



DISTRICT MEETING
Tuesday 18 January 2010
USDA Service Center, Presque Isle
MINUTES

Supervisors Present: Sam Blackstone, Dotty Dudley, Brian Edgecomb, George Howe

Associate Supervisors Present: Gary Belyea, Mike Bragdon, Jon Durepo, Brent Flewelling, Leigh Morrow (acting chair), Larry Park

Absent: Bruce Wilkins (Supervisor), Ray Harris, Bruce Roope, Tim Scott, Steve Sutter,

Staff: Ben Lynch

Others: Darol Wilson, NRCS

Meeting called to order by Leigh M. at 6:06 PM.

First order of business was introductions with the new Supervisor, Sam Blackstone.

Minutes for 14 December 2010: *Motion to approve from Dotty D., seconded by Gary B. All in favor, motion passes.*

Treasurer's Report, Benji Lynch: There was discussion the money from the recently matured Key Bank CD. Benji stated that County FCU had the best savings account rate of 0.85% if we opened with an amount greater than \$10,000. *Motion from George H. to move both our checking and savings account to County Federal Credit Union, seconded by Dotty D. All in favor, motion passes. Motion from Sam B. to open a CD account with County Federal Credit Union for the entire amount of \$83,333.94 at a rate of 1.26% APY. All in favor, motion passes. Motion to accept December 2010 financial statement as is from Dotty D. and seconded by George H. All in favor, motion passed.*

Executive Director's Report: Benji Lynch.

- Wrote a letter for an extension of the Prestile Stream Stormwatcher 319 grant in order to get another season of stream sample collection and data analysis. Writing Williams Brook Watershed Survey Report to be completed by the end of February.
- Held USDA Outreach meeting with 15 participants. More responded but poor weather probably deterred most.
- Natural Resource Assessment public meeting will be held the 27th of January from 4-6 at UMPI Campus Center.
- Received comments from DEP on Irrigation Guide update. Waiting on pdf revisions to send out for stakeholder review to proceed with a final draft. UMaine Economics Dept. has finished and sent out their Cost Benefit Report for review.
- 2009 Financial Review complete. Discussion over CPA comments and recommendations, especially the Capitalization Policy. After discussion, *motion from George H. to set our threshold of expensed purchases at \$1,500, above which all purchases will be fixed assets that are capitalized and depreciated. Seconded by Brian E. All in favor, motion passes.*
- CASWCD will be holding two trainings this spring. One is a JETCC sponsored training for Subsurface Wastewater Drainage Regulations and Codes, mainly intended for CEOs, LPs, site evaluators, and septic installers. Discussion around the cost of \$75 that Benji has found many CEOs not able or willing to pay. Benji will look into finding funding that might alleviate some of this cost to CEOs from NMDC. The second is a DEP hosted Sediment and Erosion Control intended mostly for construction contractors. There was discussion on what to charge to cover our costs for holding the workshop on top of the \$20 per participant DEP requires. After discussion, *Dotty D. moved to charge \$35 per participant to cover our costs. Seconded by Brian E. All in favor, motion passes.*
- Benji will be meeting with Chris Finemore from UMaine Extension to discuss the Maine Harvest Lunch Program.
- Benji went over his ideas and asked the Board for ideas for the 2010 Annual Report. Discussion followed.



NRCS Report, Darol Wilson: Darol went over the applications for that were ranked for FY 2011. There were 55 total EQIP applications, with 10 of the 20 irrigation applications ineligible because there was no alternative water source and current pumping rate would be greater than the 1% of 7Q10 requirement. There were 5 CAPs, 4 of which were forestry management plans and 1 comprehensive nutrient management plan. Mike B. commented that John Harker said there was still \$600,000 in the ME Dept. of Agriculture cost sharing grant program for irrigation pond construction. Darol asked the Board what they are looking for from him in his monthly report.

Officers: George will remain as Treasurer for as long as his job will allow. Bruce W. (not in attendance) stated before the meeting that he is willing to stay Vice-Chair if there is no one else interested. The rest of the Supervisors did not feel comfortable taking on the role of Chair due to lack of time and experience on the Board. They advised Benji to ask Bruce W. if he is willing to take the position of Chair temporarily while others gain more experience. The nomination and voting on the rest of the Board Officers was tabled until the next Board meeting on February 8th.

Annual Meeting: There was discussion on nominations for Conservation Farm of the Year. Benji went over the suggestions made by Joe Weber and the rest of the NRCS staff. The two most under consideration were Stan Maynard, Orchard Hill Farm in Woodland and Guerrette Farms in Caribou. Stan has been working with NRCS to install a heavy use area, grassed waterways, filter strips, and other conservation practices while expanding the livestock production in central Aroostook with the introduction of the Scottish Highland breed of cattle. Guerrette Farms has been incorporating extended rotation, winter cover crops, and water conservation into their management of potato production. Benji will contact each to set up a farm visit during the week of 24 January.

Agri-Business Trade Fair: After discussion, the decision was made to work with the three NRCS offices to have a joint booth at the Trade Fair for 2011. The Board thought it made the most sense to have both the District and NRCS together because of the history and collaboration together toward the same goal.

District Day at the Legislature: Benji said that there is probable funding from MACD to support Aroostook's participation in District Day between \$200 and \$300. After discussion, the Board decided to have Benji represent CASWCD and County Districts. *Motion by Dotty D. to spend up to \$400 to attend the District Day, seconded by Sam B. All voted in favor, motion passed.*

Nutrient Management Planning: Benji shared Mark Hedrich's thoughts that there would possibly be the need for NMPs and it would be a good service the District could provide with little investment of time and money. The Board supported Benji pursuing NMP training and certification. There was also discussion of other services the District could provide: a tree planter for rent was one possibility for relatively little investment (about \$3,000).

Next Board meeting was set for 8 February 2011 from 6 to 8 PM.

Motion to adjourn from Dotty D. at 8:16 PM, seconded by Mike B. All in favor.

January Board Meeting minutes submitted by Benji Lynch, 21 January 2011.