

Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board Meeting
MINUTES
February 13, 2015
USDA-ARS Soils Lab, Morris

Board members present: Keith Swanson, Rod Wenstrom, John Lindquist, Joe Fox, Dave Lonergan, Paul Barsness, Mike Jorgenson.

Others present: Emily Siira, DNR; Chris Staebler & Matt Solemsaas, Stevens SWCD; Brad Mergens, Joe Montonye, TAC representatives; Jared House, Watershed Coordinator; Paul Wymar, MPCA; Jeff Hrubes, BWSR; Blayne Johnson, Big Stone SWCD; Larry Mahoney.

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

- I. Paul Barsness moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.
- II. The minutes from the past meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by John Lindquist and second by Dave Lonergan.
- III. The personnel committee met at 8:30 to conduct the annual staff review for Jared House. The committee recommends ending Jared's probationary period. They also recommend an increase in Jared's health insurance stipend to \$750/month. Their final recommendation is a wage increase to \$20 per hour. Jared has also requested a compressed work schedule and the committee recommends allowing for this. Joe Fox moved to approve these recommendations. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.
- IV. Financial Matters
 - A. Barsness moved to approve the corrected 12/31/14 Treasurer's Report. Second by Lonergan. Passed unanimously. Lingquist moved to approve the 1-31-15 Treasurer's Report. Second by Barsness. Passed unanimously.
 - B. Barsness moved to approve the following bills to pay. Second by Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

a) Willie's Super Valu	Meeting expenses	14.36
b) Stevens County Highway	Gas	106.91
c) Jared House	Meals at meetings	24.75
d) Grant County Herald	Legal Meeting notice	13.91
 - C. Staebler also presented a draft 2014 budget vs actual summary. Formal financial statements should be completed and ready for approval at the next meeting.
- V. Grant Updates
 - A. Jared presented the 2012 CWF grant closeout report, summarizing funding spent and pollution reductions achieved.
 - B. The 2013 CWF will close at the end of this year. Funding will need to be spent prior to 12/31/15 or it will be returned to BWSR.
 - C. The 2014 CWF will close at the end of 2016. Only half our request was granted for this fiscal year, so we should not have any issues with spending this funding prior to that.
 - D. The 2013 Clean Water Partnership change order is in process now to allow for some different match funding to replace septic loan program funding. There have been dates set for three separate sessions of a Watershed Academy, primarily targeting school teachers and lake associations. Another newsletter will go out to Otter Tail County residents in the spring regarding the septic loan program.

- E. The work plan for the federal 319 grant is in draft at this time. This grant is tied to the 2015 CWF grant we have been awarded.
 - F. We were granted full funding request of \$387,144. Jared outlined the funding breakdown. Grant work plans will be due in March with grant execution date to follow.
- VI. Jeff Hrubes gave a summary of the 2015 Soil Erosion Drainage Law Compliance grant program. The TAC committee recommends the JPB apply for this grant, if counties and SWCDs involved are interested. Applications will be ranked and awarded after April 3. Mike Jorgenson moved to support member counties applying for this grant and offer the Pomme de Terre River Association's verbal and technical support when feasible. Joe Fox seconded. Passed unanimously.
- VII. Brad Mergens presented a TAC update. Jared will be offering a mandatory training to SWCD and county staff that work on PDTRA grants to inform them of reporting requirements for the grants. They have been in discussion with BWSR and MCIT regarding contracts between SWCDs and the JPB that spell out the roles of each in project contract administration.
- VIII. Jared gave a verbal Coordinator's Report. He has been working on the Watershed Academy curriculum, year-end reporting for BWSR grants, organizing the training session for JPB grant funding recipients, and meeting with SWCDs and county personnel to discuss the SEDLC grant. He will continue working on the document training, the Watershed Academy, and the SEDLC meetings and will also be learning how to use Karen Terry/University of Minnesota Extension's stream model.
- IX. Agency Reports
- A. Emily Siira reported for the DNR on recent projects in her work area. Mike Jorgenson moved to approve a partnership between the JPB and the DNR for the acquisition of DNR interagency funding for the Drywood Creek Dam removal and shoreline restoration project. Rod Wenstrom seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - B. Paul Wymar will be our MPCA Program Coordinator going forward.
 - C. Jeff Hrubes reported on legislative activity related to BWSR. He described some major staff changes coming within BWSR throughout the state. He thanked the board for their in-depth discussion on the SEDLC grant program.
- X. The slideshow of the 2014 aerial tour is tabled until the next meeting.
- XI. The next meeting will be March 13, 9:30 a.m. at the ARS Soils Lab.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul Groneberg, Secretary/Treasurer

3/13/15
Date