

# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING October 15th, 2020*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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#### **Board Members Present:**

Harlan Strandlien, Jackie Ulrich, and Paul Rydeen. With John Gunvalson via phone.

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair Strandlien at the Bagley American Legion Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:** Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powell requested adding a rain stimulator purchase and Lewis soil test action items. Rydeen made a motion to add the action items. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed by the board. Ulrich made a motion to approve the September minutes as previously submitted. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### NRCS

NRCS had sent over a report made by Jody Peek.

**CSP:** The deadline for producers to receive payments is November 6<sup>th</sup>. Field offices are working on renewal payments as well.

**EQIP:** The deadline for participants to put in an application is November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Staffing:** There are plans to hire a Soil Conservationist in both Bagley and Bemidji. An offer has been extended for a CET position.

**Performance Reviews:** Performance reviews have been conducted.

#### WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

**Water Planning:** Powell reported that the Clearwater 1W1P has been funded for its planning and is working on a work plan. The Mississippi 1W1P is finishing a draft review and will soon send out of a 60-day public review. The Mississippi had an Advisory meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> and will have a Policy meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Wild River 1W1P had a steering team meeting the day before and came back from a 60-day public hearing. It will then be sent to BSWR for board approval. Powell noted the Mississippi 1W1P could be completed before the end of the year.

**Forest Stewardship:** Powell reported that Jake O'Bryan did a forest stewardship plan on 75 acres and is eligible for 75% cost share for the total of \$604.07. Lewis made the motion to approve cost share for O'Bryan in the amount of \$604.07. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

### ***Soil Health:***

**Soil Tests:** Powell reported that Alroy Lewis had taken 9 soils tests with each test costing \$25.00 each and was eligible for cost share in the total of \$225.00. Rydeen made the motion to approve cost share to Lewis in the amount of \$225.00. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Aerator:** Powell reported that Steve Hughes had used the aerator to plant alfalfa on 31 acres and is eligible for 25% cost share for a total of \$775.00. Gunvalson made the motion to approve cost share for Hughes in the amount of \$775.00. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Sprayer:** Powell noted that the sprayer has now been winterized and was looking to store it for the winter. Powell explained that it was best to purchase a new motor in the spring.

**No-Till Drill:** Powell explained that the Kleppe's had used the drill for an annual winter grazing mix, but it was not eligible for cost share due to cover crop standards. Powell also noted that the drill is now cleaned out and ready to be stored for the winter.

**Rain Simulator:** Powell explained that instead of using the large rain simulator rented from the NRCS the District could purchase a smaller scale tabletop version for \$889.00 to be used for schools, the county fair and other educational events. Rydeen made the motion to purchase the tabletop rain simulator for \$889.00. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Cost Share:** Powell reported that the Nordlund stock farm had finished construction and recently put in a winter watering tank.

**Conservation Farm:** Powell explained that Lewis had talked to the county fair board that that the board was comfortable with the District placing the storage shed at the fairgrounds instead of at the conservation farm like previously discussed. Powell also noted that the local hardware store had cattle gates for sale for \$190.00 and could be used for gating the driveway at the conservation farm. Powell explained that the gate and construction of, could be completed for under \$300.00.

**Office Supplies:** Powell noted that since his desktop tower was no longer needed after purchasing the laptop, that the District could donate it to a non-profit entity. The board recommended the District have the final say in where the tower is donated to.

### **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT**

**AIS Program:** Prokosch noted that she had created mailers for Lake Lomond residents to check their docks and boats for zebra mussels when removing them from the lake for the winter and is in the process of getting them printed. Prokosch also noted that the AIS budget was nearly complete with some minor adjustments.

**Education/Outreach:** Prokosch reported that she has been continuously working on the district website and facebook keeping people updated on multiple programs. Prokosch also noted that a new page for the Conservation Farm has been added to the website with information for hunters.

**Lake Monitoring:** Prokosch reported that the lake data spreadsheet has been turned into the MPCA.

**Outdoor Signage:** Prokosch noted that the new outdoor sign has been installed.

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

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

**Income:** Buell reported that in the month of September No-till Drill rentals were up over \$1000 (Line 5-No-Till Drill), plat book sales were also up over \$1000 (Line 7- Plat Books), the first half of AIS expenses were claimed (Line 15- AIS), and funds were claimed from Conservation Delivery (Line 25- Conservation Deliver).

**Expenses:** Buell noted that the AIS expenses will be reimbursed (Line 78- AIS Expenses) and paid 1 month to Clearwater-Polk Electric for tree storage at the DNR facility (Line 94-Tree Transportation/Storage).

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Buell noted that for the month of September, outside of normal transactions, was the soil health payments (Line 6-8- Soil Health), Forest Stewardship plan (Line 9- Johnson), a well sealing (Line 19- City of Bagley), and the new signage (Line 33- Signage).

**Deposit Detail:** Buell noted that in the month of September there were No-Till drill payments, sprayer payments and Plat Book payments with interest earned on accounts.

**Balance Sheet:** Buell reported that at the end of September the Checking Account balance was \$397,362.60 (Line 4). Interest earned on account was \$83.06 (Line 6). Buell noted that the Savings account is up \$103,808.76 with interest earned (Line 10) Buell also noted the AIS billing in Accounts Receivable (Line 14) and that the 2019 Conservation Delivery funds have been claimed and the grant closed out (Line 30).

A motion to accept the September financial report was made by Ulrich. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

**Audit:** Buell explained that the audit had taken place with no significant findings and that it needed to be signed by the board chair. Ulrich made the motion to sign the audit. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Budget:** The board made the decision to discuss the budget next month.

**Computer:** Buell noted that the warranties on all the computers the District uses will expire soon and will need to purchase new ones. Since Powell enjoys his new laptop, and with the ease of working from home when needed to, Buell suggested that she and Prokosch acquire laptops as well instead of desktops. Buell noted that the purchase of two new laptops would ~\$3,000 and would be near the same amount as desktops would be. Lewis made the motion to purchase two laptops for district staff. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Other Reports:**

**Jury Duty:** Buell noted that she will have to attend jury duty next week.

***Flex Schedule:*** Buell explained that with the schools shifting to distance learning and the rising COVID-19 cases in the county, that the District will eventually move to a flex schedule. Buell also noted that the office will always be covered and open.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m. was made by Rydeen. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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Jackie Ulrich, District Secretary

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Date

**"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less" –*Marie Curie***

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.