

## BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held June 17, 2009, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Langseth. Present were: Paul Langseth, Rick Nelsen, Lynn Darling, Jim Knips and Ken Wolf. Also present were: Jane Steffl, Admin. Coord; Ed Lenz, Tech. Coord.; Stephanie McLain, D.C.; Gary Watson A.C.; Jamie Thomazin, RC&D and Norm Gallagher, Nobles Co. Comm.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the May 20, 2009, regular meeting were reviewed. Darling moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable were presented and reviewed. Nelsen moved to approve the reports, subject to audit, in the amount of 19,751.41. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**STATE COST-SHARE:** Darling moved to approve the following FY2008 State Cost-Share payment:

<b>2008-9</b>	<b>Gene Metz</b>	<b>Grassed Waterway</b>	<b>\$ 8,964.06</b>
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Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Knips moved to approve the following FY2009 State Cost-Share payments:

<b>2009-1</b>	<b>Cyril Henning</b>	<b>Grassed Waterway</b>	<b>10,293.75</b>
<b>2009-6</b>	<b>Keith Sieve</b>	<b>Farmstead Windbreak</b>	<b>699.19</b>
<b>2009-7</b>	<b>Brian Ackerman</b>	<b>Farmstead Windbreak</b>	<b>661.50</b>
<b>2009-9</b>	<b>Doug Clarke</b>	<b>Farmstead Windbreak</b>	<b>673.13</b>
<b>2009-10</b>	<b>Derek Erlandson</b>	<b>Farmstead Windbreak</b>	<b>378.00</b>
<b>2009-11</b>	<b>Brad Grimmus</b>	<b>Farmstead Windbreak</b>	<b>795.00</b>
<b>2009-13</b>	<b>Brian Knips</b>	<b>Farmstead Windbreak</b>	<b><u>1,069.31</u></b>
			<b>\$14,569.88</b>

Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**SWCD LOCAL COST-SHARE:** Darling moved to approve the following new contract:

<b>SWCD-23</b>	<b>Mark Lenz</b>	<b>Grassed Waterway</b>	<b>\$ 561.25</b>
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Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**NRCS Area Office Report** – Gary Watson, A.C. reported on the current NRCS budget and that the Grassland Reserve Program and Conservation Security Programs should both be starting up within the next month. Gary stated he plans to attend the next Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed board meeting to discuss the TA funding portion of the new Project Agreement. Mr. Watson also reviewed figures of the latest EQIP sign-up

in Nobles County and reported Bill Hunt, State Conservationist, will be in Nobles County in September to tour the K-LR Watershed Project.

**RC&D Report** – Jamie Thomazin, Acting RC&D Coordinator, reported that \$20,000 in projects were completed in the Coteau des Prairie RC&D. He would like pictures sent to him of the raingarden projects in Nobles County that were funded with RC&D funding. He also said there is no new funding available and no full time coordinator appointed, at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The K-LR PL566 Program was reviewed with the board. The KLR-Joint Powers Board met June 9<sup>th</sup> and signed the \$200,000.00 project agreement and approved the 2009 KLR Average Cost List and both documents were sent to the NRCS State office for their approval. The revised 2009 K-LR Watershed/Nobles SWCD contract was not signed at the last K-LR board meeting. The KLR Board would like additional information before they enter into the contract. They would like the NRCS and the Nobles SWCD to attend their next meeting, June 18<sup>th</sup> in Adrian.

The 2009 District Tree Program was discussed. Jane reviewed the program report, showing the totals in each of the trees and shrubs, tree planter and tree mats categories. The total tree revenue was about \$4,500.00 over what was budgeted for 2009. Ed reported that revenue was higher than expected this year, however the total tree number were half of what they were in 2008. Estimating tree numbers every year is getting more difficult due to fewer programs and interested landowners.

The WCA Appeals and Restorations were discussed. Ed reported 3 restoration order will be issued for Beckmann, Buntjer and Gene Metz. DNR did a fly over of Nobles and Rock counties. Next month we need a public hearing for appeals by Dave Schutte and Jim Lenz. Lenz suggested July 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. Nelsen moved to set the public hearing for July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR REPORT:** Jane reported she has received the MASWCD District Capacity and Outstanding Conservationist Awards applications for the next State Convention. The board discussed the Outstanding Conservationist Award and decided not to enter a farmer for the award this year. The District Capacity application will be reviewed at the July Board meeting. The deadline for the Capacity award is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The deadline for submitting MASWCD resolutions is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

The SWCD Supervisor and Employee Orientation & Refresher Conference will be held July 14-15<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud with a registration fee of \$80 for the two days. The conference is designed for new supervisors or new employees, but could be a refresher for others.

There are presently 275 students from Nobles County planning to attend the Environmental Fair in Marshall, on September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mary has been organizing the Area Learning Tours in Worthington and Adrian scheduled for September 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>. Schools from Worthington, St. Mary's, Worthington Christian, Adrian and Ellsworth all plan to attend. There will be presenters from DNR and the Prairie Ecology bus will be on site as part of the tours.

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR REPORT:** Ed reported the Farmbill Assistance Grant was applied for. Tabor requested goals specifically written down for all applicants, the status of the position is questionable.

**D.C. REPORT:** Stephanie McLain, D.C., reported the EQIP program has obligated 6 contracts for a total of \$74,102.00 including three waterways, terraces and two nutrient management initiatives. The WHIP program has had one application to obligate to a contract. The WRP program has one application that has been sent to the State Office and is probably the first application Nobles County has had.

The RC&D program has one application from the Hospice Cottage looking for assistance to beautify the area and control erosion. The total cost of the project is \$3,475.00 of which the RC&D application will be for \$1,500.00 of the costs and \$900.00 will be funded through the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed, and the remaining \$1,075.00 from local contributors. Darling moved to approve the Hospice Cottage RC&D

application for \$1,500.00. Wolf seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Lake Bella Dam inspection was completed by an on-site inspection with staff and board members from the O-O Watershed, Brad Harberts and Stephanie.

**NEW BUSINESS: The Heron Lake Watershed District is requesting an extension of their** Rock Inlet Grant. They are requesting that the Nobles SWCD approve \$3,600.00 for 25% cost-share to install rock inlets outside of the Heron Lake Watershed. Darling moved to approve the \$3,600 for extension of the Rock Inlet Agreement Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee, Nelsen and Langseth, met with District staff on June 4<sup>th</sup>, to discuss restructuring job descriptions, due to increase workload from the contract with the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed. Because the K-LR Watershed was not able to approve the contract with the SWCD at their last meeting, plans to revise job descriptions were discussed with the Personnel Committee, but no decisions were made.

There will be an Area V MASWCD meeting tomorrow in Pipestone and supervisors were encouraged to attend.

The next regular board meeting will be held July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting. Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Langseth, Nelsen, Darling, Knips, and Wolf. Opposed: None. Meeting adjourned.

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Lynn Darling, Secretary