

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 21st, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

.....

Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien, Paul Rydeen, Alroy Lewis, John Gunvalson and Jacki Ulrich

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Cari Roepke

Guests: John Nelson-County Commissioner, Kurt Svensgaard-Wildlife Biologist, Kent Sundseth-Tamarac Refuge Manager, Peter Dieser-American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Kevin Sheppard-ABC Forester

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Strandlien in the USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Vice Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powell requested action item, storage unit be added to the Agenda. Ulrich made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions as requested by Powell. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Board Chair Lewis arrived 1:05.

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

NRCS: Roepke went through a written report that Peek submitted. Roepke noted that there is a glitch with CSP and producers are still waiting on payments.

Roepke reported that a new Soil Con Technician will be starting on Monday.

Conservation Farm Plan: Kurt Svensgaard-Wildlife Biologist, Kent Sundseth-Tamarac Refuge Manager, Peter Dieser-American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Kevin Sheppard-ABC Forester presented the board with a Forest Management Plan for the Conservation Farm. The plan recommended clearing some old growth to make it more habitable and allow new growth in. Lewis made a motion to accept the plan as submitted. Second by Ulrich. **Motion Carried. 5-0.**

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Soil Health Program: Powell reported that the Aerator was used out at Gunvalson's Farm.

Lake Access Grant: Powell updated the board on the Moose Lake Access. Powell noted that this was part of the Local Capacity Match Grant that SWCD partnered with the County on.

Water Planning: Powell reported that he had a Mississippi Headwaters Steering Meeting on 11/13 and an Advisory Meeting on 11/20.

Powell reported that he attended a Wild Rice 1W1P Steering Meeting and a Policy Meeting on 11/06.

Trainings: Powell attended BWSR Academy on 10/29-10/31.

Powell plans on attending the MASWCD Annual Convention on 12/9-12/11 and a BWSR Shoreline training on 12/12.

Powell is interested in attending the Conservation Tillage Conference in St. Cloud on 12/17-12/18. Powell noted that cost of registration is \$140. Strandlien made a motion to approve the district to cover the cost of registration and room for Powell to attend the Conservation Tillage Conference. Second by Ulrich. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Equipment: Powell reported that the new district truck was purchased on 10/28 and the new ATV was purchased on 11/1.

Powell reported that he received a quote from JAG for up to \$500 for the SWCD logo to be added to the new truck. Ulrich made a motion to approve paying JAG up to \$500 for the logo to be added to the truck. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Powell presented the board with a quote for a new sprayer. The board suggested that he get additional quotes.

Trees: Powell reported that the trees for the 2020 tree season have been ordered.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that Zebra Mussels have been detected on Lake Lomond. Prokosch noted that they will be taking additional precautionary measures with the AIS program.

Trees: Prokosch reported that the staff has been working on getting the trees ordered and the order forms ready for the 2020 season.

Other: Prokosch reported that she has been busy working on the Urban Conservation Program and updating the website. Prokosch noted that the staff has started the Newsletter.

Upcoming: Prokosch attended BWSR Academy on 10/29-10/31. Prokosch will be attending the MASWCD Meeting on 12/9-12/10 and the BWSR Shoreline Training on 12/12.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Income: Buell reported that in the month of October the SWCD recognized revenue from the County for 4th QTR County Appropriations, Increased Capacity claimed expenses and MN Buffer Law claimed expenses.

Expenses: Buell noted that outside of regular expenses for the month of October additional charges were made in Increased Capacity and Buffer Law.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of October, outside of normal transactions, there was a deposit for the 2020 Conservation Delivery Grant and the 2020 Cost Share funds. Buell noted that there was a payment made to Knutson's for a Wild Rice presentation during the Fall Tour, expenses for meals during the fall tour, the purchase of the new district vehicle and bed liner and a payment made for Buell to attend the Manager's meeting.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of October deposits included an AIS payments from BWSR for 2020 Conservation Tillage and 2020 Cost Share, 4th QTR County Appropriations a refund payment from Lake Itasca Tours, plat book payments from vendors and Interest earned on accounts.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of October the Checking Account balance was \$348,066.95. Buell noted that the Accounts Receivable balance in October was \$7201.52. Buell noted that this amount was mostly Soil Health Payments, WCA payment and Plat book invoices, some have since been received. Buell reported that the Accounts Payable was \$311.22 Buell noted that this was mostly normal monthly bills.

A motion to accept the October financial report was made by Rydeen. Second by Lewis **Motion carried 5-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items

Lease: Buell reported that she met with Wiebolt about the lease. Weiblot reported that he would like to increase the rent from \$620 per month to \$685 per month. Weibolt noted that he would also like the lease to follow FSA timeline ending the end of 2021. Lewis made a motion to approve the lease as submitted. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

PRAP: Buell reported that she submitted a PRAP response letter to BWSR. Buell noted that the letter addressed all recommendation made in the report. Lewis made a motion to accept the letter as submitted. Second by Strandlien. Motion carried 5-0.

Upcoming: Buell reported that she will be attending the Manager's Meeting on 11/19 and is planning on attending the Annual Convention on 12/8-12/10.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 a.m. was made by Rydeen. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Paul Rydeen, 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.