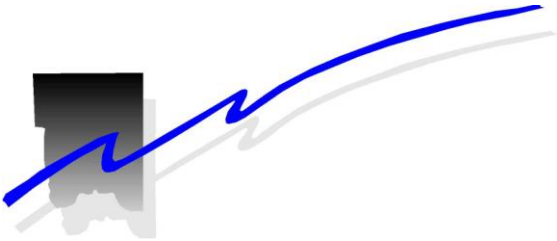


Ramsey Conservation District



1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Highway 96 & Hamline Avenue
Arden Hills, MN 55112
Telephone 651-266-7270
Fax 651-266-7276
www.ramseyconservation.org

Minutes of the Board of Supervisors Regular Board Meeting held October 12, 2009.

I. Meeting called to order by Chair Eckman at 10:00 a.m.

A. Roll of Attendance

Supervisors present:

- Karen Eckman
Margaret Behrens
Carrie Wasley
Mara Humphrey
Nick Quade, absent with notice

Others present:

- Tom Petersen, RCD Staff
Ann WhiteEagle, RCD Staff
Mike Goodnature, RCD Staff
Paul Erdman, RCD Staff
Ryan Johnson, RCD Staff

Geoff Nash, RCD Staff
Ron Mourse, City of
Arden Hills Manager

B. Review of Agenda: Motion by Supervisor Wasley, Supervisor Behrens seconded to approve the agenda. Supervisor Eckman and Manager Petersen added the following items to the agenda: Action Item D. Meetings with County Commissioners and added "Legislative Protocol" to that item. Unfinished Business C. Update on Supervisor Election Conversion Probe was moved to the November Board Meeting; Item E. Groundwater Plan Update was added to the agenda; Item F. Supervisor Handbook was added to the agenda, but will be covered at the November Board Meeting. Motion by Supervisor Wasley, Supervisor Behrens seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Standing Reports – Secretary’s Report

- A. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting September 14, 2009
B. Minutes of Special Board Meeting September 28, 2009

Motion by Supervisor Wasley, Supervisor Humphrey seconded to approve the Standing Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP): Ron Mourse, the City Manager for Arden Hills, began the presentation by defining the boundaries of TCAAP, defining the Arden Hills Training Site (AHATS), which is leased to the National Guard for the next 100 years, and the 600 acres of "reuse" property that will be made available for sale at a public auction, planned for next spring. There is also a portion that has been classified as a "wildlife corridor" and expects it to be deeded to Ramsey County at no cost, most likely at the time of the auction, as well as a few other areas with special designation. He stated that a majority of the Arden Hills City Council would like to see the reuse property designated as park land and open space. There will be a meeting on October 20th to discuss this option with the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. Supervisor Behrens asked if there was any possibility of deeding some of the land to the RCD for research and Mr. Mourse hadn't heard that suggestion discussed before and explained that the General Services Administration (GSA), the federal agency managing the transfer, believes they might find an interested buyer with the public auction. Manager Petersen mentioned that the laws governing SWCDs allow SWCDs to acquire land for conservation purposes.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of RCD Supervisor Expense Claims: **Resolution 09-10-01.** Supervisor Humphrey moved and Supervisor Behrens seconded. **Resolved the RCD Board approved the Supervisor expense claims for 3rd quarter 2009 (July 1 – September 30, 2009) as submitted by Supervisors Behrens, Eckman, Humphrey, and Wasley.**

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Humphrey, and Wasley

Voting against: none

Abstaining: none

B. Adjustment to FY08/09 WCA Enforcement Work Plan: Manager Petersen explained that the primary reason for adjusting the WCA Enforcement Work Plan was to cover the cost of the RCD staff attending Wetland Delineation training earlier in the year. Ryan Johnson is now a certified wetland delineator in-training for the State of Minnesota. **Resolution 09-10-02.** Supervisor Behrens moved and Supervisor Wasley seconded. Resolved the Board approved the following resolution:

Whereas, The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has given the RCD \$20,000.00 in grant funding for WCA enforcement; and

Whereas, the BWSR requires SWCDs adopted/amend as necessary and the BWSR to approve a Work-Plan to expend WCA enforcement funding; and

Whereas, the RCD Board of Supervisors amended its 2008/2009 WCA enforcement grant work-plan at the June 1, 2009 Regular Board meeting; and

Whereas, to more effectively utilize the WCA enforcement grant funding to address RCD WCA costs for the period of June 1, 2009 to October 15, 2009 it is necessary to amend the Work-Plan approved at the June 1, 2009 Board meeting.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, The RCD Board of Supervisors amends its June 1, 2009 Work-Plan for the 2008/2009 WCA Enforcement grant to provide for \$10,000.00 for staff training and 10,000.00 for WCA enforcement, pending BWSR approval.

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Humphrey, and Wasley

Voting against: none

Abstaining: none

C. Authorization to seek and administer the 2010 BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG): Manager Petersen explained the breakdown of the NRBG. Supervisor Wasley requested receiving an explanatory note, in the future, to clarify the grant. **Resolution 09-10-03.** Supervisor Humphrey moved and Supervisor Behrens seconded. **Resolved the Board approved the following resolution:**

Whereas, The MN BWSR has made available FY-2010 NRBG funds to counties, and

Whereas, BWSR allows counties to delegate, to their SWCDs, the acquisition and administration of NRBG funds, and

Whereas, since 1993 the RCD Board of Supervisors has authorized RCD staff to seek grant acquisition and administration delegation by Ramsey county for the NRBG, and

Whereas, the 2010 NRBG includes \$11,083.00 for Local Water Management/county groundwater plan implementation funds that will be matched by a \$132,492.00 water plan implementation expenditure by Ramsey County (the ongoing ambient water quality monitoring program implemented by the Ramsey County Environmental Services Department), and

Whereas, the 2010 NRBG includes \$19,000.00 in matching grant funds for assisting Local Governmental Units, including the RCD, administrate and implement the regulatory and administrative provisions of the MN WCA, and

Whereas, the RCD will enter into “ WCA sub-grant agreements” with local government units implementing the WCA in Ramsey County to provide NRBG reimbursement funds per details contained in said sub-grant agreement, and

Whereas, WCA sub-grant agreements shall be approved and signed by the District Manager, and

Whereas, for the first time since the 1993 inception of the NRBG, Ramsey County is now eligible for \$9,931.00 in NRBG Sub-surface Sewage Treatment System grant funds (SSTS) , and

Whereas, the Ramsey County Environmental Health Department (RCEHD), (which is responsible for SSTS regulation in Ramsey County), has requested that the RCD seek the SSTS funds as part of the overall 2010 NRBG, and

Whereas, the RCEHD will enter into a grant funding transfer agreement between the RCD and the RCEHD for the transfer of \$9,931.00 in FY 2010 NRBG SSTS grant funding, and

Whereas, the RCESD will be responsible for all SSTS grant reporting and financial responsibilities per State rules and regulations.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, The RCD Board of Supervisors authorize RCD staff to seek Ramsey County Board delegation for the acquisition and administration of BWSR FY-2010 NRBG funds, and **Be It Further Resolved**, the RCD shall transfer \$9,931.00 in FY-2010 NRBG SSTS funds to the RCEHD per the terms and conditions as set-forth in an agreement mutually agreed to by the RCD and RCEHD.

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Humphrey, and Wasley

Voting against: none

Abstaining: none

11:00a.m. Ryan Johnson, Mike Goodnature, Geoff Nash, and Paul Erdmann enter the meeting.

D. Meetings with County Commissioners/Legislative Protocol: The Supervisors discussed setting up appointments with Ramsey County Commissioners to seek support for the approval of the Ramsey County Groundwater Plan Update, that the RCD has authored and for funding to implement several projects in the plan. Supervisor Eckman has already made an appointment with Commissioner Bennett. Supervisors Humphrey and Wasley decided to jointly meet with Commissioners Carter, McDonough, Ortega, and Rettman. Supervisor Humphrey then gave a brief presentation on suggestions for making a visit to officials in elected office. She provided a handout which made the following points: Make an appointment; be prompt and patient; be prepared; be political, i.e. discuss things that are in their election area; and be responsive. She emphasized that elected officials are busy, so start conversations with the most important topic.

V. Standing Committee Reports

- A. Metro Conservation District – Eckman/Humphrey
- B. Rice Creek Advisory Committee – Quade
- C. Watershed Advisory Commission (RWMWD Advisory Committee) – Wasley/Behrens
- D. Capitol Region Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee – Humphrey/Quade
- E. Legislative Committee – Quade
- F. RCLLG – Behrens/Eckman
- G. WMO-WD Reports – Supervisors

VII. Natural Resource Conservation Service Report (NRCS): No report.

VIII. Staff Reports and Presentation by Mike Goodnature: The Board was mailed a report detailing the major activities of the staff, prior to the meeting. Mike Goodnature, RCD Conservation Specialist, gave a brief overview of his background information, past projects, and future projects with the RCD. Some of the projects have included GIS mapping for Watershed Districts, and administering the MPCA Inspection Program for construction sites.

11:45a.m. Ryan Johnson, Mike Goodnature, Geoff Nash, and Paul Erdmann leave the meeting.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Grant Proposal Update: Manager Petersen gave a status report on the Lessard-Sams grant application process, commenting that he has contacted a representative for the Army about a project on AHATS.

B. MASWCD Convention Resolution Process: The Board all signed the 2009 resolution ballot for the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. **Action Steps: The Board will forward their completed ballot to the RCD before the October 31st deadline.**

C. Update on Supervisor Election Conversion Probe: Due to time constraints, this was moved to the November Board Meeting.

D. 2010/2011 Ramsey County Budget Meeting: Manager Petersen recapped the Budget Meeting with the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on September 25, 2009, informing the Board that the County Manager did not recommend the RCD receiving additional funding for groundwater protection implementation. Also Manager Petersen has applied for a \$172,000 Ramsey County CDBG grant for sealing abandoned wells in Ramsey County. **Action Step: Mr. Goodnature will create maps of the abandoned wells and contamination plumes, by Commissioner District, for use by the Board in upcoming meetings with County Commissioners.**

E. Groundwater Plan Update: Manager Petersen informed the Board that the Ramsey County Manager met with him and requested some information on the groundwater plan amendment process and made suggested adjustments to the Draft Revised Ramsey County Groundwater Plan completed by the Ramsey Conservation District, before the RCD proceeds with the plan approval/adoption process. He detailed that the County Manager, Julie Kleinschmidt specifically requested that the RCD supply the County Board with a breakdown of the “unfunded mandates” that would be required if the plan was adopted by the Ramsey County Board and Manager Petersen said it is his goal to provide that information as soon as possible, so that the RCD can stay on “track” for County Board adoption by the end of the year. He said that the plan should not be sent to the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), for State approval, until the County is satisfied with plan content. Supervisor Eckman questioned at what point does an organization stop accommodating and offer a plan as their best judgment? Manager Petersen stated that the RCD should not submit the plan to State agencies if Ramsey County does not approve the plan’s content. If the County Board does not adopt the revised plan, the revised plan could be used as an “action plan” for other agencies to address strategic groundwater issues.

F. Supervisor Handbook: Due to time constraints, this was moved to the November Board Meeting.

IX. New Business

A. Committee Assignment Review: The Board gave Manager Petersen an update on how the Committee Assignments were working.

X. Next Regular Meeting Date – Monday, November 9, 2009 at 10:00am for the Regular Board Meeting. Manager Petersen informed the Board that a WCA Enforcement Criminal Trial will begin the week of the next meeting, so 7:00pm was chosen as an alternate time for the Board Meeting, if Manager Petersen is called to testify.

XI. Adjournment: **Motion by Supervisor Behrens, Supervisor Humphrey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:20pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted by
Ann WhiteEagle
Office Manager