



DISTRICT MEETING
Tuesday, 13 April, 2010
USDA Service Center, Presque Isle
MINUTES

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

Associate Supervisors Present: Mike Bragdon, Larry Park, Gary Belyea, Jon Durepo, Steve Sutter, Ray Harris, Tim Scott.

Absent: Bruce Roope, Brent Flewelling.

Staff: Linda Alverson, Ben Lynch.

Others: Joe Weber, Skip Babineau

Minutes for January 19, 2010: *The minutes were approved with a motion from Gary Belyea and second from George Howe.*

Treasurer's Report: *Approved after a motion from Dotty Dudley and second Brian Edgecomb. The Board decided to roll over the Key Bank CD for approximately \$82,000 to a 6 month CD account due to low interest rates.*

NRCS Report: Joe Weber. The NRCS staff has been assembling conservation plans and obligating EQIP dollars and has obligated 10 contracts so far totaling \$666,331 with 3 contracts for irrigation related practices. There are an additional 8 applications to plan and/or obligate upon receipt of funding and the deadline for the next round of EQIP sign-up is 1 July 2010. He has been working with Bruce Wilkins to secure funding for the development of Forest Management Plans (EQIP Forestry CAPS) and have obligate \$5000 to three forest landowners for the development of stewardship plans with 3 more plans in the works. The deadline for WHIP and WRP applications is 30 April 2010 and the office has already received 6 applications for WHIP, all for grassland bird habitat management. Joe updated the Board on new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Acknowledgement Agreement to review and adopt by end of May. The Agreement (Acknowledgement of Section 1619 Compliance) was accepted with a motion from George Howe and a second from Dotty Dudley.

St. John & Aroostook RC&D Report: Skip Babineau. There have been three applicants for the High Tunnels in the area and the RC&D has been developing plans for distributing and installing the High Tunnels. The growers have to plant in soil and records will be kept for three years to monitor conservation benefits. RC&D has also been working with PI Downtown Revitalization Committee for the "Get Down to Business in PI" on Mon 7 May 2010 with a guide to starting a business in PI.

Executive Director's Report: Linda Alverson. Tasks to be done before retirement!

- Conservation Easement: Linda has been working with the landowner to develop a plan to remove three trailers from the easement and will draft an agreement to be signed by the landowner.
- Grant Proposals: Linda will draft a proposal to the Elks Club to reconstruct the restroom facilities at Mantle Lake Park and a proposal for diversion/waterway

construct and improvement on three landowners' properties in the Christina Watershed. These three landowners would not qualify for NRCS funding but have already been approved for funding by MEDEP through a 319 NPS grant.

- Christina Report: Linda will finish the Christina Reservoir Survey Report.
- Irrigation Guide Update: Get update started and in a form where Benji can take over to finish.

The Board approved to keep Linda on retainer until the end of May with a motion from George Howe and a second from Steve Sutter.

Executive Director's Report: Benji Lynch.

- No-Till Workshop: The CASWCD will host the No-Till workshop on Tuesday 4 May at 4PM. The Board also discussed revising the No-Till seeder rental policy form to include a before/after acre meter reading and an agreement signature.
- Williams Brook Watershed Survey: Benji will conduct the survey over the next few weeks along with NRCS personnel, Linda Alverson, Skip Babineau and Dave Rochester.
- Prestile Stream Stormwatcher Sampling: Benji will be working with Kathy Hoppe at the MEDEP to develop sampling techniques and will also recruit volunteers and hold sessions to discuss sampling techniques and train volunteers.

MACD: The NRCS is contracting Districts to obtain and compile data and doing natural resource assessments. This would involve Executive Director's time and would be compensated by the NRCS for about \$4000.

Camp Roads: Linda discussed possible funding of projects for the formation of camp road associations and the Board discussed possible roads (Squa Pan, Portage, S. half of Madawaska Lake).

Flag Sales: Linda suggested raising the price of flags. *The Board approved new prices of \$12.00/bundle of 100 and \$100/box of 1000 with a motion from Larry Park and a second from Tim Scott.*

Benji's Orientation: The Board wants Benji to meet and spend time "in their element" with the Board members, staff at the Central Aroostook, Southern Aroostook, and St. John Valley Conservation Districts, as well as CASWCD municipal offices. He should attend pertinent meetings, such as the Maine Potato Board and St. and Aroostook RC&D.