a Contribution Agreement with NRCS. They have nearly completed the regular contracts and will now begin on the Continuous CRP. He has been working with the WCTSA on the Hubner stacking slabs and compost facility.

Josh said the 56 CSP contracts had been reviewed and will be completed by August 28. A five basin sediment basin project was completed in Morrill Twp. and they are working on two compost facilities.

Helen shared that her time had been mostly split between ACUB and WCA. The City and the District had prepared a PSA for Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Groundwater Day. Royalton has found one site so far for the CWF rain garden initiative. She will be helping BWSR with some interviews in September for a new grants oversight position in Brainerd.

Don Meyer said they were dealing with some sensitive issues at the county that he couldn't divulge. He opposes some high dollar increases for some department heads and was getting grief on the new wheel tax.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Local Water Plan Meeting Update: Tom and Claude shared that discussion surrounded irrigation, too much emphasis being made to invasive species and the risk of other protection measures. They also shared the discussion regarding emerging contaminants studies on the amount of pharmaceuticals being found in ground water.
2. Elmdale Township Continued Conflict: The Technical Evaluation Panel met with two landowners and the Twp. Board for the third month in a row trying to resolve landowner conflict with water issues. It appeared that there wasn't any resolution since

WCA didn't address some of the conflicts. Due to the volatile nature of the two individuals and the inability to do anything other than refer them to try to deal with it in a courtroom, Helen advised the township to walk away from it and that's what the SWCD will be doing as well.

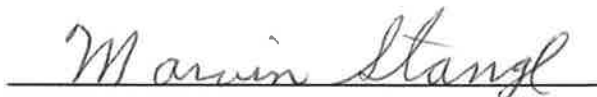
3. ACUB Update: The \$1,000,000 agreement had been signed and then NGB had found another \$833,000 and awarded it to ACUB as well. The BWSR staff are working on a language change on the easements to address some concerns and no new applications will be sent until the changes have been approved.
4. Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Grant Application Hearing – September 4<sup>th</sup> Helen, Jay Brezinka, and Colonel St. Sauver will testify before the council on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.
5. Audit 2012: LeaAnn has been working hard with our auditor and BWSR to prove that a 2012 audit should not be required. No answer had been given as yet.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Contribution Agreements: Helen said she had signed the agreements for CRP, reimbursing the district \$480 per contract, and Josh was working on another agreement for Hubner.
2. Wetland Acre Loss Report: Helen shared a national report that shows Morrison and Todd counties as two of the top ten in the country for loss of wetlands due to agricultural conversion of meadow hay fields and pasture.
3. Board Procedure Information: Helen said there would be a procedure for replacement required if Cindy decides she cannot return. But the board and staff are hopeful that she's returning soon.
4. Vacation Approval for Lance - August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> MSC by Dahmen/Stangl to approve.
5. Cost-Share Payment Approval: Ray Ginter – Tree Establishment - \$1,148.34 MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve.
6. Cost-Share Payment Approval: Camp Lebanon – Phillip Gerth – Well Decommissioning - \$1,000.00. MSC by Faber/Dahmen to approve.

#### **INFORMATIONAL:**

1. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Festival, Camp Ripley - September 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> (20th year)
2. Crane Meadows Meeting Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>
3. Area 2 Meeting Sept 12 in Benson
4. TNC Application for Watershed Management Plan for Lake Alex  
Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

 Marvin Stangl, Secretary

## Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 2013

9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

Present: Supervisors Dahmen, Brutscher, and Stangl. Staff present: Ringwelski, McLennan, Miller, and Hanson.

Absent: Supervisors Faber and Anez, and Commissioner Don Meyer.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Dahmen/Stangl to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Josh reported that he and Terry had attended wetland training in SD for the past week and were required to follow the 13 steps for determinations due to the vast number of appeals being lost. The Farm Bill deadline would be October 1 and if not passed, the staff could be on furlow. They were doing the grazing checks and wetland certifications at this time.

Alan said there were a few shoreland stabilization plans being required by P/Z. The Water Festival was fun and he and Carrie enjoyed doing a different station. The Dave Hubner project was complete.

Helen said that ACUB could still see some additional YE funding and that the BWSR language revisions were moving forward so we can begin again shortly in submitting new applications. She said it was interesting to see how the Farm Bill plays out in different states since not all states have the same type of agriculture as MN.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. CRP Fulfillment: Helen reported that Lance and Alan had done a remarkable job in completing the CRP plans under the cooperative agreement. This funding would be used partially to fulfill an obligation to WCTSA. LeaAnn had billed the MASWCD for the contracts which would realize a bit over \$12,000. The board expressed their appreciation to the two for taking on the extra workload.
2. Lessard Sams Hearing Report: Helen, Jay Brezinka and Col. St. Sauver testified and felt it had gone well, but now learned that the application didn't make the cut for funding. It needed 9 votes and only received 8.
3. BWSR Grant Agreement for General Services, State Cost Share, etc. The contract had been signed and returned to BWSR and funding was received on 9/16/2013. Conservation Delivery was \$20,252; State Cost Share \$22,808; and Easement Delivery \$1,526.

4. Water Festival Summary: The 20<sup>th</sup> annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Festival was held Sept. 17-18. Lance did an excellent job coordinating it once again. Royalton messed up and failed to get parent permission slips so they were a no show but has since apologized for the goof. Three commissioners came to view the event. Classes were taught by USFW, City of Little Falls, DMA, SWCD, NRCS, City of Royalton, P/Z, MDH, DNR, and were all focused on water quality, quantity, and protection.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Clean Water Fund Application Approval: Helen and Lance are in the process of working on the fund application but did not have final figures to be approved today but asked the board for approval to apply for funding for a few different categories which included the Platte River Watershed water management and drainage analysis, ag waste, sediment basin projects. The county was also seeking funding for park acquisition and software.
2. Nitrate Testing Clinic - October 7 – 11, 2013 The clinic has been advertised and will be held for the entire week as usual, twice annually.
3. BWSR Academy – October 28 – 30, 2013 MSC by Dahmen/Stangl to approve the academy attendance for Lance and Alan.
4. Microsoft Excel – Advanced Training @ Michael's Restaurant & Convention Center, St. Cloud – November 13, 2013 MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve sending LeaAnn.
5. Melissa Wenker – Cost Share - Critical Area Stabilization - \$ 2,500 MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve using the remaining 2013 dollars and remainder funded with 2014 allocation.
6. Mulch Crimper sale: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve selling the mulch crimper to Mike Lehrke for \$50.00

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary

## Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2013

9:00 a.m.

### USDA Service Center

**Present:** Supervisors Brutscher, Stangl, Dahmen, and Faber. Commissioner Don Meyer.

**Staff:** McLennan and Hanson. **Absent:** Supervisor Anez.

Secretary's Report: MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve as read.

Treasurer's Report: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Josh said that the furlough had lasted nearly 3 weeks but even though staff was back, the computers were down because of the fiscal shutdown. They are working on 3 composting facilities for poultry, 2 sed basins.

Helen explained that Alan was on vacation. The ongoing feud between landowners in Elmdale Twp. continues and are now in a lawsuit. The District and the Twp. found it necessary to walk away from the situation but the one landowner kept putting pressure on agencies to solve the civil dispute. There had been a lot of township requests lately for culvert issues. Helen had presented at the Township Official's annual meeting the week before. LeaAnn had sent out all of the tree orders to the last three year's customers.

Commissioner Report – Don Meyer said he tried hard to get us a bigger increase. There wasn't much to report on at this time. They were still dealing with some of the same issues.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Government Shut Down: How did it affect us? Helen said that at least the servers were still on during the shutdown so for the district, work continued. A lot of landowners had either called or stopped in however that could not be served. She encouraged them to let their congressmen know of the impact.
2. Nitrate Clinic Results: The high nitrate level of over 16% of wells tested continued to be the norm. 61 wells were tested compared to 239 tested in the spring clinic.
3. ACUB Meeting Report: Marty Skoglund said that Bob Lessard was doing outreach with the LSOHC people trying to get back support for Phase 4 funding.
4. County Allocation: The district will receive a \$7,500 increase over 2013 which is an 8.11% increase.
5. Clean Water Fund Application Recap: Helen shared the different categories for the CWF application. Approval won't be known until January.

6. Technical Evaluation Panel: Pulaski Township, Crow Wing Power and Light: The two projects were discussed.
7. Leo Grabowski Passing: Helen shared the horrible news that former Army Corps project manager had been tragically killed in a bicycle/SUV crash on October 10. He leaves behind a wife and three children and many friends.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. State Cost Share Application: MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve the following:
  - a. Friends of Linden Hills #02-14 \$750.00 Critical Area
  - b. Tracy Melgren #3-14 \$612.50 Well Decommissioning
  - c. Roger Lanners #4-14 \$2,500 Sediment Basins
2. Convention in Bloomington, MN - December 1 – 3, 2013 Claude and Bill may go and Helen felt she would like to go for Monday only.
3. Change November and December Dates: Due to holidays the meeting dates for November will be Thursday, November 21, and Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>. MSC by Stangl/Faber.
4. Vacation Approval – LeaAnn - November 4 – 8, 2013 MSC by Dahmen/Faber
5. Irrigation Clinic with Benton County: Helen will serve on a committee to develop the next irrigation clinic sponsored by Benton SWCD.
6. Resolution Voting: Helen read the resolutions and the board cast their ballots.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 20 a.m.

Marvin Stangl Marvin Stangl, Secretary

INFORMATIONAL:

- BWSR Academy: Lance and Alan Attending, October 28 – 30, 2013
- Oasis Share-A-Meal: November 14, 2013
- Ag BMP Loan Program Meeting: November 18, 2013
- MASWCD Convention: December 1, 2 & 3, 2013 - Bloomington



## Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

### USDA Service Center

Thursday, November 21, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Anez, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl, and Dahmen. Commissioner Don Meyer. Staff: NRCS Hanson, SWCD Ringwelski and McLennan.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC by Anez/Faber to approve as read.

Treasurer's Reports: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve as presented.

Staff Reports: Josh – Discuss "And Justice For All" Josh read the language for everyone to clearly understand the need to not discriminate in working with landowners of any type in our programs. He shared some of the discussions held within the agency on providing better oversight.

Alan and WCTSA had been surveying Alan and Dave Lanners large sediment basin projects which will be funded by Benton SWCD Little Rock funding. He has been doing quite a few irrigation permit conservation plans which are becoming more stringent. They are also working on erosion control projects for Susan Phillips and Alan Feier. Tree orders are coming in slowly.

Helen said she had written a letter of support to Stearns SWCD who was nominating Ross Reiffenberger for Employee of the Year. She and Alan were trying to get as many visits done as possible before snow on the 1026's now being assumed. She also was working with LeaAnn and Lance on making sure all accountability was present for CWF projects.

#### **Old Business:**

1. ACUB Update: BWSR has been working on the revised language regarding property splits and it was now ready for review and approval of the State Attorney General's Office and the NGB officials. When completed amendments will be drafted and require the existing easement landowners to sign and record. BWSR will absorb the recording fees.
2. Technical Evaluation Panel Findings: The TEP met our new COE Project Manager Rob Maroney who has now been assigned Morrison County. The site for a Crow Wing Power sub station was discussed. We went through older pending files for Rob to clear all that had not been processed. A site visit was made to Alan Feier's property who was advised to hire an engineer and/or surveyor. It's not the duty of the TEP to shoot culvert elevations and do a drainage maintenance plan for landowners.
3. Oasis Share-A-Meal: The ag service center had once again hosted the charity and fed 80 people. All employees participated. It's organized annually by Alan Ringwelski.
4. Ag BMP Loan Program Re-Cap: Approximately \$1.3 million has been conveyed in loans in the county with about \$300,000 on hand for roll over funds. Newer practices include re-location of wells when contamination potential exists. Helen and Amy are trying to predict how many septic loan dollars might be needed following the Fish Trap Lake investigation.

5. BWSR Academy Reports: Alan and Lance shared what they learned at the many sessions they had attended, from successful rain gardens , conservation drainage, construction project planning, etc to how to evaluate inputs, outputs, and outcomes on grant applications and reporting. Lance prepared a map for the board on all of BWSR held easements and how ACUB stood up in the overall look at the 6500 state held easements.

**New Business:**

1. NRCS Agreement for Wetland Certification Work: Helen had signed an agreement with NRCS to commit to conducting wetland certification of 150 determinations, and 75 drainage maintenance 1026's. She and Alan are working on them now.
2. Convention Attendance – Bill will be representing Morrison SWCD
3. Clean Water Fund Updates
  - a. Fletcher Creek Project Payment Approval - \$18,090.00 ( completed)
  - b. Royalton Rain Gardens: Need to find new sights. Those earlier identified were not viable.
  - c. Fish Trap Lake Septic Inventory: Amy Kowalzek is preparing and letting the RFP now and once the period is over, contracts will be drafted for 1-2 companies to begin the inspections spring 2014.
  - d. Novak Feedlot Project: In the design phase, will be built in 2014.
4. State Cost Share Approval: #05-14 Susan Mattison \$748.43 MSC by Dahmen/Stangl to approve.
5. State Cost Share Payment Approval: #11-13, Kevin Kasella \$3057.00 MSC by Faber/Anez to approve.
6. Insurance Changes and Language Changes in Policy Discussion: Helen discussed the need to restructure how the district deals with the flex benefits for employees. She's trying to get quotes with Public Employees Insurance Program for a group plan.
7. Irrigation Permitting Discussion: Helen had spoken with Dan Lais regarding the complaints about appropriation permit delays. The days of quick turn around are over due to legislative direction to scrutinize the permitting process and in some cases, monitoring wells and aquifer tests are being required.
8. Rent Lease Agreement MSC by Stangl/Faber to have Helen negotiate a new lease agreement with the landowner.

Board adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



Marvin Stangl, Secretary

**Upcoming Events:**

Tree Open House - December 4<sup>th</sup>

## Morrison SWCD Board Meeting

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
9:30 am

### USDA Service Center

**Present:** Supervisors Dahmen, Anez, Stangl, and Faber. Commissioner Don Meyer. Staff: Ringwelski and McLennan. Absent: Supervisor Brutscher.

**Secretary's Minutes:** MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve minutes as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve as presented.

**Staff Reports:** Alan reported for Josh that there is a new CSP enrollment now until the 17<sup>th</sup> of January. Of the 260 present CSP contracts, most people had been in to sign their documents but some were finding that if they lost control of land enrolled, or didn't do some of what they had contracted to do, they were being required to repay the money. There presently are 14 new CSP applications and 30 EQIP applications.

Alan said that he and Helen had conducted as many field visits as possible for the 1026 Wetland Certifications and now he and Lance are trying to follow up on the paperwork. He also has been working on quite a number of Irrigation Conservation Plans. There is a fairly sizable erosion project on the Skunk River that needs follow up.

Helen said she has spent a significant amount of time on trying to determine the best route to go with health insurance for the employees. The whole system is very cumbersome and not affordable at all. Everyone will be paying more in premiums and Flex Spending Accounts are very limited. The present deadline for decisions is Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> but another extension may be granted.

**Commissioner Report:** Don said they gave 2% increases to the department heads.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mississippi Headwaters Update – Tim Terrill, Executive Director gave a brief overview of what and how the MHB was focusing now. He's trying to meet all the partners to get county perspectives on what is important to each county. Kevin Mauer represents Morrison County on the board. He will be working with Amy Kowalzek and Helen on some future initiatives.
2. MASWCD Convention Report – Bill and Josh attended the convention and felt the price was very high especially when it didn't include meals. The meal costs were very high for what was served. But Bill did feel the small sessions were very interested and informative.
3. ACUB Update: Helen shared that the LSOHC had an additional \$5.6 million to distribute and our Phase 4 application was awarded \$1.2 million. She had emailed all of the council members the night before as per Bill Penning's suggestion and it seemed to pay off. The work plan was due today so it was a quick turn-around.
4. Long Prairie River Watershed Update: A meeting was held on Dec. 11 and participants were encouraged to draft a Civic Engagement plan. Helen strongly feels that a "land use decision maker" training session needs to be part of the CE and will work with the Initiative Foundation to see if they could assist.
5. Tree Open House Results: In spite of the storm, over 100 people attended or called in orders of over 13,000 trees.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. MCIT Dividend - \$3,024 Rebate (informational only)
2. State Cost Share Applications: MSC by Stangl/Dahmen to approve:
  - A. 06-14 Dave Kliber 380 \$598.87
  - B. 07-14 Don Meyer 612 \$898.31
  - C. 08-14 Bob Determan 380 \$240.00
  - D. 09-14 Jim Hilmerson 612 \$1,797.00
  - E. 10-14 Adam Roering 380 \$598.87
4. State Cost Share Payment Approval: MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve:
  - #3-14 Tracy Mellgren - Well decommissioning \$612.50
5. Election of Officers for 2014: MSC by Dahmen/Faber to approve:

Chairman	Cynthia Anez
V. Chair	Marvin Stangl
Secretary	Claude Dahmen
Treasurer	Bill Faber
Public Relations	Tom Brutscher

**INFORMATIONAL:** Golden Plump Nutrient Management Meeting – Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, St. Cloud – Alan/Helen

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Marvin Stangl Marvin Stangl, Secretary