



**DISTRICT MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2009**  
**USDA Service Center, Presque Isle**  
**MINUTES**

**Supervisors Present:**, Leigh Morrow, George Howe.

**Associate Supervisors Present:** Mike Bragdon, Gary Belyea, Jon Durepo, Larry Park, Brent Flewelling, Steve Sutter.

**Absent:** Tim Scott, Tim Hobbs, Bruce Roope, Bruce Wilkins, Matt Porter, Ray Harris, Dotty Dudley.

**Staff:** Linda Alverson, Ann Morris

**Others:** Jo Weber, Skip Babineau, Emily Rivera

**Temporary Supervisor:** Steve Sutter was asked to serve as supervisor for this meeting

**Minutes for April 14, 2009:** *approved with a motion from Gary Belyea and Second from George Howe.*

**Treasurer's Report:** *approved after a motion from Steve Sutter and second by George Howe.* Linda was asked to check on municipal assessments.

**NRCS Report: Joe Weber.** EQIP sign up : The Central Aroostook Field Office requested \$250,000. Actual finding was \$200,000 with 80% of the applicants funded. Although the actual funding was down, the same number of applicants were approved. A second round of funding is due on July 24. Much of the current funding is for winter cover, grassed waterways and diversions. The Southern Aroostook has a large number of requests approved for winter mulching. The CA Field Office received no requests for irrigation funding in the 2009 first round of EQIP requests. AMA funding is available for irrigation practices with approximately \$250,000 available for applications due July 24. Requests will be capped at \$50,000 per contract. AMA funding that is not obligated for the July 24 request will be lost for funding in Maine. The Board discussed the funding available for irrigation and how this can be better advertized.

**St. John-Aroostook RC&D Report: Skip Babineau.** Skip gave a brief review of the projects that he is working on.

**Executive Director's Report: Linda Alverson.**

- Vernal Pool Workshops: The District sponsored two workshops. Special Thanks to Dotty Dudley, Dave Rochester (MFS), Gordon Moore (MFS) Eric Hitchcock (DEP) and the Malcolm Science Center for making these workshops a success.
- Envirothon Teams: Dotty Dudley has worked hard to encourage more schools to participate in Envirothon. This year we will be having an Envirothon Training day in the fall to get schools interested early in the year.
- Map for Town of Wade, road construction project
- Aroostook County Conservation Association Meeting. This association is interested in improving the deer herd. They have worked this past winter on

feeding deer and will be working with landowners to plant deer food on winter logging roads and on abandoned farm fields.

- NE Grassroots Environmental Fund: We applied for \$1500 to help fund the Prestile Stream Storm-watchers Project
- Mock Envirothon assistance: Ann and Linda helped St. John Valley SWCD with this event at the Aroostook national Wildlife Refuge.
- DEP progress report for Cavendish Sediment Pools: This project should start in early July.
- NRCS -TSP information meeting – co-located Districts can not be TSPs.
- No-till: The seeder has been getting continual use since the middle of May. Thanks to Gary Belyea and Warren Grass for repairs.
- State Envirothon: Ann and Linda helped with the State Envirothon held at the Forestry Building, U of M Orono.
- Prestile Stream 319 Proposal: Ann wrote a proposal to survey the Williams Brook Watershed and to start a Prestile Stream Storm-watchers program. Williams Brook will be the third subwatershed surveys in the Prestile watershed.
- McKeen Crossing gathering: A small group gathered at Larry park's camp for a rainy day picnic.

Planned for June-July

- With Ann: write up Christina Watershed Survey
- Meet with Christina landowners
- Aroostook State Park Bird Festival
- Dudley Brook TMDL/management Plan meeting
- Maine Community Foundation Meeting
- Ann finishes on Friday June 19
- Barbara Goodyear Environmental Day in Perham: No-till seeder demonstration. Need to check site, get seeder there, tractor or horses and demonstrator (??Gary)
- MACD Summer Meeting: Sign up for board members
- Cavendish sediment basins installed.

**Ann Morris, Environmental Educator Report:** Ann reported on projects she has coordinated:

- Web Page: the Web page has been updated and Ann will help Linda with keeping items updated.
- Regional Envirothon: This year we held the Regional at Mantle Lake Park. Although we had 13 teams signed up, only 9 participated. The regional winners were Lee Academy, Hodgdon and Ashland.
- Christina Reservoir Watershed Survey: The watershed survey was performed in early May with help from the NRCS staff. Ann will be writing up the results before she leaves in June.
- Prestile Stream: Ann wrote a 319 proposal to continue subwatershed surveys and to organize a stormwatchers program. The Stormwatchers will be collecting water quality information at key road/stream crossings during and immediately after storm events.

The Board thanked Ann for the excellent job she has done for the District. Steve Sutter asked to have a letter of thanks sent to Ann.

**District Day at the Legislature:** Leigh Morrow. Leigh represented our District at this event. He says it would be good for someone from this District to participate every year. He had a chance to talk to the legislators from this area. He recommends that we have business cards to hand out to legislators.

**Maine Irrigation Guide:** Linda explained that the Irrigation guide that we published in 2005 needs to be updated. The laws and rules for water removals from water bodies has changed since the Guide was written. The Permitting section needs to be rewritten and the web links checked. . *The Board asked Linda to check out the costs and possible funding sources for this project.*

**Barbara Goodyear Environmental Day,** Perham, July 18: The District was asked to participate in this event. Linda recommends that we give a demonstration of no-till seeding. *The Board approved holding a No-till seeder demonstration at this event.*

**MACD Summer Meeting** is on July 22 and 23 in Machias. Washington County SWCD is sponsoring the meeting with an excellent field tour scheduled for Thursday.

**Nature Learning Grant:** Penny Kern has asked CASWCD to hold and manage funding for a Nature Learning Program at Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge. *The Board voted to become a partner in this project and to hold and manage funds. Motion from George Howe and second from Steve Sutter.*

**Meeting on Winter Mulching Cropland:** The Boar asked Linda to coordinate a program on mulching to be held before the next Board meeting. Growers will be invited to this meeting. There should be a 1.2 hour presentation with about ½ hour discussion over pizza. The presentation will include: How much this costs to apply, the advantages to soil conservation, how well does it work and cost of equipment.