

Circle Lake Association Board Meeting Minutes - 11/12/12

Those Present:	Those Absent:
Karen Appeldoorn	Denise Klockow
Bob Gilbertson	Keith Kluzak
Dale Petelinsek	
Dave Russler	
Sandy Russler	
Doug Sonnee	
Sam Sunderlin	

Those also in attendance:

Rodger & Mary Kluzak
Steve Pahs

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- The October Minutes were approved as written.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved as written. The item listed under Insurance Premium includes both the insurance for the weed cutter and the personal liability insurance for the CLA Directors.
- The Board approved the payment of \$280 to Sandy Russler for the Run/Walk t-shirts and printing.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Note: The remainder of the agenda was tabled so that we could spend the time with our guest Steve Pahs of the SWCD in a Q&A session

Doug introduced Steve and mentioned that there are 1048 parcel IDs in our watershed, most of whom are farmers.

Steve continued with a bit of background information. Tim Little is the Rice County SWCD outstanding conservationist for this year. 90% of what the SWCD does is voluntary & aimed at individual property owners. The only mandated work is wetland conservation.

There are two MN funding sources that are used for soil and water conservation efforts. RIM (Reinvest In Minnesota) requires permanent easements in order to receive funding. There are about 40-50 of these in Rice County. The second is the MN Recovery Act; no easement requirement exists for this funding. A grant application for \$40,000 has been submitted. These monies would be used for the Messenbrink & N. Malecha properties to repair damages and prevent further erosion due to high runoff. These grants might require 10% seed-money.

Steve was asked what he would suggest we do in order to further increase our chances of being funded, or in other words, what should our first 'next steps' be in our watershed management plan. He listed two things: 1) We need to document places where conservation can be done, i.e., help do some of the legwork; and 2) We need to establish good relationships with landowners

Steve went to discuss the three general areas of funding used by his department: 1) State monies where the cost share is 75:25, 75% being covered by the grant; 2) Federal sources where the cost share is 90:10; and 3) NRCS (National Resources Conservation Services) which underwrite \$300,000 - 400,000 in Rice County.

Doug mentioned the County All Hazard Mitigation Fund. This is listed on the County Website.

Dale asked what might be done to minimize or eliminate pollutant runoff from drain tiles emptying directly into the lake. Steve described bioreactors that reduce the amount of nitrogen.

Sam brought up the fact that most of the nutrient management isn't being enforced. Steve responded by a clarification of the Nutrient Management Plan Regulation - such plans are only required from operations with 300 or more animal units. Sam continued by describing manure spreading, mentioning that the amount is driven by the amount of nitrogen in the soil. If there were landowners that regulate their manure-spreading by the amount of phosphorus instead, that those folks need to be the ones we work with. Steve thought there were some in the district. The SWCD is currently trying to hire someone in the nutrient management area.

Steve suggested, in response to a question from Doug, that his suggestion would be to identify erosion sites by LiDAR and target those landowners as the ones we would approach first to work with us.

Dale asked if we could work with the SWCD on a 5-year plan. Steve was quite receptive to this idea and thought several from his staff should be involved.

Steve hopes to hear the grant results in the next two to three weeks.

The next part of the conversation centered on Ditch 32. It is one of ten potential County Ditches to go through a process of re-determination of benefits and ?? We should talk to people who pay into that ditch, as they are the ones who need to approach the County. We could also talk to Jeff Docken. Steve is also involved in ditch inspection. He would like to know whether tile lines or sediment is the bigger culprit.

In response to a question about cows right near the lake, Steve said there was no regulation on setbacks for pasturing animals. There are regulations for other types of agricultural runoff but those aren't often enforced (Sam). Wade McCorkell is the County feedlot inspector and it was suggested to include him in on our discussions although landowners might look at him and see him as a 'bad guy' that could be counterproductive.

We thanked Steve for coming to our meeting and for being so informative.

The remainder of the meeting was spent talking about the McGhie and Betts (M&B) work sessions that were mentioned in the email sent late this afternoon by Keith. Dale said he would find any seed money needed if we find out any grant money would be coming in.

Doug will arrange for a work session Tuesday Nov. 27th at 2:30-4:30 with Jeff Broberg of M&B, Doug, Keith, Rodger, and anyone else who wishes to attend.

The last few suggestions came from Doug. He mentioned Peggy Bates as having lots of experience with website design and management. He would also like to invite the Quists to come to our January meeting to talk about the area history. The weed cutter is in storage. He also suggested we check the county website for the Water Protection Plan, a collaborative effort by ten agencies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Appeldoorn