



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 18th, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Marty Cobenais, Harlan Strandlien, Alroy Lewis, Paul Rydeen and John Gunvalson

SWCD Staff: Nathan Nordlund, Lori Buell and Chester Powell

NRCS Staff: Cari Roepke

Guests: John Nelson-County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Cobenais in the USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Cobenais called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Nordlund requested that action item, 2018 Budget approval be added under District Manager Report. Roepke requested that the Civil Rights Report be added under NRCS Reports. Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition as requested by Nordlund. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Appointment of Officers: A motion to continue with the established office rotation for 2018 (new officers: Chair: Gunvalson; Vice Chair: Lewis; Secretary: Strandlien; Treasurer: Rydeen; Member-at-Large: Cobenais) was made by Lewis. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the regular December meeting were reviewed by the board. Rydeen made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 5-0.**

NRCS:

EQIP: Roepke reported that she has been working on EQIP eligibility and currently has 12 applications. Roepke noted that the deadline to apply was extended to February 2nd.

CSP: Roepke reported that she has been working on finishing up FY2017 payments. Roepke noted that the original January 18th deadline to apply for CSP has been extended to March 2nd.

Misc.:

Roepke reviewed the content of the Civil Rights packet with the board. Roepke ensured that each board member understood the content of the packet and had the members sign the packet when she completed the discussion.

Roepke noted that she is planning on attending the Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. on Feb 11th-16th as long as there isn't a Government shutdown.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS: Powell reported that he is planning on attending an AIS workshop January 24th 2018.

Buffer Law: Powell reported that he will be contacting the last couple of land owners to assess compliance before the public ditch deadline of November 1, 2019.

Cost Share: Powell reported that Dan Johnson is interested in putting up a windbreak on the South and East portion of his land. Lewis made a motion noting that since there is a lack of water quality benefits to this project it does not meet Cost Share criteria and therefore would have to be denied. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

School Pollinator Plot: Powell reported that he has been talking with Kurt Svensgaard from Fish and wildlife and Kim Anderson from Clearbrooks school about partnering together to put in a pollinator Plot on the Clearbrook school grounds as an educational component. Rydeen thought a raingarden might be a good project to look at. Powell noted that this was still in the talking phase and was waiting to hear back from Anderson to see if the school district was even interested in partnering in a project.

One Watershed One Plan: Powell presented the board with a resolution from Beltrami SWCD to support Mississippi Headwaters One Watershed One Plan. Cobenais made a motion to approve the resolution as submitted. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 4-1** Rydeen opposed.

Four Legged Lake: Powell passed out a resolution stating that the Clearwater SWCD board is in disagreement with the purposed lake water lever of 1424 and would like to stick with their original motion of 1427. Cobenais made a motion to accept the resolution as submitted by Powell. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Pine Lake Township Ditch: Powell updated the board that he did receive a quote from JPB for stabilization of 159th Ave ditch of \$10,000. Powell noted that this would include the installation of 10 riprap check dams and erosion blanket.

County Wide Water Testing: Powell noted that at the prior month's meeting there was discussion about conducting a County Wide water testing program. Powell reported that if the board is interesting in pursuing this program RMB would be willing to work with the district and bill us monthly. Powell noted that funding would be a flat Cost Share rate. After discussion the board decided to put this project on hold for the time being.

Forestry Program: Powell presented the board with a possible Forestry Program outline. Powell proposed that the SWCD start a Forest for Water Quality program that would be designed to help Cost Share tree plantings and other forest health treatments that have water quality benefits. Powell noted that the program would implement a 75% Cost Share rate for projects and a flat Cost Share rate for Stewardship Plans. After board discussion Powell will work on restructuring the program outline and will discuss the changes with the board at the February meeting.

Other:

Meetings:

-Powell attended Pine Lake and Four Legged Lake project team meetings in Thief River Falls.

-Powell met with Jeff Duchene, NRCS Grazing Specialist, on seed selection and seed tool training.

-Powell, Nordlund and Buell met with Chad Severts and Jeff Hrubes to discuss ways to use Local Capacity Funding.

-Powell attended a Pasture Renovation workshop, hosted by U Of M Extension, at the Bagley American Legion on January 9th, 2018.

Upcoming Meetings: Powell plans on attending the Pine Lake and Four Legged Lake Project team meeting in Thief River Falls on 1/19/18.

Upcoming Conference: Powell will be attending the Midwest Soil Health Summit on February 14th-15th

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

Financial Reports: Financial statements showing revenue and expenditures for the month of December were presented to the Board for review.

Profit & Loss: Income: Nordlund noted that we are currently 100% through the year. Nordlund reported the SWCD ended the year showing a revenue of around \$25,000. Nordlund noted that there was primarily 2 factors contributing to the excess income. Nordlund noted that the first reason was Wages/Benefits were almost \$20,000 less than budgeted due to Phillip's leaving and a reduced salary. Nordlund noted the second reason for the extra income was that he had budgeted Administration as an expense when it is actually an income item for us. Besides this other income recognized was the County AIS Grant, the 2015 CWF Grant and MN Buffer Law Grant.

Expenses: Nordlund noted that there wasn't anything outside of regular expenses for the month of December.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Nordlund noted that for the month of December, outside of regular expenses, there was a payment of \$152.50 paid to Mark Larson for Well Sealing costs.

Deposit Detail: Nordlund noted that in the month of December deposits included, the PERA Rate increase aid, Plat Book Sales and interest earned.

Balance Sheet: Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance in December was \$24,890.61. Nordlund noted that most of that balance was for the County Water Plan and AID invoices.

A motion to accept the December financial reports was made by Cobenais. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Other Reports/Meetings:

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items

2018 MASWCD Area VIII Dues: Cobenais made a motion to pay the MASWCD State Dues in the amount of \$225.00. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

2018 MASWCD State Dues: Lewis made a motion to pay the MASWCD State Dues in the amount of \$2486.57. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

2018 MCIT Renewal: Cobenais made a motion to pay the 2018 MCIT Renewal in the amount of \$5458.00. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

2018 Meeting Dates, Times and Locations: A motion to hold the February meeting the fourth Thursday of the month and to keep all the remaining meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the following times and locations was made by Lewis:

February 22, 1:00 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
March 15, 1:00 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
April 19, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
May 17, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
June 21, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
July 19, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
August 20, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
September 20, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
October 18, 8:30 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
November 15, 1:00 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center
December 20, 1:00 a.m., Bagley USDA Service Center

Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Committee Assignments: Nordlund gave the board a list of the previous year's Committee Assignments. Rydeen made a motion to keep a committee assignments as they were in 2017. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Designation of Authorized Signer and Representative for BWSR grants. Nordlund reported that someone needs to be authorized as the signer and Representative for BWSR grants. Nordlund noted that this should be done annually. Rydeen made a motion to authorize Buell as the Representative for BWSR grants and Authorized Signer for Financial Reports submitted to BWSR. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Lease Agreement: Nordlund presented the board with a one year lease agreement from Wiebolt. Nordlund noted that the rent will remain unchanged from the previous year. Cobenais made a motion to approve the lease agreement as submitted. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Per Diem Rates: Cobenais made a motion to keep the per diem rates at the current rate of \$65.00. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Position: Nordlund presented the board with a Water Planner Position Description. The board suggested adding Forestry and Grazing Specialist qualifications to the description. Cobenais made a motion to approve the description with the suggested changes and to add a closing date of February 16th. Second by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

First National Bank Authorized Signature: Rydeen made a motion to add Lori Buell and Marty Cobenais as authorized signatures on checks at First National Bank of Bagley and to remove Nathan Nordlund as a signature as of February 1st. Lewis Second **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Budget: Nordlund presented the board with a copy of the 2018 budget. Strandlien approved the budget as submitted by Nordlund. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 5-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m. was made by Strandlien. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Harlan Strandlien, District Secretary

Date

"Leadership is the art of giving people a platform for spreading ideas that work." --Seth Godin

Our mission is simple - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.