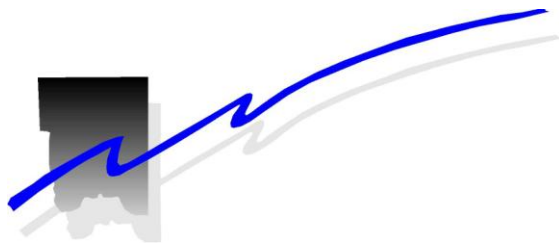


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Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Special Meeting held September 28, 2009.

I. Meeting called to order by Chair Eckman at 4:00 p.m.

Supervisors present:

Karen Eckman
Carrie Wasley
Mara Humphrey

Others present:

Tom Petersen, RCD Staff
Mike Goodnature, RCD Staff
Ryan Johnson, RCD Staff
Geoff Nash, RCD Staff
Ann WhiteEagle, RCD Staff

Steve Woods, BWSR
Melissa Lewis, BWSR

II. Overview of Grant Opportunities: Supervisor Eckman began the meeting by giving an overview of the current RCD financial situation, with revenues declining and an abundance of potential conservation grant funding available. Supervisor Eckman and Supervisor Wasley both offered to review grants before RCD staff officially submitted them for review. Manager Petersen handed out a comprehensive list of grants recently submitted and expected to be submitted in the next quarter by RCD staff. The proposed grants total 1.2 million dollars. Supervisor Wasley clarified that the RCD could receive up to \$335,000 in revenue to cover district expenses, if all the grants applications were approved.

III. BWSR Staff Review of State Agency Grant Programs Available: Steve Woods, Assistant Director for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), suggested prioritizing the Clean Water Partnership grants that have or will be submitted and lobbying for support for the top priority. He also offered history on the Lessard-Sams Conservation Partners Legacy Grant funding appropriation process and handed out a draft of the funding priorities for the next round of appropriations. **Action Step: Manager Petersen will review and revise the RCD grant application to greater reflect the priority recommendations of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the grant.** Mr. Woods also offered the following ideas:

- Be strategic and prioritize actions
- Review the RCD Comprehensive Plan and see that the projects reflect RCD priorities
- Review Watershed District, Water Management Organization, and city Plans in Ramsey County
- Contact Arden Hills about a joint project for TCAAP utilizing the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds as the grant source
- Find agency contacts that will be “scoring” the grants, for example Melissa Lewis will be involved in scoring the BWSR Shoreland grant
- Attend upcoming meetings – October 21st for Water Planning (www.metrowater.org) and October 22nd at CRWD

Supervisor Eckman questioned whether capturing storm water run-off from Highway 49 would be appropriate for the BWSR Runoff Reduction Grant and Mr. Woods clarified that the WDs and WMOs are eligible for the funding and the RCD would need to partner with one or more of those organizations in

order to participate. Ms. WhiteEagle requested that the RCD apply for the BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area grant, which should be released in October, to continue the successful work began by Paul Erdmann, RCD Conservation Technician. Mr. Goodnature named other grants that could support the CWMA.

IV. Other Opportunities for Grant Applications: Melissa Lewis, BWSR Board Conservationist, informed the group of some of the activities of neighboring SWCDs and their counties, such as the success of the Washington County Water Consortium, in developing partnerships. She also mentioned the work of the Washington, Anoka, and Chisago SWCDs in working with the St. Croix TMDL. Lastly she suggested having a SWAT analysis for the next RCD Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Eckman mentioned Snail Lake as a potential project for study. Mr. Woods also suggested that the RCD approach city inspectors and see what the city needs are and look into the possibility of assisting fire departments with “prescribed burns” on prairies. After Supervisor Eckman asked if the RCD could assist with projects for other agencies that had received grant funding, Mr. Woods thought it was possible, but warned that the agencies most likely have an implementation plan, so proceed with caution.

V. Action Plan: It was reiterated that RCD staff should email Supervisors Eckman and Wasley for grant comments, along with “need by” dates. Mr. Goodnature will pursue a potential project for Lake Owasso, with the partners for the Runoff Reduction Grant. Mr. Johnson would take-over as lead for the NY10 Native Buffer grant and the FY10 Shoreland Improvement grant applications. Mr. Nash will explore the BWSR Clean Water Assistance grant opportunity. Targeting legislators was mentioned as a long term plan. Supervisor Wasley encouraged the staff to use the language and jargon of the RFP. Supervisor Eckman recapped some of the main points emphasized at the recent workshop she attended on grants:

- Context/multiple benefits
- Measurable outcomes
- Partnerships/leveraging others
- Science-based/GIS data layers
- Tipping points in regards to shallow lakes, prairies, wetlands, and forests

VI. Next Meeting Date – Monday, October 12, 2009 for the Regular Board Meeting.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Chair Eckman at 6:00p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by
Ann WhiteEagle
Office Manager