



DISTRICT MEETING
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
USDA Service Center, Presque Isle
MINUTES

Supervisors Present: Leigh Morrow, Bruce Wilkins, Brian Edgecomb, Dotty Dudley, George Howe.

Associate Supervisors Present: Mike Bragdon, Larry Park, Gary Belyea, Jon Durepo, Bruce Roope.

Absent: Ray Harris, Brent Flewelling, Tim Scott, Steve Sutter.

Staff: Linda Alverson.

Others: Joe Weber, Skip Babineau.

Minutes for December 15, 2009: *The minutes were approved with a motion from George Howe and second from Gary Belyea.*

Treasurer's Report: *approved after a motion from Bruce Wilkins and second Dotty Dudley.* The Key Bank CD that matures on Feb 22 will need to be reviewed for rates.

District Day at the Legislature: District day in on January 26. Leigh will send a letter to our local legislators asking for District support and express regrets that he can't attend this year.

NRCS Report: Joe Weber. Joe reviewed the results of the Local Working Group meeting held on Dec. 16. Notes from the meeting were attached to Joe's written report. Currently the Field Office staff is working on cost estimates for EQIP applications. They will be requesting over \$430,000 for cropland, forestry, pasture and animal waste applications. The Presque Isle office has 5 requests of over \$540,000 total for irrigation related applications. They have received 5 applications to date for the High Tunnel program. Joe reviewed his 2010 Business plan which includes working with the District on Christina and Williams Brook watersheds.

St. John Aroostook RC&D report: Skip Babineau. The RC&D committee approved the District's proposal for assistance with the Williams Brook Watershed Survey. Skip will also be helping the ST. John Valley SWCD with a shoreline planting project on Eagle Lake. Skip is assisting a municipality who would like to build a slaughter house in their community. Skip provided information on the High Tunnel program.

Executive Director's Report: Linda Alverson.

- Conservation Easements: Linda checked easement compliance using the spring 2009 aerial photographs. There is one problem encountered with a new owner who apparently has places two storage trailers inside the easement boundaries. Linda will check measurements on the ground to be sure that the trailers actually are on the easement. Linda and the landowner will be working on removing the trailers in the spring when the ground dries up. Mike Mathers from FSA has been involved in the discussions for this property.

- Web Page: Linda has updated the web page with current information and pictures of Board Members and staff.
- Annual report: Linda handed out a draft annual report for comments and corrections
- Financial: Cliff Rhome has updated the District software to reflect federal and state withholding tables for 2010. She also asked him to give us an estimate for an audit review.

Executive Director Job Description: The Board reviewed the current Executive Director job description and a similar description from Oxford County. We will replace the General Qualification statement with the one from Oxford County. Duty #5 should read: Travel on behalf of the District to represent the ~~opinions~~ positions and goals of the Board of Supervisors. New Duty: Supervise the work of volunteers and other District employees. Other requirements will include the need to have a vehicle, be computer literate and must clear the USDA security requirements for working in the Presque Isle Field Office. There should also be a non-discrimination statement at the end.

On a motion by Bruce Roope and Second from Bruce Wilkins, the Board voted to start advertizing as soon as possible and to limit expenses for advertizing to \$1000.00.

Bruce Roope made a motion seconded by Dotty Dudley to form a committee to review applications. Members are:

- Leigh Morrow
- Skip Babineau
- George Howe
- Bruce Wilkins
- Joe Weber
- Linda Alverson

Board Elections: *The Board voted on a motion from Bruce Roope and Second from Dotty Dudley the following officers for 2010:*

- Leigh Morrow, Chair*
- Bruce Wilkins, Vice-Chair*
- George Howe, Treasurer*

Annual Meeting:

On a motion from Bruce Roope and second from George Howe the Board voted to hold the annual meeting on Friday February 26 at the Grant memorial Methodist Church in Presque Isle with dinner supplied by the Methodist Men's group.

Dotty Dudley will take care of the auction items.

Tim Scott will be asked to speak on: " Is the north Maine Woods a wilderness?"

Membership/ Cooperators: Each Board member has been asked to contact two businesses to be cooperators. We will put an ad in the Maine Potato News.