

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING FEBURARY 18th, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien and Alroy Lewis. With Jackie Ulrich and Paul Rydeen via Zoom.

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Dan Pazdernik via Zoom

Guests: John Nelson via phone

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chair Rydeen at the Clearwater County Courthouse board room while on Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Rydeen called for additions or corrections to the agenda. District staff had no changes. Lewis made the motion to approve the agenda as is. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed by the board. Strandlien made a motion to approve the January minutes. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

NRCS

CSP: Pazdernik reported that the classic CSP deadline was March 26th. 1 Clearwater renewal was in process with the deadline February 19th for renewals.

EQIP: Pazdernik reported that the EQIP pre-approval deadline is March 9th with 5 pending contracts in Clearwater.

RCCP: Pazdernik mentioned that there were no RCCP in Clearwater.

CRP: Pazdernik noted that there was an extension to the CRP sign-up.

Other: Currently due to rising COVID-19 cases, the doors are locked to the public in the Bagley office and the NRCS staff will rotate to staff the Bagley office. Pazdernik also noted that the District will need to sign a MOA before the next board meeting.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported she had attended the annual off-Season Watercraft Inspection Meeting on February 4th. Prokosch had also attended 2 webinars: Online Decision Support Tool to Inform AIS Surveillance on Jan 27th and Public Engagement AIS Prevention Workshop on Feb 16th.

Education/Outreach: Prokosch reported that she has been continuously working on the district website and facebook keeping the public updated on multiple programs. Prokosch also noted that the Newsletters had been mailed out and had sent one to each of the board members as well as the county board. Prokosch also noted that the District had had a small meeting and was planning on having an educational Conservation Day on the farm with the local middle schoolers in May.

Trees: Prokosch reported that trees orders were coming in frequently and were up to 37 orders. Prokosch also noted that black spruce is sold out.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that the Mississippi 1W1P steering team meeting was February 11th where the plan had final edits completed and that the work plan is in implementation. A private forestry management meeting took place on February 10th which was a meeting between BSWR, the DNR and the Mississippi planning group where they discussed how to work jointly on forest stewardship plans.

Powell reported that the Wild Rice 1W1P had a steering team on February 10th where they went over the work plan for implantation. A policy meeting was held on February 2nd where the Wild Rice plan was approved. Powell asked the board for the District to adopt the Wild Rice 1W1P. Strandlien made to motion to adopt the final plan. Seconded by Lewis.

Motion carried 4-0.

Powell reported that the Clearwater River 1W1P was up and running and that a work group meeting took place January 26th. A policy team meeting will be on February 24th and reminded the board that Ulrich and Gunvalson were first and second respectively. Powell noted that policy meeting would go over budgets and would go about approving everything needed to start the plan.

Soil Health:

Custom Services: Powell provided the board with the Custom Services Agreement he had drawn up to supply customers with seeding, brush mowing, and tree planting services run by district staff. Rydeen suggested to hold off until next year due to COVID-19. Lewis made the motion to go forward with offering custom services. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Forest Stewardship: Powell noted that the total amount of forestry acres that the district has helped cost share on in forest stewardship plans is 3,500 since the program started in 2018. Powell reported that Flemming had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 61 acres and is eligible for 75% cost share in the amount of \$545.25; Roepke had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 120 acres and is eligible for 75% cost share in the amount of \$855.00; Nelson had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 57 acres and is eligible for 75% cost share in the amount of \$563.03; Peternell had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 30 acres which is eligible for 75% cost share and on 184 acres which is eligible for 50% cost share in the total amount of 536.98. Lewis made the motion to pay all four customers their respective cost share amount Local Capacity-Forest Stewardship. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

District Operations: Powell noted that he has been grant reporting in eLINK.

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: Buell reported that in the month of January Platbook Sales (Line 6- Platbook) were up \$292.00, Tree Sales (Line 11-Trees sales) \$2,358.00, 1st quarter County Appropriations (Line 16- County Appropriations), interest earned on accounts (Line 32-Misc Rev.), and Sales Tax Adjustments (Line 33- Misc Rev.- Other).

Expenses: Buell reported that the Highway Department was paid to prep for the storage shed (Line 38) and noted that Line 78 should say 2019 Local Capacity and not 2018.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of January, outside of normal transactions, was the Ag Spray Sprayer expense (Line 6), and the deposits for Local Capacity and Buffer Law.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of January there were deposits from 2021 Local Capacity Finding, 2021 Buffer Law, Tree Orders and Platbook Sales, and interest earned on checking and saving accounts.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of January the Checking Account balance was \$475,976.66 (Line 4) which is significantly up from last month due to 2021 Local capacity and Buffer Law. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable (Line 12) was at \$31,817.63 which was mostly invoices for AIS billing and Water Plan. Buell noted the Deferred Revenue (Lines 31-40), the 2018 and 2019 Cost Share, 2018 Local Capacity and 2019 Buffer Law were closed out. The 2021 Local Capacity and 2021 Buffer Law were added.

A motion to accept the January financial report was made by Ulrich. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Seasonal Employment: Buell noted that with the Clearwater River 1W1P the Water Plan Coordinator would be very busy this summer. Buell noted that with the 2021 income the District could use and afford a seasonal employee to help the Program Tech and Water Plan Coordinator during the busy summer months. Buell noted that the position would run from roughly April through September, would have an hourly wage between \$15-\$17 an hour and be a mostly technical position. Ulrich made the motion to approve a hiring a seasonal employee for the 2021 season. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

NRCS Memorandum of Agreement: Buell noted the MOA previously discussed with NRCS.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 AM was made by Strandlien. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

"To reach a port we must set sail – Sail, not tie at anchor. Sail, not drift." – 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.