

**Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board Meeting
MINUTES
September 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.

Others present: Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD; Greg Lillemon, TAC representative; Jared House, Watershed Coordinator.


Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- I. Walf Wulff moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Dave Lonergan. Passed unanimously.
- II. The minutes from the past meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Joe Fox and second by Jerry Johnson.
- III. Jared gave a presentation regarding matching grant funds for the federal 319 grant.
- IV. John Lindquist moved to accept the verbal Treasurer's Report, second by Paul Barsness and all members voting aye, the motion passed. There is a balance of \$296,303.76 in the checking account after checks written of \$12,704.67 for payroll, meeting expenses, vehicle expenses, administrative expenses to Stevens SWCD and project cost share reimbursements. Rod Wenstrom moved to approve two bills to pay for meeting expenses of \$23.15 and vehicle expenses of \$41.56. Second by Paul Groneberg and all members voting aye, the motion passed. Written report will be emailed to board members for their information.
- V. Grant Updates
 - a. There is just a small amount of funding to be paid out of the 2012 CWF grant, including some project cost share for Grant SWCD and some technical assistance funding to Stevens SWCD. All funding is allocated to be spent prior to the end of the grant period.
 - b. Project development and technical assistance funding has been spent by most counties for the 2013 CWF grant.
 - c. Districts are starting to allocate funding for projects funded through the 2014 CWF grant.
 - d. Jared spoke to the board about the perpetual easement funding we received through the 2013 Clean Water Partnership grant. The TAC recommends the JPB approve individual SWCDs to purchase perpetual easements with this funding, in addition to providing incentives on permanent easements. Projects that were not funded through the RIM program could be put into easements by the SWCDs instead, allowing this funding to be used. The easement process for RIM takes time and may not allow for this funding to be spent within the grant period. If counties draw up their own easements, the time frame will be shorter and allow for this funding to be used within the grant period. Jerry Johnson moved to table this issue until the next meeting. Second by Jeanne Ennen. Passed unanimously. Please bring this to your individual SWCDs for discussion.

- e. The work plan and tentative budget were submitted to the MPCA for the 2014 federal 319 grant. There is no funding included for project development and technical assistance. The hope is to use 2015 Clean Water Funding for this.
- VI. Future Funding Opportunities
- a. The 2015 CWF grant application is due later this month. This application will include funding for technical assistance and project development to work on projects funded by the 2014 CWF grant. It would also fund the dam removal project on Drywood Creek that has been considered recently. Jerry Johnson moved to approve the submission of the 2015 CWF application. Second by John Lindquist. Passed unanimously.
- VII. Jared is working on getting agency representatives together for a round-table discussion of protecting roadside and county ditch buffers. Joe Montonye and Jared attended the MN River Congress, an informal Q&A meeting in partnership with CURE. To them it seemed like most attendees were not in favor of the congress, which seems similar to the MN River Board, which was disbanded. Whether or not a group like this could be effective was in question. Joe Hauger resigned from the MPCA so we will be getting another grant contact. Pete Fastner (St Paul) is the interim contact. Greg mentioned the low interest loan program. There is still time to expend this grant funding, but there have not been many loans applied for at this time. Remember to continue to promote this program within the counties involved in the grant. To that end, another newsletter will be sent to residents in the watershed within West Otter Tail County, in which there was a recent abatement.
- VIII. Jared presented a written Coordinator's Report. He set up displays at the Swift and Stevens County fairs. He promoted the septic loan program and spoke to people about the water sampling/runoff display. He attended a DNR stream habitat seminar. He presented to a UMM environmental studies class about the history of the watershed and how interns could work within the watershed. He is looking at working with TSAs that may be able to help us map the watershed in order to prioritize, target and measure projects. Jared will be giving a water quality presentation to the 5th graders at the Stevens & Pope Conservation Day in early October.
- IX. No Agency Reports
- X. The next meeting will be held on October 3 at 9:00 a.m.
- XI. Other: The dairy construction project in Stevens County Jeanne Ennen informed the group of last month was discontinued when it was determined they would have been required to complete an EAS.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul Groneberg, Secretary/Treasurer


Date