

March 6, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Don Pankratz, Steve Nasby, Wendy Meyer, Rob Anderson, Todd Dibble, Mike Hanson and Holli Arp. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2007 meeting.

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DAC Director Don Pankratz met with the board to hand out a legislative brochure and to give a brief presentation in regards to some of the services that are being provided by some of the clients that work at the Developmental Achievement Center.

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Chairman Holmen gave a brief update in regards to the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) audit he recently received. No problems were noted.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that the Heron Lake Watershed District recently received the Governor's Minnesota GREAT Award. Kuecker will plan on sending a letter on behalf of the board to the Heron Lake Watershed District to congratulate them for their award.

Kuecker also expressed his thoughts in regards to the TMDL presentation that was given at last week's board meeting.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to declare that the county offices were officially closed on Thursday, March 1st at 12:30pm and all day Friday, March 2nd due to the inclement weather conditions and in accordance with County Policy Number 420.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 07-03-06
Support of the Minnesota River Board**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board was formed out of the Minnesota River Citizen Advisory Committee's recommendations and implemented by the State of Minnesota under former Governor Arne Carlson July 12, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board has a state statute 103F.378, Section 471.59 governing the joint powers board; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board received state funding during the years 1995-2001 and our county continues to pay dues and raise funds; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board was established to coordinate efforts to improve water quality; not to compete for the same monies as non-profit organizations; government agencies and watershed groups; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board will continue to request dues from its member counties for the purpose of supplementing administration and coordination of projects; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board has made great strides in promoting and coordinating CREP in the Minnesota River Basin, nutrient trading coordination, Clean Water Legacy Act funding, development of local and regional partnerships, integrated watershed model support, recommendations to the drainage task force, projects communications coordination through the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance and the Water Resources Center, and communications through a new website (<http://www.minnesotariver.org/>) and newsletter; and

WHEREAS, with additional funding the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board will expand programs on educating the public and watershed staff about water related issues and assist partners in obtaining additional funding for projects on the ground; and

WHEREAS, this County is a member in good standing of the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board and contributes to the mission; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this County affirms our belief in the mission of the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, our desire to continue supporting the Board and its mission, and recognizes the value of this Board's actions; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we support legislative action to reinstate funding for the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, aka Minnesota River Board (MRB) to further enhance its Mission and Results.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appoint Kelly Thongvivong as the Travel Coordinator for 2007.

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Steve Nasby, Wendy Meyer and Rob Anderson met with the board representing the City of Windom and the City of Mt. Lake as well as the EDA. They updated the board on some of the things that are currently being worked on in each city. Rob Anderson, Mt. Lake EDA, also handed out a draft Tax Abatement Policy for Housing Development for the board's review. No action was taken at this time.

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Veteran's Service Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to request permission to volunteer to attend an out-of-state training to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin sometime in July or August. This training will be targeted towards the

National Guard members that will be coming home from Iraq. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to approve out-of-state travel for Todd Dibble for approximately 1 week sometime in July or August to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. Dibble will notify Kelly Thongvong when he knows further information as to the dates of the training.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to present bids (on file in the Commissioner's Room) that were received for the mowing of five (Dynamite, Mountain, Red Rock, Schoper/Bush, and South Dutch Charley) county parks. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to award low bid from Gloyd Wellman for a total of \$8,400 for the mowing of five county parks for 2007.

Discussion was also held in regards to the recent permit granted to Mark Pankonin for the expansion of an existing feedlot and the construction of a monoslope barn. It was noted that there are still a few concerns with the closeness to the stream.

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Extension Regional Director Holli Arp met with the board to ask permission to hire a summer clerical intern for approximately 13-14 weeks at 40 hours/week. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize advertisement of summer program assistant/clerical position with a deadline of March 30, 2007.

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Update was given in regards to a recent meeting that Commissioners Holmen and Sorenson had with County Recorder Kathy Kretsch.

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Discussion was held in regards to a letter that was received in regards to retaining legal services for the Ditch Authority. The board agreed that they do not intend to acquire the services of Rinke Noonam.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Holmen and Auditor/Treasurer Johnson to approve the four AFSCME contracts and the one LELS contract after necessary changes have been made and approved. The necessary changes will be forwarded to Ken Leas, AFSCME union representative, and Jack Chambers, LELS union representative.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to hire Joe Swift of Custom Wood Designs to custom-build the Commissioner's table and the presenter's table for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant