

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Avenue North, Suite 3, Bagley MN 56621 • (218)694-6844 • www.clearwaterswcd.com

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 19th, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present: Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson, Paul Rydeen, Alroy Lewis and Aaron Kaiser

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell, Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek

Chair Gunvalson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by the board. Buell noted Severts had not been able to make it to talk about the new cost share policies and that she would be going first today. Powell noted Rohde and Savig would be removed from the agenda and Eickhoff was a forest stewardship action. Rydeen made the motion to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Kasier. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

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 August, Line 7 (No-Till Drill) up around \$2,000 soil health payment Line 25 (County Wetland Act) sent invoice to the county will reflect next month, Line 29 (Conservation Delivery) working on billing grants.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, Line 47 (Employee Training Account) Managers meeting-Brainerd, Line 48 (Employee/Supervisor) Supervisor payroll over \$300, Line 53 (Office Supplies) Intuit checks/envelopes over \$300, Line 61 (Vehicle Gas) over \$300, Line 104 (CI-1W1P) over \$1700 SH payments.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of September, Line 4 (RMB) lake testing, Line 9-14 (SH payments) payments made by producers, Line 16 (West Polk SWCD) Admin Training, Line 23 (1st National) CD,

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of September there were deposits for: Deposit 1: Soil Health payments, hours billed to RLWD, plat book and tree tubes, Deposit 2: WR hours billed to 1W1P, Soil Health Payments Plat book, Deposit 3: Interest earned on Checking, Deposit 4: Money transferred to CD , Deposit 5: Interest Earned on Savings

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of September the Line 4 (Checking Account): the end September was \$ 283,050.80, Line 6 (13 mo. CD): the end of September was \$80,000, Line 7 (13 mo. CD): the end of September was \$100,000, Line 10 (Savings Account): the end of September was \$24,543.79, Line 13 (Accounts Receivable): Most soil health invoices (have since been received).

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

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:

Audit: Buell reported that the audit went well and would have hard copies for the board to review next month.

BWSR Academy: Buell noted all employees had enrolled for BWSR Academy on October 24th- October 26th.

Annual Convention: Buell noted annual convention would be December 11th-13th in Bloomington and asked if any of the board members would like to attend. Buell noted it was \$195 per day. Kaiser made the motion for anybody who would like to attend be allowed to go. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Designation of Authorized Signer for BWSR Grants: Buell noted that she usually signs the BWSR Grants but would need a motion to continue doing so for the next year. Rydeen made the motion to approve Buell as an authorized signer. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

NRCS REPORT:

NRCS Employment Opportunities: Peek reported that NRCS is hiring and has a recent rangeland management position open.

EQIP: Peek noted Clearwater has 23 applications on file for 2024 consideration funding with \$390,000 allocated so far and existing projects are moving forward.

CSP: Peek noted Clearwater has 1 new contract in Clearwater County and 1 renewal.

CRP: Peek noted Clearwater had several new contracts.

Other: Peek attended an American Bird Conservancy field day.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS: Prokosch reported she was working on off-season documents, like the budget, for the state.

Education Outreach: Prokosch reported that she has been continuously working on the district website and facebook keeping the public updated on multiple programs and would start on the January newsletter soon.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch noted the lake monitoring data had been sent to the MPCA. Prokosch reported she has been entering rain gauge data for the MN Climatology Dept.

Trees: Prokosch had bud capped trees at Imles on 10/10.

1W1P: Prokosch attended and took minutes for the Clearwater 1W1P meeting on 10/18.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Trees: Buesing went out bud capping trees at Imles on 10/10 and finished Imles 2024 planting plan.

County Geological Atlas: Buesing noted he would attend a county board meeting to discuss Clearwater's Geological Atlas.

Meetings: Buesing attended a WCA meeting with the MN DNR on 10/17.

Buesing attended a Clearwater 1W1P meeting on 10/18 and a Mississippi 1W1P Meeting on 9/25 and 9/27.

Buesing attended Hubbard's Fall tour on 10/12.

Misc.: Buesing noted the platbooks were finalized.

Buesing did RIM inspections on 10/11.

Soil Health: Buesing noted the great plains drill was in storage.

Buesing asked the board that he and Powell attend a Soil Management Summit on December 7th - 8th. Buesing noted the cost was \$600 for both parties for both lodging and attendance. Kaiser made the motion to give approval for attendance. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell attended a Mississippi 1W1P on 9/27, 10/17 and 9/25.

Powell had attended a Clearwater 1W1P meeting on 10/18.

Soil Health: Powell noted the following producers had rented the no-till drill and asked for cost share out of the Clearwater 1W1P funds and/or local compacity funds: LeClair for 75 acres and 1 soil tests for \$3,025, Pemberton for 60 acres, 1 soil test for \$2,425, Larson for 52 acres and 4 soil tests for \$2,180, Petterson for 4 soil tests for \$100, Stenseng for 14 acres and soil test for \$585, T. Johnson for a capped 120 acres for \$4,800, B. Johnson for a capped 120 acres for \$4,800, Abel for 64.4 acres and 3 soil tests for \$2,651, Berg for 62 acres for \$2,480, Bardwell for 57 acres and 2 soil tests for \$2,330 and Nelson for 65 acres and 2 soil tests for \$2,650. Lewis made the motion to approve the cost share and soil tests for each respected party. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Powell noted that Vold had rented the no-till drill and asked for cost share out of the Mississippi 1W1P funds for 30 acres and 1 soil test for \$1,225. Rydeen made the motion to approve the cost share and soil tests for each respected party. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Forest Stewardship: Powell noted Eickhoff completed a forest stewardship in the Mississippi 1W1P area and qauilified for 75% for a total of \$721.50. Strandlien made the motion to approve the cost share. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Meetings: Powell attended Hubbard's area tour on 10/12

Trees: Powell noted that tree ordering for next year had started.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m. was made by Rydeen. Seconded by Kaiser. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Alroy Lewis, District Secretary

Date

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.