

# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2023*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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**Board Members Present:** Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson and Aaron Kaiser.

**SWCD Staff:** Lori Buell, Chester Powell, Brielle Prokosch and Kaleb Busing

**NRCS Staff:** Nate Brant

**Guest:** John Nelson, Stuart Dukek, Darren Wheeling

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Kaiser was sworn in by County Commissioner Nelson.

**Agenda:** It was called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powell added a Christenson soil test to the agenda. Gunvalson made the motion to approve the agenda as is. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the December meeting were reviewed by the board. Gunvalson made a motion to approve the December minutes as is. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Positions:** The board looked over the board positions. Kaiser made the motion to approve the positions. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### NRCS REPORT

**EQIP:** Brant noted the 2023 ranking deadline was February 3<sup>rd</sup> and had 22 applicants in Clearwater.

**CSP:** Brant finished 9 payments for Clearwater with 2 renewal contracts. Brandt noted 2023 CSP Classic sign up in Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CRP:** Brant noted continued CRP is an option available for some contracts.

**Other:** Brant noted a new program would be coming out focusing on nutrient management. Brandt is hoping to do some outreach projects with the local schools.

## PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

**AIS Program:** Prokosch is in communication with CLAA, the Clearwater County Commissioners and the DNR to work together to purchase and install a CD3 at the Clearwater

**Education/Outreach:** Prokosch reported that she has been continuously working on the district website and facebook keeping the public updated on multiple programs.

Prokosch noted that the winter newsletter had been finished. Prokosch noted the price for a colored ad in the newspaper and black and white in the shopper would come out to \$1,649. Kaiser made the motion to go ahead for putting the newsletter in the paper and shopper. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Rain Gage:** Prokosch had been inputting end of year data.

**Trees:** Prokosch noted trees had been ordered and order forms had been put online and into the newsletter.

## DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Buesing had invited Darren Wheeling from the Fish and Wildlife Services. Wheeling talked about what programs were available through the Fish and Wildlife like wetland restoration, pollinator plantings, grazing practices and cost share matches. Buesing and Wheeling talked about giving away seed and what the tracking would need to be for it.

**Trees:** Buesing created a windbreak plan.

Buesing confirmed pick up times for the flower sale.

Buesing noted the hockey building may not work out for tree storage but renting another storage container near the district's might work. Strandlien made the motion to spend up to \$800 on renting another storage container for trees. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Education Outreach:** Buesing noted plans with the Community Education for environmental classes had been finalized.

**Trainings:** Buesing attendee a prairie strip till webinar.

**Noxious Weeds:** Buesing noted there was an infection of wild parsnip near the Bagley airport and asked the best route to inform the airport of the infestation.

## WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

**Water Planning:** Powell noted that the Mississippi 1W1p had done their end of season reporting.

Powell noted that the end of year reporting had been finished for Clearwater 1W1P and implementation had been received.

**Soil Health:** Powell updated the soil health program for 2023. Powell altered the program to match up with the 1W1P funds and payment rates which would make the rentals a flat \$40 per acre. Kaiser made the motion to approve the updated program. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Powell noted Christenson had a soil test for \$25 in cost share. Kaiser made the motion to pay Christenson the \$25. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Trees:** Powell noted that trees had been ordered.

**Cost Share:** Powell noted Ehlers had a well sealed at 50% cost share for 362.50. Strandlien made the motion to pay Ehler the cost share amount. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Forest Stewardship:** Powell reported that Millenacker had a forest stewardship plan on 76 acres for 75% cost share for \$622.40. Kaiser made the motion to pay Millenacker the cost share. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.** Powell noted that in February the forest stewardship plans will match the 1W1P plans and match at 75%.

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

### ***Profit & Loss:***

**Income:** Buell reported that in the month of December the the no-till drill rental was down \$1000 due to payment to Beltrami (line 6), the billed the county the remainder of the 2022 AIS expenses (line 21), the 1W1P was up over 3,000 claimed hours (line 24), the conservation deliver line was closed out (33), the I.C. admin hours were billed (line 38), the Beltrami soil health payments were down \$7,000 (line 51).

**Expenses:** Buell reported that out of usual expenses, the office supplies were up over \$100 for external computer harddrives (line 68), the water plan was up over \$5,000 for RMB expenses (line 114), the local compacity was down \$3,000 (line 118) and forestry moved to cost share (line 125).

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Buell noted that for the month of December, outside normal transactions, 1W1P payments to Pennington (line 4), registration to attend MASWCD (line 5), soil health payment (line 6), MN federal and state withholdings (line 10-11), and soil health payments (line 34).

**Deposit Detail:** Buell noted that in the month of December there were deposits for: 1. Soil health payments and WR-1W1P hours 2. Plat books, soil health payments, WR-1W1P hours billed 3. Interest earned on checking accounts 4. Interest earned on saving accounts

**Balance Sheet:** Buell reported that at the end of December the Checking Account balance was \$362,914.05 and the Savings Account balance was \$104,984.44. Buell reported that she was working on closing out the 2020 buffer law, the 2020 local compacity and the 2021 conservation delivery.

A motion to accept the December financial report was made by Kaiser. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

## **DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:**

**2023 Meeting Rates and Date:** The board decided to discuss this at the next board meeting.

**Committee Assignments:** The board decided to discuss this at the next board meeting.

**MASWCD 2023 Dues:** Buell noted the annual dues were \$4,593.56. A motion to pay the dues were made by Strandlien. Seconded by Kaiser.

*Peterson Co. Audit:* Buell noted the audits payment was \$3,500. Kaiser made the motion to make the payments, Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:3 a.m. was made by Kaiser. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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Alroy Lewis, District Secretary

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Date

"Preserve and Cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."

—Carl Sagan

*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.*