

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17th, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present: Harlan Strandlien, Alroy Lewis and John Gunvalson.

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell, Brielle Prokosch, and Kaleb Buesing

NRCS Staff: Nate Brant and Jody Peek

Guests: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Vice Chair Gunvalson at the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Gunvalson called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powell noted that an implantation to a grant agreement needed to be added to the agenda. Lewis made the motion to approve the agenda with corrections. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed by the board. Strandlien made a motion to approve the February minutes. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Peek arrived at 10:07 a.m.

NRCS REPORT

CSP General: Brant reported that of the applications on file the ranking will need to be completed by 4/15.

EQIP: Brant noted that there are 4 applications in Clearwater County selected for funding: 2 socially disadvantaged, 1 cropland and 1 pastureland.

Other: Brant noted there were vaccines in Bemidji. Brant planned on attending the MASWCD meeting on 3/13 and the North Central Interagency Summit on 4/18 and the Annual Civil Rights Talk.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported she was writing an article for the Clearwater Lake Association's newsletter. Prokosch reported that the Always There Staffing agreement had been signed by the Clearwater County board and that the inspector schedule had been completed.

Rain Gauge: Prokosch noted that all the rain gauge data had been entered into the system and delivered to the MN DNR Climatology department.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that the project data had been submitted to the MPCA and is ready to begin a new season.

Prokosch also noted that there were two new volunteers to sample Minnow and Minerva lakes.

Education/Outreach: Prokosch reported that she has been continuously working on the district website and facebook keeping the public updated on multiple programs. Mainly tree sale items.

Trees: Prokosch has been entering in sale order forms and noted the 150 six-packs or potted flower and grasses have been sold and 74% of trees have been sold.

DISTRISCT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Buesing had attended planning work group meetings for the Clearwater watershed on 2/23 and 3/16 and a budget meeting for the Wild Rice on 3/1.

Seed Plan: Busing noted he had finalized a plan for the Bjerke planting.

Education Outreach: Buesing reported that the rain barrel education class would be on 4/7.

Training: Buesing attended a soil health meeting on 3/3.

Other: Buesing noted he had dropped off platbooks around town.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell noted that the Clearwater 1W1P meeting would be on 3/23.

Powell reported that the board needed to sign an Implementation of Agreement for the Mississippi stating that Clearwater would be using funds from the Beltrami fiscal agent. Lewis made the motion to sign the agreement. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Powell noted the board needed to sign a Resolution of Support since the District would not be participating in the Crow Wing 1W1P but still supported the 1W1P and was a standard practice. Lewis made the motion to sign the resolution. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Forest Stewardship: Powell reported that Friborg had a forest stewardship plan for 74 acres at 75% for \$606.53 and that Olsen had 25.5 acres at 75% and 50.5 acres at 50% for \$471.43. Strandlien made the motion to reimburse the respected amounts. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Powell again brought up the 2022 program being possibly updated. Strandlien made the motion to keep the program as previous years. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Training: Powell noted he attended a drought disaster soil health meeting on 3/5 and an area 1 soil health implementors meeting on 3/3.

Conservation Farm: Powell noted the pollinator area at the farm was to be burned by the DNR this spring. Powell also planned to use areas as test plots for planting equipment types and to replant the orchard.

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 the plat book sales (line 6) were up \$200, and tree sales (line 12) were up over \$3,000.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, professional services (line 63) for the 2021 audit and the water plan (line 95) for a portion of area dues.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of February, outside normal transactions, there was a Houston Engineering 1W1P expense.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of January there were deposits for: 1. Tree sales, 1st quarter county appropriations and platbook sales 2. Trees sales, platbooks sales, 2021 AIS billing and 2021 water plan billing 3. Interest earned on checking accounts 4. Interest earned on saving accounts

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of February the Checking Account balance was \$286,337.32 and the Savings Account balance was \$104,124.64. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable was at \$7,172.82 which is mostly tree and platbook invoices. Buell reported that the Deferred Revenue should see some 2022 and 2023 funding reflected on March's financials.

A motion to accept the February financial report was made by Strandlien. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 3-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:

Board Update: Buell reported that Ulrich may be leaving the board at some future point.

Employee Reimbursement Review: Buell informed the board that she and Strandlien had discussed a wage increase for employees due to a rising cost of living. Strandlien made the motion to increase employee wage \$1.00. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Groundwater Grant: Buell reported that she was hoping in increase the amount of ob wells monitored and reimburse customer water testing through RMB through the grant.

Other: Buell noted that a manger's meeting was at the end of the month and the Area 8 meeting was on 3/18.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 a.m. was made by Strandlien. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 3-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

- 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.