

# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MARCH 18th, 2021*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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

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

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

**NRCS Staff:** Jody Peek via Zoom

**Guests:** John Nelson via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair Rydeen at the Clearwater County Courthouse board room. 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 Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

#### NRCS

**CSP:** Peek reported that the classic and general CSP deadline was March 26<sup>th</sup> and that Clearwater had around 12 applicants. Peek noted a new clause stating that applicants could now renew as many times as they wanted, though who would be accepted depended on funding.

**CRP:** Peek noted that there was an extension to the CRP sign-up and that many were interested in the pollinator aspect.

**Other:** Peek reported that the NRCS was working with Red Lake to put together a grazing system for buffalo. Peek noted that 2 new soil cons had begun. Peek also noted that the local work group meeting will need to be scheduled and was hoping to decide a date by the April meeting. Powell noted that the MOA was sent to Peek.

## PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

**AIS Program:** Prokosch reported that the Staffing Agreement with the county had been signed. Prokosch had also attended 2 webinars: a Behavior Change Workshop on 2/23 and a Detection and Response Workshop on 3/10.

**Education/Outreach:** Prokosch reported that she has been continuously working on the district website and facebook keeping the public updated on multiple programs, mainly trees.

**Trees:** Prokosch reported that trees orders were coming in frequently had sold 61% of trees. Prokosch noted quite a few species had already been sold out.

**Rain Gauge:** Prokosch noted that all the 2020 rain gauge sheets had been entered into the database and had been sent into the Climatology Office. The volunteers would soon be receiving their 2021 packets.

**Clearwater River 1W1P:** Prokosch reported that she had attended the Clearwater River 1W1P Policy Meeting on 2/24 and took minutes for said meeting.

## WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

**Water Planning:** Powell reported that the Mississippi 1W1P steering team meeting was on 2/19 and was out for final edits and out for a 60-day review.

Powell reported that the Wild Rice Marsh 1W1P had a steering team meeting on 3/9 and 3/35 where work plan items were being finished and deciding what kind of planning to do for the next 2 years.

Powell reported that the first Clearwater River policy team meeting had been on 2/24 where the office seats were selected and that they approved the HEI agreement and the Grant agreement. Powell noted that the board would also have to approve the HEI and Grant agreement. Lewis made the motion to approve and sign the HEI agreement. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.** Strandlien made the motion to approve and sign the Grant Agreement. Seconded Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.** Powell noted that the next policy meeting had been moved from 3/24 to 4/21 considering that there was only 1 agenda item.

### ***Soil Health:***

**Soil Tests:** Powell noted that Loise Walker had completed a soil tests and was eligible for cost share for \$25.00. Ulrich made the motion to pay Walker in the amount of \$25.00 for the soil tests. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Forest Stewardship:** Powell reported that Anderson had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 72.39 acres and is eligible for 75% cost share in the amount of \$625.89. Gunvalson made the motion to pay Anderson the \$625.89 cost share. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Rydeen brought up that he was worried these forest stewardship plans would drive up the taxes of the homeowners of the county. Powell responded that any taxes not paid by the forest stewardship customers were made up by the State's Department of Revenue and would not affect the homeowners of the county.

**District Operations:** Powell noted that a Shoreline Training on 6/2 - 6/4 would be a good hands-on, in person training for himself, Prokosch and any new staff. Powell noted the training cost was \$200 per person. Strandlien made the motion to spend up to \$600.00 (3 people) for the Shoreline Training. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

### ***Profit & Loss:***

**Income:** Buell reported that in the month of February Platbook Sales, which Buell will try to push up the date to get, (Line 6) were up \$404.00, tree flags plantskydd and tree tubes were purchased, Tree Accessories (Line 8), Trees Sales (Line 11) was up \$4724.94, and more so since deposited. 1<sup>st</sup> QRT County Appropriations (Line 16), Interest Earned on Accounts (Line 32), and Sales Tax Adjustment (Line 33) were noted.

**Expenses:** Buell reported that the Area 8 dues were paid (Line 45), AIS Supplies were purchased and will be reimbursed (Line 74), and part of the Newsletter paid for (Line 90).

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Buell noted that for the month of February, outside of normal transactions, was the Area 8 dues (Line 6), site prep for storage (Line 78), Annual Premium (Line 11), Soil Tests for Marsh (Line 17), and Forest Stewardship Plans for Nelson and Peternell (Line 21-22).

**Deposit Detail:** Buell noted that in the month of February there were deposits from 1<sup>st</sup> QRT County Appropriations, Tree Sales, Platbook Sales, Soil Health Payment, and Interest Earned on Accounts.

**Balance Sheet:** Buell reported that at the end of February the Checking Account balance was \$498,643.89 (Line 4) and the Savings Account balance 103,916.17. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable (Line 12) was at \$1288.07, which is mostly tree invoices.

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

### **DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:**

**Seasonal Employee Interviews:** Buell gave the board packets of the interviewees resumes. Buell noted that Ulrich and Powell will have to abstain from the interviews for personal reasons. Buell also noted that the interviews would take place in the Clearwater County Courthouse board room and via ZOOM. Buell suggested she pick a date in early April and let the board know.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 AM was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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John Gunvalson, District Secretary

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Date

**“Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals.”**  
**- Aldo Leopold**

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.