

***Grant SWCD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 24th, 2008***

The Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District held its January regular meeting on Thursday, January 24th, 2008 at the Grant SWCD Office. Supervisors present included: Randy Larson, Arley Ellingson and Odell Christenson. NRCS staff present included: Drew Mosburg and Brent Gulbrandson. District staff present included: Joe Montonye, Loren Olson and Mary Jo Knutson. Guest present: Jim Ayres, NRCS.

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to approve the Secretary's report from the December 27th, 2007 Board meeting as read. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Christenson to approve the Treasurer's report as read. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

New Business:

- 1. Reorganization of the Board and Committee Appointments – Pomme de Terre River Association JPB, Chippewa River Project JPB and West Central Engineering JPB—**Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to leave all the positions on the Board the same as last year as follows: **Chair: Larson, Vice-Chair: Ellingson, Treasurer: Christenson, Personnel Director: Myron and Public Relations: Hildebrandt.** Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Secretary—Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to have Knutson assume the position of Secretary to the Board. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Pomme de Terre River Association JPB—Larson appointed Hildebrandt to represent the District on this JPB

Chippewa River Project JPB—Larson appointed Ellingson to represent the District on this JPB.

West Central Engineering JPB—Larson appointed Ellingson to represent the District on this JPB.

New Business: (continued)

2. **Guest – Jim Ayres – NRCS Assistant State-Conservationist**—Jim announced that he will be retiring in April. Ayres updated the Board on budget issues, farm bill status, EQIP money, positions open and the computer situation in the state. Ayres thanked the Board and Staff for working with NRCS these past years.
3. **2008 Revised Budget**--Board reviewed. Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Christenson to approve the 2008 revised budget. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.
4. **Dues Requests – Area II MASWCD, MASWCD and WesMin RC&D**—
Area II Dues--Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Christenson to pay the 2008 Area II dues in the amount of \$150.00. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

MASWCD Dues—Discussion was held on whether to pay the 2008 MASWCD dues in the amount of \$1,850.00. It was decided to table any decision until the Board could look into the accomplishments of the MASWCD over the past few years and review it at the next Board meeting. Knutson will e-mail Christenson and Larson with the MASWCD's web site for their review.

WesMin RC&D Dues—Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Christenson to not pay the 2008 WesMin RC&D dues in the amount of \$400.00. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.
5. **State Cost-Share Final Financial Report for FY2006**—Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to approve the 2006 State Cost-Share Final Financial Report subject to audit. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried. Knutson will forward the report to Pete Waller, BWSR.
6. **Request from Area II Envirothon**—Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Christenson to approve payment to the Area II Envirothon in the amount of \$150.00 of which \$50.00 is to go towards the Jr. Envirothon and \$100.00 to the Sr. Envirothon. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.
7. **2008 Annual Plan of Work**—Copies of the last years plan were handed out for Board members to review and it will be discussed at the February meeting
8. **Designate Depository for District Funds**—Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to continue with the checking and savings accounts at Bank of the West in Elbow Lake and to continue to shop around when purchasing a certificate of deposit for the best interest rate as they mature. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

New Business: (continued)

- 9. Mileage Rates & Supervisor Compensation Rates**—Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to approve the IRS mileage rates for 2008 at \$.505/mile and continue to pay supervisor compensation at a rate of \$75.00/day (the maximum). Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Ayres, Mosburg and Gulbrandson left the meeting.

- 10. Review Personnel Evaluations**—Montonye had reviewed Olson's and Knutson's personnel evaluations and rated them to be doing excellent work. Montonye's evaluation was completed by Myron and was also found to be doing excellent work.
- 11. Review Employee Salaries**—Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson to give all employees a 3% salary increase. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Christenson to pay the bills for 2007 year-end #10919 - #10937 and the bills #10938 - #10945 and all debit card payments for January, 2008. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Ellingson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Next Board Meeting – Thursday, February 28th @ 9:00 a.m.