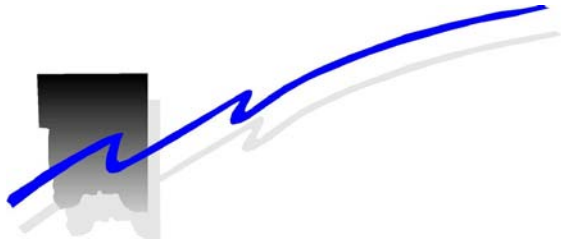


Ramsey Conservation District



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 March 12, 2010.

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Wasley at 11:30 a.m.

A. Roll of Attendance

Supervisors present:

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

Others present:

Tom Petersen, RCD Staff
Ann WhiteEagle, RCD Staff
Ryan Johnson, RCD Staff
Mike Goodnature, RCD Staff
Michelle Wohlers, NRCS

Barbara Deming, Management
Analysis & Development
Bob Simonet, St. Paul resident

B. Review of Agenda: Supervisor Eckman requested adding discussion on the next Supervisor election, because the deadline to file as a candidate is earlier this year (May 18th – June 1st). The RCD will have two positions open for election this year – district's 1 and 4. Supervisor Eckman is the Supervisor for district 1 and she announced that she would not be running for re-election.

Supervisor Eckman moved and Supervisor Humphrey seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Kick-off to the Comprehensive Plan: Barb Deming from Management Analysis & Development (a division of Minnesota Management & Budget) has been contracted by the RCD to assist with their strategic planning for the update of the District's Comprehensive Plan development. Ms. Deming began her presentation with a brief overview of the process and then proceeded with introductions. A strategic planning work plan was distributed and reviewed, with questions and comments added by the Board and staff. The following tentative dates were established for planning workshops:

Tuesday, April 6 or Monday, April 12th (5-9pm) for Board and staff review history, mission, and needs;
Monday, April 26th or Friday, April 30th (10am-2pm) to conduct a scenario workshop;
Friday, May 7th (9am-noon) or Monday, May 10th (5-8pm) to review results of scenario workshop;
Monday, May 24th or Tuesday, May 25th (5-7pm) Follow-up and develop next steps.

Ms. Deming also gave feedback that she had received from interviewing four "well-informed observers" of the RCD, which concluded that the RCD is well regarded; times have changed; the RCD Mission is not clear to all; but the outlook for the District is hopeful. Manager Petersen commented that there is a trend for SWCDs to combine their staff with county staff. Supervisor Humphrey encouraged Ms. Deming to feel free to explore new options for the RCD. The Board thanked Ms. Deming for her involvement with this process.

12:45pm – Supervisor Quade and Ms. Deming left the meeting.

3. Staff Reports: The Board was mailed a report detailing the major activities of the staff, prior to the meeting. The staff was present to answer any questions on the staff reports. Supervisor Eckman requested that Mr. Goodnature return to his former format for staff reports. She also commented on the

letter received from the County Attorney's office, commending the staff for their successful efforts with a recent wetland enforcement trial. Manager Petersen requested comments on his two month report. **Action Step: Manager Petersen will prepare a monthly staff report and submit it for mailing in the board packets. He will also forward staff work plans to the Board.**

4. Approval of Standing Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting February 12, 2010: **Motion by Supervisor Humphrey, Supervisor Eckman seconded to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasury Report: Ms. WhiteEagle provided several handouts for the Board, along with the 4th quarter Treasury Report, to summarize revenues and expenses over the past four years. **Motion by Supervisor Humphrey, Supervisor Eckman seconded to approve the 4th Quarter Treasury Report. Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Standing Committee Reports

A. Metro Area Conservation District – Eckman/Wasley

B. Rice Creek Advisory Committee – Quade

C. Watershed Advisory Commission (RWMWD Advisory Committee) – Wasley/Behren
The Phalen Waterfest is Saturday, May 22nd. Supervisors and staff will check their availability to work at the event – Supervisor Wasley could work from 9am – noon.

D. Capitol Region Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee – Eckman/Quade
Supervisor Eckman will submit a written report to the Board for the last meeting.

E. Legislative Committee – Committee of the whole

Manager Petersen and Supervisor Eckman attended the recent MASWCD "Day at the Capitol" and gave an update of the event.

F. RCLLG – Behrens/Humphrey

Manager Petersen brought up a proposal he developed for ortho-rectifying 1991 aerial photos for the County GIS User Group database. He explained that this digitized information could be used for WCA/Wetland enforcement, among other uses and clarified that he had received funding commitments from CRWD, R-WMWD, RCWD, VLAWMO, and the Ramsey County GIS User's Group. He requested Board approval to commit \$5,500 from the RCD's 2009 WCA Administration grant funding for the project. Supervisor Humphrey requested that items for Board action be listed on the agenda and information available before the Board Meeting. **Resolution 10-03-01.** Supervisor Eckman moved and Supervisor Humphrey seconded. **Resolved the Board approved the allocation of \$5,500 of the FY09 WCA Administration grant for the ortho-rectification of 1991 aerial photos in Ramsey County.** Voting in favor of the resolution: Eckman, Humphrey, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: none

6. Natural Resource Conservation Service Report (NRCS): Michelle Wohlers instructed the Board that there is \$10,000 of EQIP funding available for Ramsey County residents in 2010. She further explained that "high tunnels", which are similar to a green house, are an eligible expense. She explained that they are part of a pilot study under a "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative to increase locally grown produce. Supervisor Eckman asked if community gardens would be eligible and Ms. Wohlers answered "yes".

7. Next Regular Meeting Date – Friday, April 9, 2010 at 10:30a.m.

8. Adjournment: **Motion by Supervisor Humphrey, Supervisor Eckman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:10pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted by

Ann WhiteEagle

Office Manager