

**Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board Meeting
MINUTES
December 12, 2014
USDA-ARS Soils Lab, Morris**

Board members present: Keith Swanson, Rod Wenstrom, John Lindquist, Jerry Johnson, Paul Groneberg, Joe Fox, Walt Wulff, Paul Barsness, Dave Lonergan, Jeanne Ennen, Clint Schuerman.

Others present: Chris Staebler & Matt Solemsaas, Stevens SWCD; Greg Lillemon, TAC representative; Jared House, Watershed Coordinator; Pete Waller, BWSR.

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

- I. Joe Fox moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Second by Walt Wulff. Passed unanimously.
- II. The minutes from the past meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Jerry Johnson and second by Paul Groneberg.
- III. Jeanne Ennen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by John Lindquist and all members voting aye, the motion passed. Paul Barsness moved to approve the bills to pay. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.
- IV. Grant Updates
 - a. 2012 Clean Water Fund Grant
 - i. Pete Waller gave an overview of the purpose and scope of the BWSR grant verifications. The grant verification of all fiscal year 2012 Stevens County grants, including the PDTRA board's grants, has been completed. No significant findings were noted. Three findings and observations were made as to items that can be improved upon in the future. Jared presented a draft of the corrective action plan that is required as a result of the findings from the verification. Rod Wenstrom moved to approve the corrective action plan for submission to BWSR. Second by Jeanne Ennen. Passed unanimously.
 - ii. The 2012 Clean Water Fund grant expires at the end of 2014. Jared has been preparing the final reporting that's required in eLink. There is a small amount of funding (\$6524) that was unspent and he has been working with Pete to arrange for this to be spent on hourly overages from the districts. He will have the final report ready for approval at the January meeting.
 - b. Jared gave a 2013 Clean Water fund grant update. This grant goes through the end of 2015.
 - c. Jared gave a 2014 Clean Water fund grant update. Some hours are being spent against the grant and a portion of the project funding has already been encumbered.
 - d. The 2013 Clean Water Partnership Grant
 - i. There is some concern from the TAC on where to obtain the match funding required for this grant. If the septic loan program is not as successful as projected, some of the match funding is uncertain. There is about \$71,000 in match accounted for at this time. Jared is working with the different counties on obtaining further match. The TAC does not want to move forward with funding any of the buffer incentives using this money until the match is secured. Jared plans to have the match secured by June so there is enough time to process perpetual easements that can utilize the project funding.

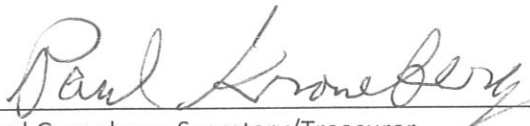
- e. The 2014 Federal 319 work plan is being developed. It was applied for with the intention of matching our 2015 Clean Water Fund grant, which we will not know whether we receive until January. Because of the timeline with the CWF grant, the execution of this 319 grant will be delayed until March 1, 2015.
- V. Jared and Greg gave a TAC update. DNR representatives gave the TAC a presentation on their project to restore the historical flow of the Pomme de Terre River into the Lac qui Parle instead of Marsh Lake. Brad Mergens will be the TAC chair next year. Several counties are getting AIS grant funding. They are developing plans now and looking into funding that would reimburse the JPB for time the watershed coordinator spends on outreach.
- VI. Jared gave a written Coordinator Report. He is working with Karen Terry on a Watershed Academy curriculum for 2015. There are three sessions of the academy tentatively set for Elbow Lake, Morris and Appleton. He's also considering other educational events for adults and youth in the watershed. He recently attended the BWSR Academy and the MAWD convention as well.
- VII. Because of the ACA, the current employment policy requires revision to comply with that going forward into 2015. Jared will look into options for awarding the health care stipend pre-taxed through a qualifying plan. For the time being, the stipend must be taxed, and this is how Jared's stipend is being processed at this time, so currently, the board should be in compliance with the ACA.
- VIII. Pete reported that the BWSR board has openings if anyone is interested in serving. This winter, there will be a significant wetland easement program sign-up. Please watch for more details about this. The FY2015 Clean Water Fund grants will be awarded at the January 2015 BWSR board meeting.

Chair Swanson reported that Paul Wymar, staff at the Chippewa River Watershed Project, has now taken a position with MPCA and will be a project specialist in our area,. He also thanked Walt Wulff for his service & congratulated him on his retirement from the Big Stone board of commissioners. The board extended their condolences to Jared on the loss of his father. The board expressed interest in seeing the presentation on the Marsh Lake project at the next meeting.

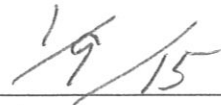
- IX. The next meeting will be held on January 9 at 9:30 a.m. Jared's annual review will be conducted in February and the personnel committee will meeting prior.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Groneberg, Secretary/Treasurer



Date