



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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DATE: August 14, 1990
TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources Members
Staff, and Advisors
FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director
SUBJECT: August 21 Tour and August 22 BWSR Meeting

Following are details on logistics and meeting plans for the tour and board meeting. The Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to attend a conservation tour of Kandiyohi County on Tuesday, August 21, 1990. You will be on your own for breakfast on Tuesday; but breakfast will be served at the Safari South from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. A discussion session will begin at 9:00 a.m., in the downstairs meeting room at the Safari South in Spicer. Tour buses will depart from the Safari South at 9:30 a.m. A noon lunch will be provided at Sibley State Park. The tour will conclude at the Safari South, with buses returning at 4:00 p.m. We suggest that you wear comfortable walking shoes and casual clothing on the tour. Dinner will be served in the dining room of the Safari South at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday evening there will be an opportunity for Board members and advisors to meet and discuss the strategic plan.

On Wednesday, August 22, 1990, breakfast will be served at the Safari South dining room from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. The Board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the meeting room downstairs at the Safari South. A noon lunch will also be provided at the Safari South. Room reservations have been made at the Cazador Inn (directly across the street from the Safari South) and meals for Board members and staff will be direct billed by the BWSR.

Please note the following comments regarding agenda items:

- BWSR Strategic Plan. Please note the changes made to the draft plan contained in your packet. Between the Tuesday evening session and the discussion at the Board meeting we should be able to make substantial progress towards the completion of the plan.

Board Members, Staff, and Advisors
August 14, 1990
Page Two

- 110B Comprehensive Local Water Plans. Five counties which cooperated in their planning process through the Redwood-Cottonwood River Control area have their plans up for approval. Also up for approval is the Faribault County Plan which was prepared in cooperation with the thirteen south central Minnesota counties.
- 1991 Legislative Issues. This item is a carry over from the July meeting. Policy issues for discussion include the status of local levy options for funding water plan implementation, updates to soil loss limits law, education programs, and wetland protection/no net loss. Also included in your packet is a one-page summary of potential legislative policy issues which have been taken from comprehensive local water plans. The Department of Finance is releasing information on the 1992-93 biennial budget at a meeting later today. I'll have more details at the Board meeting.
- Minnesota Forestry Improvement Program. Chuck Niska will introduce the available funding and proposed allocations for the current program year. Board members will recall that this appropriation is a transfer from DNR Forestry to the Board for distribution to participating soil and water conservation districts. Actual allocations will need to be made at a subsequent meeting.

Please call Mary Jo at 612-297-4290 if you need any additional information on the arrangements for the tour or the Board meeting. Please call myself or Chairman Ogaard if you have additional agenda items. See you in Spicer!

JB:mja
Enc.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
SAFARI SOUTH
SOUTH SHORE OF GREEN LAKE
SPICER, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 22, 1990**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| | 2. Adopt Agenda |
| | 3. Approval of Minutes of July 25, 1990 |
| | 4. Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chairman's Report - Donald Ogaard● Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz● 10-Year EQB/Water Resources Committee Report - Donald Ogaard● Activity Report - Sara Johnson● Well Sealing Cost-Share Program Update |
| 10:00 a.m. | 5. BWSR Strategic Plan - continue discussion - Mel Sinn |
| | 6. Advisor Comments |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | 7. 110B Comprehensive Local Water Planning - Chris Hughes
For approval - Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Faribault |
| 2:00 p.m. | 8. 1991 Legislative Issues - for discussion - Jim Birkholz |
| 3:00 p.m. | 9. Minnesota Forestry Improvement Program (MFIP) Allocations - for discussion - Chuck Niska |
| 3:30 p.m. | Adjourn |

LODGING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE CAZADOR

Monday, August 20, 1990

Kim Benson - single **
Don Ogaard - single
John Boulton - single
Jack Graba - double **
Don Warner - single
Loren Harste - double **
Mary Jo Anderson - single

Tuesday, August 21, 1990

Dan Steward - single
Kim Benson - single **
Don Ogaard - single
John Brooks, Jr. - single
Bill Cofell - single
John Boulton - single
Tom Lutgen - single **
Howard Peterson - single
Jack Graba - double **
Don Warner - single
Loren Harste - double **
Jim Birkholz - single
Pat Bloomgren - single
Sara Johnson - single
Mel Sinn - single
Doug Thomas - single
Susan Tsakakis - single
Chris Hughes - single
Jeff Nielsen - single
Mary Jo Anderson - double**

Those names with single rooms and an asterisk (**) will pay for their own rooms and will not be direct billed. Those names with double rooms and an asterisk (**) will be direct billed at the single room rate and will pay the difference of \$4.00 per night upon arrival at the Cazador Inn. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Jo Anderson at (612)297-4290. Thanks!

POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES
GATHERED FROM
COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLANNING

1. Expand Rim Reserve eligibility to include abandoned gravel pits.
2. Through the drainage code expand the 1-rod grassed buffer strip requirement to all judicial ditches.
3. Through legislation seek property tax credits for highly erodible lands that are put into permanent wildlife habitat.
4. Expand assistance to local government in the area of feedlots and manure management through increased staff, cost-share dollars, and improved technical standards and system designs.
5. The State needs to provide better information to greater Minnesota on urban non-point pollution problems such as lawn fertilizers, lake shore development, on-site septic, etc..
6. Develop specialized technical assistance within BWSR to assist counties in implementing water plans.
7. Local government needs new tools to finance initiatives created by water planning. Levy authority.
8. BWSR could take a lead role in coordination and training of natural resources geographic information systems to local government.
9. The BWSR should hire a grants specialist to provide assistance to counties, SWCD's and WMO's.
10. The state needs to increase funding of MFIP and allow a portion of the funds to be used by SWCD's for administration.
11. The state needs to develop a wetland compensation program.
12. The state should establish a buyout program for polluting feedlots that are not economically feasible to correct.
13. The state should consider developing a tax credit or incentive program for farmers that implement complete Resource Management Systems.
14. The state should develop and implement an educational program in the use of geologic atlases and studies for counties.
15. Expand natural resource protection cost-share programs.
16. The state should develop a program to assist counties in treating sinkhole conditions.

A:110BLEG.LST

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
155 South Wabasha Street
Suite 104
Saint Paul, MN 55107

In the Matter of the Petition for the Establishment
of the Snake River Watershed District
(Minnesota Statutes 1988, Sections 112.36 to 112.39)

**ORDER FOR
AND NOTICE
OF HEARING**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on Saturday, September 8, 1990 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of Mora High School, 400 East Maple, Mora, Minnesota 55051.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and evidence on the question of whether establishment of the proposed watershed district would be for the public welfare and public interest and serve the purposes of the Minnesota Watershed Act. Testimony and evidence also will be received on the related questions of the location of the Snake River drainage basin boundary, the designation of a principal place of business for the proposed watershed district, the distribution of district managers among the affected counties, and the nomination of individuals for appointment to the initial board of managers.

The petition was served by mail on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the county auditors of Aitkin, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties. The petition was signed by 223 area landowners. The proposed watershed district encompasses the entire watershed of the Snake River comprising roughly 1,000 square miles in parts of the following six counties: Kanabec (48%), Pine (20%), Aitkin (20%), Mille Lacs (10%), Isanti (2%), and Chisago (<1%).

The petition states that the proposed watershed district is necessary to:

1. Provide a governmental organization to plan, develop, and manage uniform and integrated water use in the watershed area and with the authority to engage in district-wide coordinated efforts of improvement and to be the recipient of public grants;
2. Preserve and protect the natural beauty and uniform flow of the watercourses in the area and to alleviate the flooding that occurs within the area;
3. Protect the quality of public waters;
4. Establish a coordinated system of repair and improvement to county ditches in the watershed area;

5. Establish a coordinated system of water control to solve pollution problems from nutrients from surface water runoff and inadequate sewage treatment systems; and
6. Encourage the establishment of soil conservation measures to avoid erosion and to improve the quality of water.

Contemplated improvements stated in the petition include:

1. Collection of pertinent hydrographic data for evaluation and design of flood control projects;
2. Means to control pollution of lakes and watercourses and growth of nuisance aquatics;
3. Proper installation and maintenance of sewage disposal and treatment systems;
4. Assistance to agricultural interests by implementation of beneficial repairs and improvements;
5. Application for grants to help pay the cost of improvements; and
6. Any and all other purposes for which a watershed district may be established.

The hearing will be conducted by Richard C. Luis, an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, Fifth Floor Flour Exchange Building, 310 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415 (612-349-2542). All parties have the right to be represented by legal counsel or any other representative of their choice throughout the proceeding. The hearing will be conducted by the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to the contested case procedures set out in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 14, and Minnesota Rules parts 1400.5100 through 1400.8400. Subpoenas are available to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents in accordance with Minnesota Rules part 1400.7000. Questions concerning the issues raised in this notice or concerning discovery may be directed to the Board of Water and Soil Resource's legal advisor Special Assistant Attorney General Carl Conney, Office of the Attorney General, Natural Resources Division, 520 Lafayette Road, Suite 200, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 (612-297-1075).

The hearing will begin with opening statements by the Administrative Law Judge and the Chairman of the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The petitioners will then provide testimony and evidence in favor of establishment. Parties will be allowed to ask questions of the petitioners' witnesses. Then parties opposed to establishment will present evidence and their witnesses will be questioned by other parties. Members of the public will be allowed to offer testimony and exhibits either in favor of or in opposition to establishment. Representatives of the Board of Water and Soil Resources will be available to answer questions about the Minnesota Watershed Act.

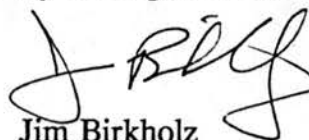
Any person who desires to become a party to this case must submit a timely petition to intervene to the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 1400.6200, showing how that person's legal rights, duties, or privileges may be determined or affected by the decision in this case. The petition also must set forth the grounds and purposes for which intervention is sought. A party to a case has the right to present evidence and argument with respect to the issues and to cross-examine witnesses. At the hearing, any person interested in or affected by the proceeding shall be given an opportunity to be heard on the issues without becoming a party. A party must file a notice of appearance form with the Administrative Law Judge within 20 days of service of this notice, if the party intends to appear at the hearing. Parties are advised that failure to appear at the hearing may result in the statements made in the petition being taken as true and the Administrative Law Judge recommending to the Board of Water and Soil Resources that the proposed district be established. Parties also are advised that data that is not public may become public if admitted into evidence unless a party objects and asks for relief under Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 14.60, subdivision 2.

The above-cited procedural rules are available for inspection at the Office of Administrative Hearings, or may be purchased from Minnesota's Bookstore, 117 University Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 (612-297-3000).

The petition proposes that the size of the board of managers of the proposed watershed district be set at nine members. The petition contains the names of twenty manager nominees residing in Kanabec and Pine Counties. If the proposed watershed district is created, the Board of Water and Soil Resources will appoint the initial board members to a term of office of one year. All subsequent manager appointments would be made by county boards in accordance with the Minnesota Watershed Act. Managers must be voting residents of the watershed district, and cannot be public officers of the county, state, or federal government. Any voting residents within the proposed watershed district boundary who are interested in serving on the initial governing board, if the proposed watershed district is created (particularly residents of Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Isanti, and Chisago Counties, which had no nominees named in the petition), are encouraged to submit their names as manager nominees to the Administrative Law Judge at any time up to the close of the hearing.

Persons attending the hearing should bring all evidence bearing on the petition, including any pertinent records or other documents. Questions concerning this notice or the petition should be directed to the office of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (612-296-3767).

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 8th day of August 1990.


Jim Birkholz
Executive Director

OVERVIEW OF THE ITASCA COUNTY WATER PLAN

August 1990

Background

Itasca County began development of the Itasca County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (Plan) by resolution of the County Board in October 1987. The County delegated Plan development responsibilities to the Itasca SWCD. Chuck Niska, SWCD Manager, was local project coordinator. The County Board and SWCD appointed task force members to help develop the Plan. J.M. Montgomery, Inc. was retained to assist with Plan development. The Plan was prepared in conjunction with the eight-member Mississippi Headwaters Board. Molly MacGregor was regional project manager. Itasca County concluded local review with a public hearing on June 26, 1990.

County Description

Itasca County is located in north-central Minnesota in the northern lakes and forest ecoregion. The County's population is concentrated in the south-eastern part of the County. Itasca County is the state's third largest county. The County's 945 lakes is second only to Otter Tail among Minnesota Counties. Itasca County also ranks second in total lake area. With 170,700 acres of open water, and 488,000 acres of wetlands, the county's total surface water resources are truly immense. One third of the county is covered by lakes or wetlands. The Continental Divide separates the north flowing Big Fork and Little Fork watersheds from the tributaries feeding south and east to the Mississippi River.

Forest dominate the land use of Itasca County and have long been a key component of the economy. Over half of the County's area is public forest land. Recreation and tourism is another economic mainstay. Agriculture, mining, and residential and lakeshore development are also major land uses with potential impacts on water resources. Tourism and forestry industries have expanded in Itasca County and are projected for continued expansion. Mining is of decreased importance to the local economy.

Groundwater concerns in the County have been minor to date, and quality is perceived to be very good. However, most of the County's population draws domestic water supplies from the coarse outwash plain aquifer, which is very susceptible to contamination.

Early in the water planning process, the lack of data on either surface or groundwater resources was recognized as a major concern. The need for a coordinated approach to gathering surface water quality data in order to protect and manage the County's vast surface water resources emerged as the priority issue.

Staff Review

BWSR field staff met with Itasca County 110B staff on June 26, July 13 and July 31, 1990 to discuss Plan review. BWSR field staff will be in contact with Itasca County staff as state review proceeds. If any significant review issues develop, the BWSR will receive an update on the issues at the September board meeting.

OVERVIEW OF THE CARLTON COUNTY WATERPLAN

August 1990

On December 8, 1987, the Carlton County Board of Commissioners (Board) passed a resolution to begin development of a county water plan. The Board delegated responsibility for coordinating and writing the plan to the Carlton County SWCD (District). Rather than hire a consultant to assist with plan development, the District directed Ed Beck, District Manager, to write the plan. The District appointed a water planning task force to assist with plan development. Alex Laveau (chairman of the Board) also served as task force chairman. Carlton County prepared its plan on an independent basis (without a multi-county effort). The local review process was completed with a public hearing on June 20, 1990. The plan was submitted for state review on August 3, 1990.

County Description

Carlton County is located in the Northern lakes and forest ecoregion. The County covers about 550,000 acres (860 square miles), with 72% of the county wooded. 17% of the county is tilled for the production of agricultural crops.

The Continental Divide runs north and south through Carlton County. East of the divide, surface waters flow through the St. Louis and Nermadji Rivers into Lake Superior and eventually the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The western half of the County drains through the Kettle and Tamarack Rivers to the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. The unstable Ontonggon clays, a legacy of Glacial Lake Duluth, combine with severe relief of 50' to 550' to cause substantial erosion and sedimentation problems in the St. Louis River watershed. The Pollution Control Agency is heading up a River Assessment Project (RAP) on the St. Louis River to develop a plan of action for dealing with water quality degradation in the river and its estuary - St. Louis Bay.

Carlton County has 74 lakes, totaling 10,000 acres. Concern has been expressed regarding septic system impacts on water quality on a number of lakes in the county. Many of the lakes are highly developed, yet little surface water quality information exists.

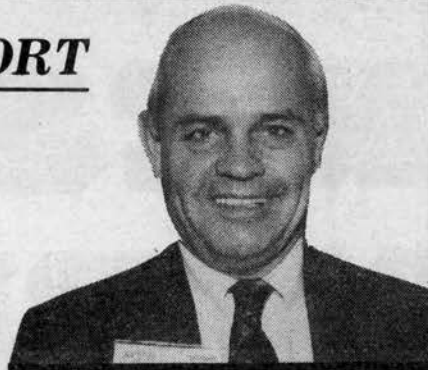
Groundwater resources in the county are of adequate supply, with the Onanegozie sand plain aquifer being the most common source of domestic water supply. Limited tests indicate ground water quality in the aquifer is generally good. However, the county is concerned that the aquifer is highly susceptible to contamination.

Staff Review

BWSR field staff met with the Carlton County water plan coordinator to discuss plan review on June 20, and July 31, 1990. BWSR field staff will be meeting further with county representatives regarding the addressing of agency comments. If any significant review issues develop, the BWSR will receive an update on those review issues at the September board meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Extremism, Naturally



By Warren Rodning, AMC President

The dictionary defines environment as 1) the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded; 2a) the complex of climatic, edaphic and biotic factors that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determines its form and survival; 2b) the aggregate of social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community.

Today there is one word equated more and more with environment, and that is quality. Whether it is the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink (or swim in), the food we eat, or problems associated with local conditions, people are insisting on protection, and we, as county officials are being called on to provide it. We need to be responsive and responsible. But we cannot do it alone.

It is interesting to note that at least some of our problems are starting to be addressed on a worldwide basis, but so much needs to be done. Russia and China, as well as most third world nations are light years behind us in environmental protection. But then again, they consume much less per capita than we do. We, as a nation, need to set an example for the rest of the world and assist others as much as possible in controlling pollution.

A number of Minnesota counties, including my own Nicollet, are establishing environmental departments. The primary reason, of course, is coordination. There is, for instance, a definite link between planning and zoning, and environmental health. Also, we want to bring together the agencies and departments involved in water planning and solid waste. If any counties are interested in learning from the experience or mistakes of others, give AMC a call.

I am by nature a moderate type of person. I think that by a combination of technology, a change in our excessive consumption habits, extensive recycling, and rigidly enforcing good environmental practices, we can live in harmony with nature, while at the same time enjoying a decent standard of living.

I'd like to leave you with this thought, sort of a paraphrase from Barry Goldwater's acceptance speech at the 1964 GOP convention in San Francisco: Extremism in defense of the environment is no vice; moderation in the pursuit of environmental protection is no virtue.

In My Opinion

It's time to recognize the 'rurban' area

By Natalie Steffen,
Anoka County Commissioner

Our Metropolitan Area is very diverse, with areas that range from fully developed to commercial agricultural. We have concentrated our resources and our energies in the developed areas, but now it is time to recognize a "rurban," or gray, area in between the developed and agricultural areas.

It's time to stop treating these "rurbans" as second-class communities and recognize their contributions to the entire region.

Anoka County and its communities have recognized and encouraged this diversity. Our plans are long term and short term, and are revised frequently to meet changing demands. Our community leaders are responsible and capable of planning for their own destiny. There is no cookbook formula that will address the needs of the region's population as a whole, and no development policy that will work for everyone.

We are asking that the Metropolitan Council revise its rural-use policies enacted in the mid-1970s. Communities could not then, and cannot now, understand how they could be classified as "rural" when there was little farmland to protect and their population was already approaching—and sometimes exceeding—projections for the year 2000.

One thing we have learned is that current policies aren't working and that we are forgetting the needs of people as we rigidly pursue controlled growth.

Agricultural land should be preserved, but you cannot preserve a farm that cannot return a living because of unsuitable soils. Our soils in Anoka County are sandy—perfect for housing—but it's housing that should not be built, according to current Council policies.

Minneapolis, St. Paul and developed suburbs must be kept viable. We are already doing that in a number of different ways. However, history has shown us that people will not fill in vacant land if lots and housing are unaffordable.

Council policies contribute to the high cost of land within the metropolitan urban service area (MUSA)—the central, developed portion of the region. That land is priced out of the market for many buyers.

In the "rurban" area, lending institutions will not finance lots of 10 acres or more. And the Federal Housing Administration will no longer finance anything under 10 acres because of Council policy.

Council policy dictates that everyone be a city dweller, even when housing is not available, affordable or the choice of the buyer.

We have shown that orderly growth can occur without the premature extension of regional services. However, if services are eventually required, they should follow the people—not a 1970s plan. There should be cooperative efforts between the Council and communities to plan for this growth.

Currently, communities that have chosen development are penalized because no commercial ventures are allowed outside the MUSA, not even businesses that would greatly enhance the tax base and provide necessary services for the residents.

The reality of the 1990s is that public officials are not willing to overdevelop an area if resources are not available.

No one wants to raise taxes, but officials are willing to raise revenues to provide necessary services.

For example, transportation systems are in place and counties will continue to upgrade and expand their systems. The schools are in place. There have been great advances in technology for on-site sewage systems. And we now recognize that environmental standards and regulations must be the determining factor for development—not lot sizes.

We recognize that unbuildable land and open-space land should be protected, and development should be clustered.

Services are more economically provided to lots that are one acre to two-and-a-half acres in size than to 10-acre lots. This includes everything from weed control to transportation. If sewers are eventually extended, or community-wide alternative systems are necessary, they are also affordable.

We are only asking the Council to recognize the difference between general use and agriculture; to acknowledge us as growing communities that warmly embrace all income levels—not just people who can



Cliff Burns

Natalie Steffen

afford 10-acre lots; and to recognize areas in transition instead of erecting obstacles in every path.

Please allow us the opportunity to be full participating members of the Metropolitan Area and prove to all that we can determine our densities, contribute to our future and that of the region, and do this in a fiscally responsible way.

Editor's note: see page 4 for related article on rural-area development issues.

METRO MONITOR

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The Metropolitan Council conducts long-range planning and research for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in such areas as airports, housing and water resources. It also coordinates planning among local governments, the metropolitan agencies and the private sector.

The *Metro Monitor* reports on activities of the Council and issues of regional interest. It is published every six weeks. For free subscriptions or mailing list changes, call the mailing list coordinator at (612) 291-6465. For extra copies, call the Metropolitan Council Data Center at (612) 291-8140.

The *Monitor* welcomes letters to the editor. Address them to Jim Martin, Metropolitan Council, Mears Park Centre, 230 E. Fifth St., St. Paul, MN 55101. The *Monitor* reserves the right to edit letters to fit the space available. The Council's general telephone number is (612) 291-6359.

Metropolitan Council Members and Their Districts

Steve Keefe, chair; Liz Anderson, 1; Mike McLaughlin, 2; James W. (Jim) Senden, 3; John Pacheco, Jr., 4; David F. Fisher, 5; Alfred Babington-Johnson, 6; Mary Hauser, 7; Donald E. Stein, 8; Ken Kunzman, 9; John Evans, 10; Dottie Rietow, 11; Gertrude Ulrich, 12; Dirk deVries, 13; Marcy J. Waritz, 14; Margaret Schreiner, 15; Patrick J. (Pat) Scully, 16.

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Typesetter: Nadine Farrington

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CONSERVATION BRIEFS

News and information for the nation's conservation district leaders and their cooperating partners

Vol. 1, No. 15

August 3, 1990

SENATE, HOUSE PASS 1990 FARM BILLS

After all of the debate and argument surrounding the 1990 Farm Bill, floor action resulted in no significant changes to the conservation title in either the Senate or the House.

Senate

The Senate approved its version of the bill on July 27. The measure contains an amendment, sponsored by Robert Kasten of Wisconsin, setting graduated penalties for conservation compliance and sodbuster. The Kasten amendment also requires USDA, beginning in 1992, to submit an annual report to Congress on the effectiveness of the 1985 Food Security Act's conservation programs.

Another amendment, sponsored by Kent Conrad of North Dakota, limits the Conservation Reserve Program to no more than 25 percent of any one farm. The amendment is an attempt to mitigate CRP's economic effect on rural areas where large amounts of land are now being removed from production.

The Senate measure also incorporates Patrick Leahy's rural development bill, S. 1036, providing new money for economic development in rural areas.

House

The House version was passed August 1. An amendment sponsored by Peter Kostmayer of Pennsylvania is similar to Senator Kasten's amendment, setting graduated compliance and sodbuster penalties and requiring USDA to report to Congress on the effectiveness of the department's conservation programs. The House bill also contains a pesticide record keeping amendment.

On the Horizon

Next stop — conference committee. Congress is leaving town this weekend and will return after Labor Day. Then, members will have only about four weeks of work before they return home to

prepare for the November election. Staff members are expected to do some preliminary farm bill work during the August recess, and conference action should begin in September.

Budget concerns still loom large and will play a major role in determining the final outcome of the bill. There is still a chance that the 1990 Farm Bill will be passed by October. But if the budget requires large cuts in farm programs, election politics could kick in and the conference committee could put off final action until a lame duck session in November. That way, members could avoid having to deliver bad news to their constituents right before the elections.

BUDGET STATUS STILL UNCERTAIN

During the few remaining weeks in this session of Congress, a great deal of work remains to be done on the 1991 budget and appropriations. We're still awaiting a budget resolution compromise between the White House and Congress. This could have major impacts on the outcome of the appropriations process. If no compromise is reached and Gramm-Rudman-Hollings kicks in, spending for domestic programs could be cut by as much as 38 percent.

The Senate will not begin appropriations action until after Labor Day, but things have been moving along in the House. The agriculture appropriations bill, outlined in the last issue of *Briefs*, was passed by the full House in late July. The House Interior and related agencies subcommittee passed its 1991 appropriations package last week. The bill includes funding for the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and U.S. Geological Survey. No actual figures are available yet and full committee action will have to wait until after the August recess.

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National Association of Conservation Districts
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HAVE YOU MADE PLANS...

...to attend the 13th annual NACD Leadership Conference? It will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 22-24 and will provide valuable training for state agency directors and state association executives and elected leaders.

CONSERVATION KUDOS...

...to NACD's Programs Analyst Gene Lamb. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the conservation cause, he was presented with the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Honor Award in Salt Lake City this week.



Enclosed you will find a brochure containing program and registration information for Growing into the 21st Century, the first international symposium on sustainable agriculture. Plan to join the conservation leaders from around the world who will gather in Memphis October 8-10 to share their ideas on economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural production systems.



August 13, 1990

TO: Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Commissioner, Minnesota State Planning Agency
Chairman, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Director, Minnesota Geological Survey
Director, Minnesota Office of Waste Management

Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha St., Suite 104
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Fax (612) 297-5615

On August 10, 1990 the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners submitted its Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for final review. Pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 9300.0170 the BWSR is transmitting a copy of the Crow Wing County water plan for your agency's review and comment. Your agency has 45 days from receipt of this letter to submit comments in writing to the BWSR identifying the portions of the plan that the agency has determined to be inconsistent with state law.

Regional Offices

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218-755-3963

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394 South Lake Avenue
Room 402
Duluth, MN 55802
218-723-4752

West Central Region
503 Washington Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-828-2604

South Central Region
Box 756
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-2196

Southeast Region
Friedell Bldg., Room 100
1200 S. Broadway
Rochester, MN 55904
507-285-7458

Southwest Region
Box 111
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-7260

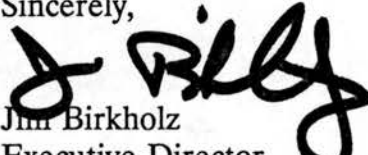
East Central Region
Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha Ave., Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107
612-296-3767

The Crow Wing County water plan document itself is being sent to your agency's 110B Technical Review Committee Member under separate cover. The 110B Technical Review Committee Members are:

MDA, Greg Buzicky/Doug Wise
MDH, Judith Ball
MDNR, Tom Lutgen
MPCA, Kathy Swanda
MSPA/EQB, Marilyn Lundberg
MGS, Barb Palen

Thank you for your agency's assistance and commitment to make comprehensive local water planning the success that it has been. We also look forward to working with your agency as counties begin implementation of their water plans.

Sincerely,


Jim Birkholz
Executive Director

cc: Members BWSR
Staff BWSR
Molly MacGregor
110B Technical Committee
State Conservationist, SCS
State Executive Director, ASCS
Regional Director, USFWS
District Engineer, USCOE
Dennis Slayton