

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area – TSA 1 Regular Meeting - June 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the RRVCSA-TSA 1 was held at McCollum's Hunting Preserve in Bejou, MN on Tuesday, June 23. Those in attendance were Peter Mead-Becker Manager; Jen Wentz-Becker Assistant; Jim Hest-TSA Engineer; Don Bajumpaa-Wilkin Manager; Ross Aigner-Wilkin Supervisor; Lyle Dittmann-EOT Supervisor; Darren Newville-EOT Manager; Sara Gronfeld-Traverse Manager; Brad Mergens-WOT Manager; Julian Sjostrom-WOT Supervisor; Dave Rinke-Traverse Supervisor; Jeff Haverland-TSA Eng Technician; David Miller-Red Lake Supervisor; Joe Montonye-Grant Manager; Kevin Kassenborg-Clay Manager; Larry Stephens-Grant Supervisor; Ron Thorsrud-Norman Supervisor; Carol Schoff-Clay Supervisor; Jerome Flottesmesch-Becker Supervisor; Scott Balstad-East Polk Supervisor and Brett Arne-BWSR BC.

Call to Order – Chairman Flottesmesch called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes – Wentz reviewed minutes with Board.

Motion (Schoff, Rinke) to approve November 2014 regular meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports – Peter reviewed the P&L Statement from May 2015.

Motion (Dittman, Balstad) to approve May financial statements. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- FY16 Budget with Salary Increases - Mead reviewed proposed numbers on the FY16 Budget. Executive Committee decided to raise incomes of both Jeff and Jim by \$2,000; Mary earned an increase of 5% or \$2,250.
- Shared Services, Joint Exec Committee, January 13. Mead reviewed the minutes.

Motion (Balstad, Dittmann) to approve the January Shared Services Joint Exec Committee meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Executive Committee Meeting, May 19. Flottesmesch announced a title change on the minutes from Budget Committee Meeting to Executive Committee Meeting. He also reviewed the main points of discussion such as TSA 1 and TSA 8 match requirements. Also, the new vehicle for Jim has been suspended for now; survey equipment needs are more of a priority.

Motion (Dittmann, Balstad) to approve the May Executive Committee meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports

Engineer's Report – Jim Hest

- Designed Projects
 - WSCBs: 14 Sites – 69 Total
 - Grade Stabilizations: 2 Sites – 6 Total
 - Streambank Stabilization: 1 Site – 100 Linear Feet
- Surveyed Projects
 - WSCBs: 5 Sites
- Construction Projects

- WSCBs: 3 Sites – 21 Total
- To Be Surveyed
 - WSCBs: 6 Sites
 - Grade Stabilization: 19 Sites

Technician's Report – Jeff Haverland

- Installed 165' rip rap project and one diversion has been staked
- Plans completed:
 - 1 grade stabilization
 - 2 shoreline protections
 - 1 rain garden
 - 3 diversions
 - 46 WSCBs
- 15 WSCBs still need to be designed & surveyed
- 5 shoreline protections and 1 grassed waterway are either not funded or undecided at this time

Shared Services Water Quality Specialist – Mary Steinlicht

- *Recently completed*
 - Traverse county buffer initiative
 - Disturbed and protected maps for Beltrami county
- *On the docket*
 - Phosphorus and lake sensitivity analysis for Hubbard LWP
 - Red Lake county ditch inventory
 - LWP Clearwater county
 - Mayo Creek subwatershed analysis Crow Wing
 - Shoreland Arc Collector maps EOT
 - Training for story maps Crow Wing
- *Starting in the near future*
 - East Polk buffer initiative
 - Grant applications

Election of Officers – Flottesmesch noted that since we won't have another regular meeting of the board until late fall; we need to call for an election of officers.

Motion (Balstad, Rinke) to approve the re-election of the following existing board members: Flottesmesch - Board Chair, Linda Hanson – Vice Chair, Peter Revier – Secretary/Treasurer. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ag Water Quality Certification Program – Mead reviewed the basics of the program. The state has been tasked with expanding the program state-wide. TSA 1 has been asked to host one employee to assist with this effort. Proposed budget is \$234,000 per calendar year to provide assistance. There is no guarantee that this program will have a stable future. The special session is looking to add and fund these positions within two months.

The money would provide for one Program Manager and the remaining will go back to the Districts to participate in the program.

Don Bajumpaa commented on the TSA hiring a Program Manager. He made several points against the program. He would like to have more discussion of District Managers in our area. Maybe create a technical committee to discuss objections and other possibilities.

Brad Mergens commented on his experience being part of the pilot program. They've had individual meetings with landowners trying to get them certified under future regulations. The decision needs to come back to local boards and not be a central component of the TSA.

Don added that the model is very similar to what MDA has in place with Stearns County. MDAs perspective is making this easy by placing the responsibility on our TSAs.

Individual contribution agreements have gone down this same path. MDA is offering this program as in its place.

One person working with all Districts is not where we want our TSA. One person offering certification and making a proposal to the legislature in St. Paul is a conflict of interest. The agreement is between the landowner and MDA.

Motion (Dittmann, Schoff) to postpone the item until District Managers have the opportunity to decide on a proposal for the TSA Board. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Lease Rental Agreements – agreements with Jeff and Jim for reimbursement of office space used in their homes. Rates were not changed and remain \$150 per month, but we are hoping to extend the agreement for an extra year. Lease agreements will now extend through June 30, 2017.

Motion (Balstad, Sjostrom) to approve the rental agreements for both Jeff Haverland and Jim Hest and for the new period of time. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other – it's possible we have Clean Water funds available for additional technology purchases. We will discuss this further at the next regular board meeting prior to the MASWCD conference in December.

Motion (Dittman, Schoff) to adjourn meeting at 3:26 p.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.