



DISTRICT MEETING
Tuesday 14 December 2010
USDA Service Center, Presque Isle
MINUTES

Supervisors Present: Leigh Morrow, Bruce Wilkins, Dotty Dudley

Associate Supervisors Present: Larry Park, Steve Sutter, Mike Bragdon

Absent: George Howe, Brian Edgecomb, Bruce Roope, Ray Harris, Tim Scott, Jon Durepo, Brent Flewelling, Gary Belyea

Staff: Ben Lynch

Others: Darol Wilson, NRCS

Meeting called to order by Leigh M. at 6:14 PM.

First order of business was introductions with the new District Conservationist, Darol Wilson.

Minutes for 17 November 2010: *Motion to approve from Bruce W., seconded by Dotty D. All in favor, motion passes.*

Treasurer's Report, Ben Lynch: *Motion to approve from Dotty D. and second from Steve S. All in favor, motion passed.* There was discussion of the upcoming Key Bank CD for \$83,317.41 that is maturing on 22 December 2010. *There was a motion from Steve S. to put the entire balance into a NorState Credit Union CD for a term of 1 year at 1.30% with the requirement to open a savings account for \$25, seconded by Bruce W. All in favor, motion passes.*

Executive Director's Report: Benji Lynch.

- Benji updated the Board on projects going on, including BMP construction and site visits of projects in the Christina Watershed 319 grant, stream sampling in the Prestile Stream Watershed 319 grant, planning for the public outreach meeting and public natural resource assessment meeting with the NRCS.
- Irrigation Guide update is moving slowly, but now has revisions from DEP to move forward with and UM Economics Dept. should have their Cost Benefit Analysis draft by the end of December.
- Chad Bartley, CPA has been helping with FY 2010 year-end and updating books for FY 2011. This process has taken longer than expected due to time elapsed since last Financial Review. Discussion of the draft FY 2009 Financial Statement Review, especially of the beginning balance of roughly \$230,000. *Motion to accept FY 2009 Financial Statement Review by Dotty D., seconded by Bruce W. All in favor, motion passes.*
- Most discussion took place regarding the MACD Winter meeting and the state of Districts statewide. It is likely that state funding will decrease or disappear in the future and there is an effort to find ways to sustain Districts in advance of this funding gap. The Sustainability Committee is working on ways to collaborate both regionally and statewide to save time and money. MACD is seeking funds from Dept. of Ag. to match NRCS funds to carry out statewide strategic/business planning for Districts. Trainings and certifications for District employees were involved in many discussions as a way to make Districts more valuable in their areas. Commissioner Bradstreet and the MACD Board strongly urged all Districts to
- contact their legislators and the new Administration to inform them about who Districts are and their importance. Benji passed out a list of the new legislators for Central Aroostook.
- There is an effort to expand the Maine Harvest Lunch Program statewide. Benji informed the Board on this and there was discussion of checking in with Extension to see if they already do this and if there could be any collaboration.

NRCS Report, Darol Wilson: Darol gave a brief introduction and a discussion of various regions he has worked throughout his career with NRCS. Also gave an update of what he has been doing since he has been here, going over the approximately 80 applications for 2011.



St. John & Aroostook RC&D Report, Skip Babineau: None. Handouts of the awards ceremony and SJ-ARC&D Annual Report were distributed. Leigh brought forward a letter for RC&D dues. *Motion to pay 2011 RC&D dues of \$22 by Steve S., seconded by Dotty D. All in favor, motion passes.* Steve S. volunteered to remain as CASWCD representative on RC&D Steering Committee. *Motion to accept Steve S. as RC&D Steering Committee by Dotty D., seconded by Mike B. All in favor, motion passes.*

Maine Potato Conference: Discussion on CASWCD having a booth at the 2010 conference. *Motion to spend up to \$150 on a booth at the 2010 Maine Potato Conference by Steve S., seconded by Bruce W. All in favor, motion passes.* This will be done in lieu of the Agri-Business Trade Fair.

Draft 2011 Budget: The draft 2011 budget was reviewed and discussed. *Motion to accept the 2011 budget as is from Steve S., seconded by Dotty D. All in favor, motion passes.*

Draft 2011 Work plan: The work plan was discussed. Leigh M. expressed priority should be focused on watershed surveys and landowner contacts and less focus on Maine Harvest Lunch. The Board also wanted to pursue more income generating ventures, such as trainings and certifications, specifically Nutrient Management Planning certification. *Motion to accept 2011 Work Plan by Bruce W., seconded by Dotty D. All in favor, motion passes.*

2010 Annual District Meeting: Bruce W. expressed his confidence in award the Davis Family the Forest Landowner of the Year. *Motion to accept the Davis Family as Forest Landowner of the year by Steve S., seconded by Dotty D. All in favor, motion passes.* Benji will get last 5 year awardees and there will be suggestions for Conservation Farmer of the year. The date for the 2010 Annual meeting was set for 24 February 2011 at the United Methodist Church in Presque Isle.

District Day at Legislature: Benji informed the Board that it will be held 25 January 2011 and he encouraged those to attend that could. Benji will look into booths and see if the three County Districts could share.

January Board Meeting: The date and time were set for 18 January 2011 (note this is the third Tuesday in January).

Motion to adjourn by Mike B., seconded by Dotty D. at 8:33 PM. All in favor.

December Board Meeting minutes submitted by Benji Lynch, 16 December 2010.