

Minutes
Elk River Watershed Association Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2008
Palmer Township Hall

Attendance: Mark Basiletti, Tiffany Babich, Leander Schlosser, Doug Manthei, Katie Evans, Leonard Popp, Joe Jordan, Terry Polsfuss, John Riebel, Jason Weirnerman

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Terry Polsfuss, Chair.

1. Review & Approval of Agenda

Katie Evans requested the removal of item 5) 319 grant 5.2) Richard Robak- New Contract number 3192-B26. Mark Basiletti added agenda items under 5) 319 grant; new 5.2) update on 319 funds and 5.6) update on Weed ID Guide. Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve the agenda with the above removal and additions. Joe Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

2. Review & Approval of the February 25, 2008 meeting minutes

Leander Scholsser made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 ERWS meeting. Joe Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

3. Introduce Watershed Coordinator

Mark Basiletti introduced Tiffany Babich as the Watershed Coordinator for the Elk River Watershed. Mark affirmed that Tiffany began working for the Sherburne SWCD on May 2nd, 2008. Tiffany stated that she is very enthused to be a part of the ERWSA.

4. Fund Balance Report

Mark Basiletti distributed the fund balance report and reviewed it. Mark stated that the current 319 balance is negative \$696.92 although \$2,943.75 has been requested from the MPCA leaving the 319 balance at \$2,246.83. Mark also covered the balance by category. Leander Scholsser made a motion to approve the fund balance report as distributed. Joe Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5. 319 Grant

5.1 New Contract, 3192-B24, Brian Kaschmitter 1 Aq BMP Test Plot (\$150)

Katie Evans stated that Brian would like to do one test plot this year. The plot will compare two different rates of dairy manure. The BMP plot received 23,000 gallons per acre of liquid dairy manure that was not incorporated, and the comparison plot received 7,400 gallons per acre of liquid dairy manure that was not incorporated. Both plots will be zone-tilled and both will receive 175 pounds of 17-10-30. Leander Scholsser, and in turn the entire board, questioned the extreme application rate difference. Kate stated that she would ask Mike McMillin this question and inform the board at the next meeting. Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve contract 3192-B24 in the amount of \$150 for test plot incentive. Joe Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5.2 319 Grant status if contract requests 3192-B25, 3192-B18 and 3192-B19 are approved- added to agenda

Mark Basiletti advised the board that if the remaining three requests are approved they would total \$21,508. He stated that the ERSW does not have this amount of money at this time. Mark stated that if all requests are approved today, the money will take two to three weeks to be reimbursed by the County board. In that time period the ERWS is to receive \$12,415 from the MPCA; this money together with the County money will bring the balance back into the positive. Marks stated that he spoke with the County board and they would need to approve the action to have a negative balance for two to three weeks. Another option brought up was that the requests could be approved and Benton SWCD

could keep the vouchers until the money is disbursed. Mark stated that the latest that the money would be disbursed is the first week in July and this is a circumstance that is subject to happening again. Mark also stated that it is unusual to have this high amount of requests in one board meeting. Leander Scholsser remarked that the board could approve the requests subject to the ERWS having the money. Everyone agreed on this statement.

5.3 New Contract, 3192-B25, Walt Molitor Riparian Pasture Filter Strip (\$5,700)

Katie Evans informed the board that Walt Molitor has a pasture that contains riparian areas that he would like to exclude livestock from by retiring it from pasture and enrolling the land into an ERWSA Riparian Pasture contract: The pasture contains a stream that will be buffered at the maximum 120 feet. The total area of pasture to be enrolled is 15.0 acres. Using the incentive payment rate of \$380.00 per acre, this contract would total \$5,700.00 for a 10 year contract. This pasture is normally stocked with between 20-25 beef cow/calf pairs throughout the grazing season. Several board members were concerned that there would be no fence to protect the waterway. Joe Jordan remarked that if in the future Walt was to put cattle into the field he would have to put a fence up or pay the money back. Katie assured the board that there will be no grazing in this pasture, it is retired. John Riebel made a motion to approve contract 3192-B25 in the amount of \$5,700 for Riparian Pasture Filter Strip incentive. Joe Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5.4 Payment request, 3192-B18, Bromenschenkel Brothers, \$10,526.00

Katie Evans informed the board that the Bromenschenkel Brothers planned to fence approximately 1.4 acres more than was actually done. She stated that the fence is still beyond the recommended setback from wetlands. The original contract was to be \$11,058 and with the exclusion of 1.4 acres from original estimate the contract totals \$10,526. John Riebel made a motion to approve payment request 3192-B18 in the amount of \$10,526.00. Leander Scholsser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5.5 Payment request, 3192-B19, Bromenschenkel Brothers, \$5,282.00

Katie Evans stated that this request is to fully exclude livestock from wetland area. Leander Scholsser made a motion to approve payment request, 3192-B19 in the amount of \$5,282.00. Joe Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5.5 Update on Weed ID Booklet

Mark Basiletti stated that in addition to the 550 copies of the weed id booklet, an additional 250 booklets were purchased to bring the print price closer to the \$5.00/unit price originally hoped for. Thus, a total of 800 copies have been purchased for a price of \$5.83 per unit for a total price of \$3,208.00. The ERWSA has agreed to pay \$1,500.00 towards the total price. Those people enrolled or enrolling in a shoreland program will receive a weed ID for no cost (as paid by the ERWSA). Discussion was held regarding where the additional money to cover costs will come from. Mark expressed that the remaining purchase amount will be reimbursed by the sale of 150 books to be purchased by U of M Extension Service at \$5.83/book and the sale of additional books to those interested at \$5.00/book. The district will pay for the additional money upfront and the money will come in slowly. Also, Mark stated that the Extension Service requested a few minor changes to the document.

6. Report on TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load study) contract.

Tiffany Babich reported on the TMDL contract status. Tiffany stated that the final work plan was delivered to the St. Paul MPCA offices on May 12th, 2008. She informed the board that conversations

with the MPCA indicate that ERWS should expect a signed contract by the end of May. The board discussed the need to have a separate meeting in which the three phases of the TMDL could be presented. The board concluded that they would like a presentation discussing the phases and their products. County boards may also be invited to this meeting. Tiffany agreed to set up this meeting.

Joe Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Leonard Scholsser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Babich, Sherburne SWCD