

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

The Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District held its March regular meeting on Thursday, March 24th, 2008 at the Grant SWCD Office. Supervisors present included: Randy Larson, Arley Ellingson, Ted Myron and Joel Hildebrandt. NRCS staff present included: Drew Mosburg and Brent Gulbrandson. District staff present included: Joe Montonye, Loren Olson and Mary Jo Knutson and Guest: Ken Pederson, East Polk SWCD and current MASWCD Board President.

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made by Hildebrandt, seconded by Ellingson to approve the Secretary's report from the February 28th, 2008 Board meeting as read. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson, Myron and Hildebrandt. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

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

Old Business:

1. **2008 MASWCD Dues**—Guest - Ken Peterson, representing the MASWCD, was present to meet with the Board and Staff to discuss the issue of why the Grant SWCD is not an active member of the MASWCD. After much discussion the Grant SWCD decided to table any decision at this time until we have a full Board to vote on the issue.
2. **Conservation Initiatives**—Much discussion was held on the issue of rising commodity prices and land values and what effects these changes will have on SWCD/NRCS workload, accomplishments and conservation priorities. Priorities for the District will be: maintaining existing buffers, implementing a strip-till/no-till initiative and implementing an intensive nutrient management initiative.
3. **Spring/Summer Tour**—If we do a spring flying tour, Larson, Myron and Ellingson would like to be notified. Also all were in favor of doing a summer tour again.

New Business:

1. **Native Buffer Cost-Share Grant Agreement with BWSR**—Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Myron to approve the Native Buffer Cost-Share Agreement with BWSR in the amount of \$10,000. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson, Myron and Hildebrandt. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.
2. **Report on Area II Meeting**—Larson gave a report on the Area II meeting attended by Knutson, Mosburg and himself.
3. **State Cost-Share Contract – Leroy Thorstad**—Motion was made by Hildebrandt, seconded by Ellingson to approve contract #2208-03 for Leroy Thorstad for a field windbreak in the amount of \$3,500 with cost-sharing not to exceed \$2,625 or 75% of the total eligible cost, which ever is less. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson, Myron and Hildebrandt. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.
4. **Review EQIP Contracts**—Mosburg reported that Grant County had received and spent \$166,635 on nine EQIP contracts and reviewed all of the contracts with the Board. The Board gave Montonye authorization to sign the contracts on behalf of the District.
5. **Committee Reports (Pomme de Terre, Chippewa, WCJPB)**—Hildebrandt attended a Pomme de Terre meeting on the 25th. He reported that Chris Buekens had resigned and his replacement would be starting on April 14th.
6. **Update on Shoreland Zoning Ordinance**—Montonye explained that the planning commission was in the process of updating the shoreland zoning ordinance. They are considering changing the buffer requirements and also reviewing/changing lake classifications. Montonye explained the difference between general development, recreational development and natural environment lakes.

Correspondence:

1. **Barnes-Aastad Annual Meeting**—Barnes-Aastad annual meeting will be held Thursday April 3rd in Morris.
2. **Demographic Information from County SWCD's, WD's & WMO's**—Board discussed and copies were distributed.
3. **BWSR Legislative Report**—Larson read the highlights from the BWSR legislative report for the week ending March 21st, including grant and administration cuts, Watonwan SWCD interim board, native seed/plants and constitutional amendment for conservation funding.

Motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Myron to pay bills #10966 - #10985 and all debit card payments for March, 2008. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson, Myron and Hildebrandt. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Myron, seconded by Ellingson to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Affirmative: Larson, Ellingson, Myron and Hildebrandt. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Next Board Meeting – Thursday, April 24th @ 9:00 a.m.