

**Beltrami Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:00 a.m.
County Commissioners Conference Room
701 Minnesota Ave. NW, Bemidji, MN 56601**

Members Present: Ruth Trask
Jay Frenzel
Shane Bowe
Jay Backstrom
Rob Knudson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: William Patnaude, ESD Director/SWCD District Manager
Jerry Stensing, SWCD Stewardship Forester
Larry Voltz, NRCS
Brent Rud, ESD/SWCD
Chris Parthun, ESD/SWCD
Kathy Ruzicka, ESD/SWCD
Chad Severts, BWSR

Jay Backstrom called the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting for March 24, 2011 officially to order at 9:00 AM.

Secretary's Report:

Jay Frenzel made a motion to approve the February 24, 2011 minutes as read. Shane Bowe seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Ruth Trask	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

Treasurer's Report:

Ruth Trask made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Jay Frenzel seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Rob Knudson	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes
Ruth Trask	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

Old Business:

The September Meeting has been changed from September 22, 2011 to September 29, 2011 due to conflict in schedule.

New Business:

New Cooperators - Cost Share Contracts:

1. Bud Moen – To implement tree shrub establishment and forest site preparation for addressing high priority water quality problems. Cost Share assistance cannot exceed 50% of eligible components or \$8,300.00, whichever is less. Total project cost estimated to be \$32,460.11.

Jay Frenzel made a motion to approve Cooperator Agreement and State Cost Share Contract #11-02 with Bud Moen. Ruth Trask seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Shane Bowe	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Ruth Trask	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

2. Dennis Kihlstadius – To implement tree shrub establishment for addressing high priority water quality problems. Cost Share Assistance cannot exceed 54% of eligible components or \$2,220.00, whichever is less. Total project cost estimated to be \$4,068.03.

Jay Frenzel made a motion to approve Cooperator Agreement and State Cost Share Contract #11-01 with Dennis Kihlstadius. Ruth Trask seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Shane Bowe	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Ruth Trask	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

3. Alan Goldberg – Sealing of unused well. State Cost Share cannot exceed 50% of eligible costs or \$75.00, whichever is less. Total project cost estimated to be \$150.00.

Shane Bowe made a motion to approve State Cost Share Contract #11-03 with Alan Goldberg. Ruth Trask seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Jay Frenzel	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Ruth Trask	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

New Service Agreements:

1. Bud Moen – Turnkey Labor \$5,176.00
2. Dennis Kihlstadius – Turnkey Labor \$886.50
3. Prairie Restorations – Turnkey Labor \$2,306.80
4. Jeff Baumgartner – Turnkey Labor \$935.00
5. Kent McKercher – Turnkey Labor \$1,020.00
6. Jason Spaeth – Turnkey Labor \$3,964.00
7. Mark Rogers – Turnkey Labor \$480.00 – District Manager approval
8. Mary Kay Anderson – Turnkey Labor \$200.00 – District Manager approval.

Jay Frenzel made a motion to approve and enter into these service agreements. Rob Knudson seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Ruth Trask	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

Observation Well Data.

Chris Parthun made a presentation on the Observation Wells data, drawing attention to two main features in the past 20-year data history. The first is the very abrupt, near-vertical increases in groundwater levels in spring 1999 and fall 2010 when above-average precipitation occurred. The second is the near-similar groundwater elevations between the two years. In 1999, widespread groundwater flooding occurred over a large area of southern Beltrami County. Similar, recently recorded elevations could result in groundwater flooding this spring.

Stewardship Forester Report:

- Tree Program: As of March 24, 2011, there are 141 tree orders with 45.6 % of stock sold. Total in sales - \$29,436.00.
- MN Biomes Fund Update: Total Assets \$3,316.65.
- Jerry Stensing is requesting approval to hire temporary intermittent employee status tree planters for the spring 2011 Tree Program. Discussion as to salary. Jerry discussed with the Board the need to have authorization of the hiring of temporary laborers for the

Spring 2011 Tree Program. He suggested that he be given some flexibility with a beginner and an experienced hourly rate. Manager, William Patnaude, informed the Board that Tanner Lene was paid \$14.00 per hour last year. Jerry stated that was correct. The Board asked Jerry if he has a cost figured in for each project. Jerry stated he did and maybe could establish a rate for labor based on per planting by each tree planter. Board members asked if the District would be responsible to pay 1.5 times should workers exceed a 40 hour work week. Consensus of the Board is to pay tree program planters a rate of no more than \$14.00.

Shane Bowe made a motion to approve the hiring of temporary tree planters with the provision the District Manager is authorized to pay the laborers no more than \$14.00 per hour. Further, the District Manager is directed to review the Board's question with County payroll whether or not overtime would have to be at a rate of 1.5 times for anything over a 40 hour work week. Jay Frenzel seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Ruth Trask	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

RC & D Report:

No report since meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

NCJPB Report:

Brad Kennedy sent his written project activities report which was distributed to the SWCD members prior to the meeting.

DC Report: Larry Voltz:

- This past month have continued to work on contract approvals.
- One wildlife habitat incentive project will start this spring.
- Ten EQIP Contracts have been approved.
- 35 CSP projects slated for approval - \$218,000 in annual payments. Close to 100 contracts in Beltrami County.
- Larry and Travis attended the Annual Career Fair in Red Lake. They will be heading to Leech Lake for their Annual Career Fair.
- NRCS is now on National Hiring Freeze
- RC&D Program does not look good according to reports from Washington DC.

District Manager Report:

- Bill suggested having an open house in April for SWCD/ESD. Discussion followed.
- Reported on SWCD/ESD accomplishments for 2010

Meeting broke for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. to view movie “Troubled Waters.”

BWSR:

Chad Severts gave presentation of SWCD and BWSR’s Mission Statement, Responsibilities and Duties. Discussed SWCD’s Mission Statement. The following suggestions were made for a new Mission Statement:

1. *Our Mission, in cooperation with the Beltrami County ESD, is to promote natural resource stewardship through technical, educational and financial assistance to land owners in Beltrami County.*
2. *Our Mission is to foster soil and conservation practices in Beltrami County*
3. *Our Mission is to provide comprehensive soil and water conservation services in Beltrami County*
4. *To provide and promote environmental conservation practices to private land owners.*
5. *Our mission is to provide realistic environmental and conservation regulations and practices which meet the needs of the local land user.*
6. *Our mission is to promote natural resource stewardship in Beltrami County.*

New Mission Statement was tabled until the April Meeting.

Shane Bowe requested Chad Severts to attend the April 22, 2011 Meeting to address questions related to a possible conflict of interest with the SWCD Cost Share/Tree Program and to clarify BWSR guidance for future implementation.

Envirothon:

Ruth Trask reported the Envirothon will be held on April 20, 2011 at Lake Bemidji State Park. Ruth Trask and Jay Backstrom will be attending. Each county was requested to fundraise \$250.00. **Shane Bowe made a motion to approve a \$250.00 donation from Beltrami County SWCD to the Envirothon. Ruth Trask seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:**

Jay Frenzel	Yes
Rob Knudson	Yes
Ruth Trask	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

Ruth Trask made a motion to adjourn. Jay Frenzel seconded the motion. Voting on the motion:

Rob Knudson	Yes
Shane Bowe	Yes
Jay Frenzel	Yes
Ruth Trask	Yes

Motion approved and carried 4 to 0.

Next meeting scheduled for April 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Conference Room.

Rob Knudson
Recording Secretary

Date