

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Avenue North, Suite 3, Bagley MN 56621 • (218)694-6845 • www.clearwaterswcd.com

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 21ST, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien, Alroy Lewis, and Paul Rydeen with Jackie Ulrich and John Gunvalson Via ZOOM.

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

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek

Guests: John Nelson

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

Agenda: Chair Rydeen called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powel added Christianson no-till to the agenda. Buell added Annual Convention to the agenda. Lewis made the motion to approve the agenda with corrections. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed by the board. Strandlien made a motion to approve the August minutes. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that the AIS inspector equipment had all be returned, organized and put away for next year.

Prokosch reported that she is working on the End of Season report for the state and had the 2022 AIS budget approved by the Clearwater County Board.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported the data gathered into an excel format was sent to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and had just received the data review email back.

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 she is working on the winter newsletter.

Rain Gauge: Prokosch reported that there was a new rain gauge volunteer from Eddy township and had set them up to get going on reporting rain gauges.

1W1P: Prokosch noted that she had purchased a domain for the Clearwater River 1w!p and as soon as Dain was finished setting it up, she would take over.

Upcoming: Prokosch noted BWSR Academy would be online and next week.

Peek arrived at 10:10 A.M.

ENBRIDGE

The District recognized the board's concerns regarding the Enbridge pipeline ground water fraction mistake and would draft a Statement of Concern acknowledging the pipeline's issues and that they've been resolved.

NRCS

Other: Peek noted that because of a high number of Covid-19 cases their office is at 25% compacity with no visitors and that all her employee must be vaccinated by November 22nd.

Peek noted that Clearwater program participants would be stopping by Monday to receive funding.

Nelson arrived at 10:17 A.M.

DISTRISCT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Buesing was absent from this meeting

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that he had attended a planning work group meeting on 10/20 where they had assessed the goals of the plan. Powell reported that a Clearwater River 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting will be held on 11/3.

Soil Health: Powell noted that Sletten had used the no-till drill for 19.2 acres with 1 test qualifying for a cost share amount of \$505.00, Rydeen had used the no-till cover crop on 22 acres qualifying for cost share amount of \$550.00 and Christensen had used the not-till for 118 acres and 8 soil tests qualifying in cost share in the amount of \$2,200.00. Ulrich made the motion to provide cost share they are respectfully owed to the above producers. Seconded by Gunvalson.

Motion carried 4-0 with Rydeen abstaining.

Powel noted that Nordlund had used the no-till on 77 acres for harvest rye and Norgaard had used the no-till for cover crop rye.

Powell noted he had found prices for openers and coulters for the no-till for the price of \$1,300 and asked the board which chain to go with.

Forest Stewardship: Powell reported that Sunquist had completed a forest stewardship plan on 96 acres and is eligible for cost share in the amount of \$716.21 and Ames had completed a forest stewardship plan on 115 acres and is eligible for cost share in the amount of \$976.84. Strandlien made the motion to provide cost share they are respectfully owed to the above. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Trees: Powell noted he ordered trees for the 2022 tree sale. Powell noted that he could not find Balsam Fir, Tamarack nor White Cedar.

Conservation Farm: Powell reported the gate had been installed at the conservation farm and 3 hunting permits had been signed for.

Equipment: Powell reported that Nelson had completed a well-sealing and was eligible for 50% cost share in the amount of \$362.50. Ulrich made the motion to pay cost share to Nelson. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Other: Powell noted that Svensgard from the Fish and Wildlife Service had dropped off 150 pounds worth of wildflower and wild grass seeds to be packaged and distributed to the public. The fish and Wildlife service only needs to know which landowners planted the seed and how many acres worth.

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 the no-till (line 4) was up over \$2,000, plat book sales (line 6) were up \$300 with the new plat books, and Misc Revenue (line 42) \$150 for selling the boat trailer.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, office supplies (line 59) \$250 for ordering new blank checks, vehicle gas (line 67) had gas up about \$200, AIS (line 85) for Solid Bottom, water plan (line 100) for RMB up \$700 to be billed to the county during second water plan billing, and 2019 local compacity (line 105) up over \$4,000 because of soil health payments.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of September, outside normal transactions, Skeeter Stich (line 5) for logos on shirts, Solid Bottom (line 9) for AIS billing, Mapping Solutions (line 16) 2021 plat books, Soil Health (line 20-27) incentive and cost share payments, Houston Engineering (line 38) 1W1P hours billed.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of September there were deposits for: 1. Platbooks payments and no-till drill rentals 2. No-till drill rentals and boat trailer 3. Interest earned on accounts 4. Interest earned on accounts

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of August the Checking Account balance was \$452,448.27 and the Savings Account balance was \$104,038.53. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable was at \$6,234.78 which is soil health invoices and plat book sales.

A motion to accept the Septmeber financial report was made by Lewis. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:

Garden Valley Router Set-up: Buell informed the board about going forward with breaking away from the NRCS server and going with the Garden Valley separate server. Buell noted that there were only 3 spots on the NRCS server so Buesing was unable to access any files. Buell noted it was a \$6,000 one-time set-up fee with an annual fee of \$90 for a

server, the phone, IT help, etc which was affordable. Ulrich made the motion to go forward with getting a separate server with Garden Valley. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Audit: Buell informed the board that the audit was complete, normal, and would be submitted to BWSR and the State.

Annual Convention: Buell noted that the annual convention would be in-person this on December 12th-14th of this year and asked that the board members decide if they want to go.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. was made by Ulrich. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

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.