



# 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 FEBRUARY 22nd, 2018*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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

Marty Cobenais, Harlan Strandlien, Alroy Lewis, Paul Rydeen and John Gunvalson

**SWCD Staff:** Lori Buell and Chester Powell

**NRCS Staff:** Cari Roepke

**Guests:** John Nelson-County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Chair Gunvalson in the USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:** Chair Gunvalson called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Buell requested that action items, Cost Share windbreak and 2019 Plat books be added under Program Technician Report. Strandlien made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition as requested by Buell. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular January meeting were reviewed by the board. Strandlien noted that under the line item MASWCD renewal it should read MCIT renewal. Cobenais made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes as suggested. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **NRCS:**

**EQIP:** Roepke reported that she has been working on EQIP eligibility and currently has 12 applications. Roepke noted that the deadline to apply was extended to February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CSP:** Roepke reported that the CSP deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Misc.:**

Roepke is expecting a new Ultima Employee to start on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT**

**AIS:** Powell reported that the agreement with Always there Staffing has been approved by the county board. Powell noted that he attended an AIS workshop in Brainerd on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**Buffer Law:** Powell reported that he currently does not have Technical Approval Authority to sign off on landowner compliance for the Buffer Law. Lewis made a motion authorize Powell Technical Approval Authority for Buffer Law alternative practices. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Four Legged Lake:** Powell reported that he attended a RLWD project team meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Tree Sales:** Powell reported that the SWCD has currently sold 47% of their trees. Powell noted that the agreement with the MNDNR to use their cold storage tree shed has been signed

**Forestry Program:** Powell presented the board with a possible Forestry Program outline. Powell proposed that landowners will receive a 75% reimbursement of the cost of having a Forest Stewardship Plan written, if their parcel is located within county boundaries and partially or entirely within a priority watershed boundary. Parcels located within county boundaries and outside the priority watersheds will receive a 50% reimbursement of their plan cost. Strandlien made a motion for Powell to create a Forestry program outline with the terms he previously stated. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 4-1 Rydeen Opposed**

**Soil Health Program:** Powell went over the previous soil health outline and asked if the board wanted to keep the rates the same as 2017. The board suggested revising the soil sampling rate. Powell will re-write the guidelines of the soil sampling rates and bring the outline back for the board to review during the March meeting.

**Cost Share Windbreak:** Powell presented the board with a possible Cost Share Wind Break project for Jack Juberian in Sinclair Township. Lewis made a motion to deny funding for the windbreak due to the project not meeting Cost Share guidelines. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**2018 Cost Share:** Powell reported that he is still waiting to hear back from Anderson on any new updates regarding the pollinator plot with Clearbrook School. Powell noted that that SWCD may have a cattle exclusion project to review soon and will keep the board updated.

**Water Plan:** Powell reported that the 2018 lakes have been selected for Lake Sampling and that he attended the International Water Institute Water Quality training on 02/21/2018.

**Urban Conservation:** Powell reported that he has been working on drafting an outline for a possible Urban Conservation Program. Powell noted that this program will be primarily Education/Outreach and will be designed to educate residents on Soil Health, Water Conservation and Native Habitat Improvement.

**2019 Plat Books:** Powell reported that he has been in contact with Mapping Solutions about the production of 2019 County Plat Books. Powell noted that an agreement has been drafted with an initial order of 500 books. Lewis made a motion to accept the contract as outline by Mapping Solutions. Second by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

**Profit & Loss: Income: Financial Reports:** Buell noted that the remaining \$8984.00 of 2015 CWF No-Till-Drill grant funding was deferred to this year. **Income:** Buell noted that in the month of January the SWCD recognized revenue from Plat Books Sales, Tree Sales 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. County Appropriations and interest earned on accounts. **Expenses:** Buell noted that outside of regular expenses for the month of January additional charges were added to the line item Education and Promotion, training, fees and dues, Insurance and bonds and Local Capacity expenses.

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Buell noted that for the month of January the SWCD received a payment from BWSR for the remaining 10% retainer from the 2015CWF grant. Buell noted that outside of normal expenses there was a payment made to MN Revenue for the Quarterly State taxes.

**Deposit Detail:** Buell noted that in the month of January deposits included, the 10% retainer from BWSR for the CWF15 grant, Envirothon donations, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. County Appropriations tree deposits, plat book sales and interest earned.

**Balance Sheet:** Buell reported that the Accounts Receivable balance in January was \$25,826.84. Buell noted that the majority of that balance was for the Local County Water Plan and AIS invoices. Buell noted that CWF15 is no longer a line item in Deferred Revenue since the grant is now closed out.

A motion to accept the January financial reports was made by Cobenais. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Other Reports/Meetings:**

**DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items**

**Area VIII meeting:** Buell reported that the MASWCD Area VIII meeting will be held Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Strandlien made a motion for the SWCD to cover the cost of registration for any Employee and board member interested in attending. Second by Lewis. Motion **Carried 5-0.**

**2018 Local Capacity Budget:** Cobenais made a motion to accept the 2018 Local Capacity budget as submitted by Buell. Second by Strandlien. Motion **Carried 5-0.**

**Beef Producers Magazine:** Lewis made a motion to run ads in the Beef Producers Magazine each quarter in 2018. Second by Rydeen. Motion **Carried 5-0.**

**Applicant Ranking:** Board members and staff ranked each application based on qualifications. Lewis made a motion to interview the top 5 candidates with the highest ranking. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Interview dates:** Cobenais made a motion to conduct interviews at the USDA service center on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:00. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m. was made by Cobenais. Second by Rydeen. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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Harlan Strandlien, District Secretary

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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.