



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
HOLIDAY INN-NORTH
2540 NORTH CLEVELAND AVENUE
ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 28, 1990

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| | 2. Adopt Agenda |
| | 3. Approval of Minutes of January 24, 1990 |
| | 4. Reports |
| | ● Chairman's Report - Donald Ogaard |
| | ● Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz |
| | ● EQB/Water Resources Committee Report - Loni Kemp |
| 9:30 a.m. | 5. Recommendations for Environmental Agriculturalist Program Proposals - Pat Bloomgren |
| 10:30 a.m. | 6. Northwest Administrative Region Report - Dick Ness |
| 11:00 a.m. | 7. Metro Local Water Plans - Bruce Sandstrom |
| | ● Forest Lake WMO - for approval |
| 11:15 a.m. | ● Minnesota River Nonpoint Source reduction goal and impact on local water mangement plans - Curt Sparks, MPCA |
| 11:30 a.m. | 8. Local Water Plan Grants - Greg Larson |
| | ● Policy to process planning grants |
| | ● Rule development update |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | 9. 110B Comprehensive Local Water Plans - Doug Thomas |
| | ● Douglas County - for approval - Jim Van Alstine, consultant |
| 1:30 p.m. | ● 15 Red River Valley County plans - for approval |
| | - Lance Yohe, The International Coalition |
| | - Arvid Thompson, Chair, 15 County Joint Powers Board |
| 2:30 p.m. | ● Brown County - for approval |

2:50 p.m.

- Root/Zumbro Rivers - Mower, Rice, and Goodhue County - for approval
 - Mary Ho, Rice County
 - Myrna Halbach, Goodhue County
 - Pam Hunt, Water Plan Coordinator

3:45 p.m.

- Nobles County - for overview
 - Mel Ruppert, County Water Plan Coordinator

10. Proposed Boise de Sioux Watershed District
Boundary Change - Jim Birkholz

4:00 p.m.

Adjourn



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DATE: February 21, 1990
TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Members, Staff, and Advisors
FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director
SUBJECT: February 28, 1990 Board Meeting

Bill

Enclosed is the agenda and relevant information for the February 28th BWSR meeting. Please note that the meeting location will again be at the Holiday Inn-Roseville, 2540 North Cleveland Avenue, I-35W exit 24, see attached map. Board members wishing to make room reservations at the Holiday Inn-Roseville can call (612)636-4567. Please note the following regarding agenda items:

- Environmental Agriculturalist Program Proposals. Pat Bloomgren has been leading the staff effort to evaluate and prioritize proposals. Several outside parties have been consulted for this process. In the Board packet you will find information relevant to the rating system and summaries of all the projects for your review prior to the meeting. The law requires the Board to award contracts following review by the Legislative Water Commission. Action is requested at the Board meeting to forward the proposals to the Legislative Water Commission for their review.
- Metropolitan Local Water Plans. Enclosed are draft minutes from the last Dispute Resolution Committee meeting regarding the Forest Lake WMO Plan. The WMO has adjusted its plan based on negotiations with the DRC. Staff has prepared to recommend approval of the plan at the meeting. Also to be presented is initial information regarding the relationship between local water plans and recommended nonpoint source reductions for the Minnesota River. Curt Sparks from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will make an initial briefing for the Board. This topic due to time limitations will have to be expanded on at the March Board meeting.

Board Members, Staff, and Advisors
February 21, 1990
Page Two

- Local Water Plan Grants. As additional counties come on line for 110B water planning, we are receiving additional requests for planning grants. To expedite the processing of grants, staff will be requesting a resolution from the Board authorizing processing of 110B planning grants as soon as the county requests to participate. Staff would continue to insure that all counties meet grant requirements by submitting the proper form, a budget, and a copy of the county board resolution as required by earlier Board action. Also on the agenda is a rule development update. Due to the high number of 110B plans on the agenda, this item will be limited to a status briefing with copies of the most current draft. Staff has been working to incorporate comments made at the last Board meeting into the draft.
- 110B Comprehensive Local Water Plans. This will probably be our busiest Board meeting for the approval of 110B plans. 21 plans have progressed to the point where they are ready for final approval by the Board. We will take the entire afternoon of the Board meeting for the review of plans. Staff has organized briefings and arranged for local representatives from water planning groups and counties to be at the Board meeting. Given the extraordinary number of plans which require approval we have constructed the agenda to allow ample time for discussion and questions of local representatives. There are more plans than we would normally wish to deal with at one meeting but if all plans meet your approval, we will conclude the meeting with 25 110B plans in the implementation phase!
- Proposed Bois de Sioux Watershed District Boundary Change. Enclosed is a memo and related information from Mel Sinn regarding some proposed boundary changes on the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. I believe the information is self explanatory. It requires approval of the Board. A more detailed map will be available at the Board meeting.

Please call Chairman Ogaard or myself if you have agenda changes or require additional information. I'll see you at the Holiday Inn in Roseville on February 28th!

JB:mja
Enc.



Jim
KANDIYOHI COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

409-19th Ave. S.W., Route 3
Willmar, Minnesota 56201
Telephone (612) 235-3906

MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

February 16, 1990

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

Donald H. Ogaard, Chairman
Board of Water and Soil Resources
705 W. 5th St.
Ada, MN 56510

Dear Chairman Ogaard,

The Kandiyohi SWCD Board of Supervisors would like to extend an invitation to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to have their spring or fall meeting and a tour in Kandiyohi County. Sites chosen for the tour would be best viewed in the fall, however, if this doesn't work into your schedule, feel welcome to come in the spring

We will look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

John Williamson
Chairman, Kandiyohi SWCD

JW/mo

cc Jim Birkholz, Executive Director, BWSR



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February 20, 1990

TO: Jim Birkholz, Director
FROM: *Pat Bloomgren*
Pat Bloomgren, Assistant Director
SUBJECT: Environmental Agriculturalist Education
Program Status

Attached is a packet of materials pertinent to the environmental agriculturalist education program. A copy of this packet should be included in the Board mailing for their February meeting.

Contents of Packet:

1. Summary of Proposals Received.
I prepared this summary based upon a reading of the proposals in the order in which they were received. It is provided solely for information purposes and does not reflect any decisions regarding recommendation for funding.
2. The Score Sheet (legal size goldenrod).
Used by each reviewer to evaluate each proposal.
3. The Evaluation Profile.
Used by each reviewer as a guide to what the numerical score should mean for each question.

Process of Review:

A technical review panel was established and met on January 19. Panel members are Greg Larson (BWSR), Gary Fandrei (MPCA), Rick Gauger (MDA), Bob Henry (retired farmer), & John Hall (Michael Field's Institute of Agriculture in E. Troy, Wisconsin). The review panel was to meet on February 16 to make final recommendations for funding but weather and illness have forced us to delay till January 23.

Final review panel recommendations will be made to the Board at the February 28 meeting. There will be opportunity for questions and answers and discussion with the Board relating to those recommendations. After Board action, we will request a meeting of the Legislative Water Commission for their review.

**Summary of Proposals
for the
Environmental Agriculturalist Program**

Note: summaries were prepared by BWSR staff. Proposals are summarized in the order they were received. The dollar amount listed is the amount requested through this program. In most cases, there is additional funding from other sources.

101. Nobles SWCD, SCS & Minnesota Extension Service. Demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of no-till drilling soybeans into corn stubble. Conventional, mulch, and no-till soybean planting methods will be compared in adjacent plots. \$4,475.00.

102. Lyon SWCD, Co. Extension Office & Co. Environmental Office. To employ a person who will organize and work closely with small groups of farmers in each of the twenty Lyon County townships to teach and promote integrated pest management and sustainable agriculture concepts. \$32,887.00.

103. Wright SWCD. Develop a team of approximately 20 cooperators who have active animal feedlots. To work with this team and evaluate their specific feedlot problems and alternative solutions. To follow up with presentation of the results through meetings with all cooperators, newspaper articles, radio shows. \$8,415.00.

104. Wright SWCD. To develop a greater awareness of the seriousness of nitrate contamination, to promote environmentally safe farming practices and to demonstrate the importance of annual well water testing. Results will be promoted through use of pamphlets, field days, newspaper articles, radio shows. \$15,889.50.

105. Winona SWCD. To educate and inform agricultural producers on the use of cover crops in reducing soil erosion, protecting groundwater quality, improving soil structure, providing wildlife forage, cutting the use of chemical inputs and improving profitability. \$16,100.00.

106. Faribault SWCD. To create a local data bank on chemical use and farm profitability. A local demonstration site will be used for an education program; results will be presented in four symposium in county plus a major demonstration at the county fair. \$22,600.00.

107. Prairie Cluster of Minnesota Extension Service (Douglas, Pope, Grant, Stevens & Traverse Counties). To hire an environmental education specialist to implement certain elements of 1990 work plan on water quality. Specific targets will be agricultural producers and private well users. \$25,000.00.

108. Marshall & West Polk SWCDs. To educate agricultural producers on several strategies of residue management to reduce soil erosion from the Red River Valley and subsequently improve water quality. \$7,900.00.

109. Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services. This proposal expands work being done on Clean Water Partnership program and will target work with producers to tie water quality impacts and land management activities and to assess how these relationships vary with differing geology in various parts

of the area. \$6,000.00.

110. Goodhue SWCD, SCS, Minnesota Extension Service. To study actual agricultural operations through producer audits in order to analyze and develop feasible, practical, and adaptive models. "Audits" will define the benchmark for a variety of operations ranging from low to high input. These models will be used to provide a selection of alternative production practices and management systems which will be promoted through case histories, fact sheets, management guides. \$41,410.00.

111. Red Lake Watershed District, UM-Crookston (and Northwest Experiment Station) and the International Coalition for Land & Water Stewardship. This project complete an assessment of water quality problems (including pesticides) associated with production of small grains, corn, potatoes & wild rice and to advise and inform the producers of the impacts of their operations (a GIS will be utilized). Workshops will be held to present this data and to explore land management practices that could be used to reduce movement of pesticides to water sources. management practices to provide greater resource protection.

112. Red River of the North Resource Management Area. Proposal will accelerate tree planting and promotion of tree planting using regional agriculture radio station broadcasts, development & promotion of successful land owners's conservation activities, development of guided and self-guided tours of successful field conservation activities, holding educational seminars and training of SWCD staff on improved techniques of publicizing soil conservation. \$23,740.44.

113. Goetzinger Productions & National Audubon Society. To educate agricultural producers on the values of wetlands emphasizing their effects on hydrologic cycle, to describe wetland benefits and to educate agricultural producers on how farming practices affect wetlands emphasizing differences between traditional practices and conservation practices. \$21,500.00.

114. Frederickson Communications, Inc. To develop a plan to guide the Environmental Agriculturalist Program including appropriate designs, estimated costs, and schedules for recommended products and programs. \$15,950.00.

115. Minnesota Extension Service - Cluster 16. (Freeborn, Mower, Steele & Rice Counties Cooperating). This project will accelerate implementation of certain items in local water plans. Activities will include sustainable agriculture forums, field demonstrations on reduced rootworm insecticide plots, cultural weed control and nitrogen management. \$45,000.00.

116. Sauk River Watershed District & the North Fork Crow River Watershed District (in cooperation with Stearns SWCD). To work with producers and promote reduced till management through use of videos and low-cost renting of no-till or reduced till equipment so that landowners could see the impact (reduction of input and potential increase in profitability) on their land. \$12,000.00.

117. Sauk River Watershed District & the North Fork Crow River Watershed District (in cooperation with Stearns SWCD). This proposal would focus on

promotion of sustainable agriculture through workshops designed to educate producers (a minimum of three would be held), publishing a quarterly newsletter, possible scholarships to qualifying students, create farmer mailing list for informational mailings. create a video library of films on sustainable ag topics, create a "conservation - farmer network" to promote the "cause". \$44,300.00.

118. Stearns SWCD. Using 20 cooperating farmers, develop demonstration plots for reduction of chemicals, conservation tillage, crop rotations (and develop a pesticide management plan); demonstrate bmps for effective and efficient fertilizer utilization (and develop a nutrient management plan); demonstrate a reduction of chemicals, fertilizers & sediment into road ditches, drainage ditches, wetlands, creeks, rivers & lakes (and development of an erosion control plan). Provide a cost analysis of these activities and promote findings using field days, tours & newsletters. \$36,265.00.

119. Carlton SWCD. To hire an employee to provide needed educational and conservation practice assistance specifically regarding water quality in the comprehensive local water plan-designated sensitive areas of Carlton County. \$30,000.00.

120. Wilkin SWCD. Purpose is to conduct a groundwater survey or 100 wells (coliform, nitrate-nitrogen & TOC) and compare the present groundwater quality with studies conducted by U.S. Geological Survey in 1957 & 1978 and to promote results in news articles, radio programs, news columns, community meetings, Homemakers Lessons and one-on-one contacts. \$4,120.00.

121. The Farmer Magazine. To continue the publication of articles in the "Operation S.A.V.E." series (beyond the current expiration of April, 1990.) Funding is requested to continue by informing readers of the best ideas farmers send in during current phase. If response is adequate, they would publish a farmer-to-farmer directory of problem-solving ideas to promote sustainable ag practices - voluntarily and economically. \$25,275.00.

122. MACDE-SW. Utilizing the existing distribution networks, MACDE would hire an employee to survey the districts in area V to establish their needs and inventory educational-promotional resources of each district. The promotional specialist would then develop and carry out a campaign including such things as fair booths, timely ad campaigns and promotional brochures, news articles, tape radio & TV advertising spots, organize & coordinate town meetings & farmer group workshops, videos, billboards, and programs for local ag shows. \$57,500.00.

123. Land Stewardship Project. Funding would be for the Stewardship Farming Program in southwestern MN to carry out on-farm demonstrations & to disseminate information. An expanded network of farms will demonstrate biological pest controls, reduced purchased inputs & conservation tillage strategies. Results will be promoted through the production of newsletters, field days & winter workshops. \$15,000.00.

124. Jane Leverenz. To provide a series of seminars promoting sustainable agricultural practices. She would use a series of 12 two-hour tapes from U of Iowa and rent local facilities to show tapes in. There would also be a guest lecturer to answer questions and lead discussion. Project would be

promoted in cooperation with County Extension Agent. \$38,850.00.

125. Fillmore SWCD (in cooperation with SCS and DNR). Project is to increase public awareness of the pollution hazard potential of sinkholes. Affected public will have opportunity to input ideas and opinions on present sinkhole treatment and the County Ordinance. Alternative sinkhole treatments will be demonstrated and promoted at demonstration site. \$5,300.00.

126. North St. Louis SWCD. Project would focus on development of self-help educational tools for producers including two video presentations (covering a number of sustainable ag topics) which could be loaned out to producers. The other tool would be a reference guide to be distributed to producers covering the same topics as on the video. \$21,800.00 (with options given)

127. Zumbro/Root River Joint Powers Board (cooperation with 9 SE SWCDs and 9 county extension). "A Multi-Agency Effort for Environmental Agricultural Education in Southeast Minnesota". To assemble information from all the agencies & groups researching the agricultural impacts for economic and environmental farming practices for distribution to producers. In addition, the inventory of on-going work will be the basis of a slide/tape show will be developed, articles published in newspapers, participation in farm shows and local-level training. \$43,340.00.

128. Beltrami SWCD (cooperation with HRDC, MES, PCA, MDA, HRCDA, SCS). Project is a demonstration project of a local education program that focuses on the implementation of education and demonstration BMPs relating to low input sustainable ag. Focus is on nutrient management for groundwater protection. Four components: development of two Nutrient Management demonstration plots, development of BMP educational materials, development & implementation of targeted BMP public education program and evaluation of effectiveness of BMP public education program. \$43,800.00

129. Minnesota Crop Monitors. Project proposes to compare the cost & amount of chemical used under different application methods, to use spot spraying & crop scouting as part of post-emergency chemical program (which can be altered as needed if there are problems with specific pests such as grasshoppers), to use fall tillage demonstrations, to demonstrate variable rate fertilization and to assist in Comprehensive Local Water Planning process which is just getting started. \$39,880.00.

130. Chengwatana Organic Growers Society. Funding is requested to build an experimental elliptical Zafu domed greenhouse. Low-input agricultural procedures would be used to producer year-round fresh produce. \$116,000.00.

131. Minnesota Extension Service. To develop tools (worksheets, publications, and/or software programs) that can be used on-farm to assess the environmental and economic impacts of current management practices and enhance the educational process needed to stimulate change and to form a network of 20-40 farmers in each of 6 environmentally sensitive areas to cooperate in education and/or demonstration programs focusing on changes in management practices that will have positive impacts on environmental quality. \$400,00.00.

132. Schroeder Communications. "Informing the People's Discretion". A

series of 25 one-page fact sheets will be developed and distributed to 1000 selected producers. One fact sheet will be distributed each week. Before fact sheets are sent, producers will be surveyed about perceptions & attitudes. There will be a follow-up survey after the last fact sheet. Results will be used to determine future of the effort. \$44,875.00.

133. Region Nine Development Commission. "Nitrate Testing Educational Project". Five farms in south central area will be chosen to on-farm demonstration of the use of field techniques for nitrate testing to determine optimum nitrogen fertilizer application. The results will be promoted to other farmers in the area. \$25,510.00.

134. The Minnesota Project. This project will identify farmers interested in sustainable agriculture, discuss farming practices with them and link interested farmers with local service providers appropriate to their circumstances. \$21,200.00.

135. Brutlag Farms. This project will modify ridge till systems and make it adaptable to sugar beet production. Farm input reductions will be demonstrated as will the environmental benefits of reduced soil erosion, reduced chemical use and reduced impact on water quality. \$10,000.00.

136. The International Coalition for Land/Water Stewardship in the Red River Basin. "GIS/Land Use Training Workshops". Data sets will be compiled for the 15 Red River counties. They will be in a GIS format and will demonstrate the interrelationships between land use and its impact on land and water quality. They will also demonstrate applications of GIS technology available to local leaders for water and land use planning. There will be 15 one-day training workshops for local officials in each county, there will be continuing technical assistance and a one-day workshop to the 15 county joint powers board & BWSR. \$25,586.00.

137. Shelito. This project proposes to develop a comprehensive educational program for Crow Wing County with special emphasis on pesticide/fertilizer contamination. Program will use newspaper articles, materials for school teachers, a Safe Drinking Water Workshop, a mall show, presentations to ag producers in small group sessions, and investigate feasibility of waste pesticide collection program. \$20,975.00.

138. Anoka SWCD & Anoka Sand Plain Association (cooperating with other SWCDs and county extension agents). Proposes to promote agricultural cost reduction by means of nutrient management and integrated pest management which would have energy savings and surface and groundwater quality improvement. Education and demonstration would be the tools use to accomplish this. Local farmers would have access to those soil tests, manure tests and agricultural management methods relating to nutrient and pesticide application. \$84,500.00.

139. West-Central Ridge-Till Club (Minnesota Extension Service Grant & Traverse Counties & the Grant County SCS). To increase the knowledge & understanding of producers of the ridge-till land management practice, to provide better erosion control, reduce pesticide usage, increase grower profitability & provide a greater degree of ground water protection by designing three farm-size plots for demonstrations, analyzing yield & cost

data on test plots, publicizing data, hosting two tours, demonstrating equipment & distributing promotional mailings. \$12,272.00.

140. Sibley County Economic Development Commission. "Sibley County Composting Demonstration". This proposal would determine the feasibility of using compost generated from raw chicken manure, yard waste, wood chips & waste paper products to reduce farmers dependence on commercial fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides. Work will involve test plots other test mixtures composted in warm weather, evaluating crop yields & environmental impacts. \$67,995.00.