Agriculture & Rural Development Advisory Committee
Kelly Inn – Saint Cloud, Minnesota
December 6th, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Rick Anderson, Lyon County
Bob Fox, Renville County
Garry Gamble, Cook County
Paul Gerde, Pope County
Jake Gillen, Rice County
Cal Johannsen, Hubbard County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County
Warren Peschl, Benton County
Felix Schmiesing, Sherburne County
Mike Slavik, Dakota County
Daniel Stenseng, Clearwater County
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County

GUESTS:
Paul Setzepfandt, Renville County
Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi County
Steve Duncan, Jackson County Coordinator
Don Wachal, Jackson County
Ron Boyenga, Rock County
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County
Peg Heglund, Yellow Medicine County
Administrator
Marie Kovecsi, Winona County
Gerald Magnus, Murray County
Tom Warmka, Faribault County
John Riebel, Sherburne County

I. Call to Order
Chair Jake Gillen called the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Committee to order at 5:00 PM. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced themselves. Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to adopt the minutes from September 17, 2015. Commissioner Cal Johannsen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

II. Agenda Addition: Discussion on Fargo Diversion Channel vs. Upstream Water Retention
Commissioner Luke Johnson brought an issue to the committee for discussion relating to a Fargo diversion channel project and alternative solutions such as upstream water retention. Discussion took place and it was determined more information would be needed before the committee would take any action on the issue.

III. Buffer Law Update
DNR Staff Dave Leuthe gave an update on the new buffer law. The DNR is responsible for creating buffer maps and Dave provided an update on the mapping process, timeline and the information DNR would be seeking from drainage authorities.
IV. **Ditch Assessment Alternative Methods and Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Program**

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Chief Engineer Al Kean presented an alternative method to assess drainage ditches through a run-off based approach. He also gave an update on the Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Program.

V. **General Policy Discussion**

There was not enough time to have a general policy discussion on topics such as transportation, county program aid, rural economic development and other suggested topics. Time will be allotted at future meetings to hold discussions on policy items.

VI. **Adjourn**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.