

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING APRIL 15th, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

.....

Board Members Present:

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

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek via Zoom

Guests: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chair Rydeen at the Bagley USDA Service Center board room and via 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 3-0.**

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

8:43 a.m. – Gunvalson arrived.

NRCS

EQIP: Peek noted that there were no preapproved contracts in Clearwater County.

8:48 a.m. – Ulrich arrived.

CSP: Peek reported that the batch had been updated and the classic application deadline was March 26th. Peek noted that funding was limited and therefore had to prioritize any applications.

Other: Peek noted that a position had been posted (Roepke’s old position) at the Bagley office and should be filled within the next couple months.

Peek reported that NRCS would eventually move within the building and start sharing a space with FSA but had no timeline on when that would happen. Buell asked if the contract between the District and NRCS would then be void. Peek did not know but did not think moving into another space would void the contract.

Peek also noted that they would have to pick a date for the Local Work Group meeting and had until the end of July to schedule one. Powell mentioned that he would send out a poll to figure out a date.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that the tablets had been authorized to be used by the inspectors and the 2021 survey had been downloaded. Prokosch noted that she had been in contact with Always There Staffing and they had hired all the inspectors for the year and were getting them ready for the online trainings the state provided. Prokosch also noted that all the state paperwork had been filed.

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 slowing down a bit but had sold 75% of trees. Prokosch noted that the District was selling out of many species quickly this year. Prokosch noted that the trees from Schumacher's were to be delivered on the 19th, Lincoln Oaks on the 20th and pick up from Badora should be the 20th but Badora still needed to call back and confirm. Prokosch also noted that the District had 860 tree tubes delivered yesterday and still needed stakes. Powell mentioned he was trying to find wooden made stakes and the board suggested local businesses for him to look into.

Conservation Farm: Prokosch reported that the Conservation Farm now had an official E911 address so that the public and any emergency services could find it.

Interviews: Prokosch noted she had sat in on the Seasonal Tech interviews on 4/8.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that the Mississippi 1W1P steering team meeting was on 3/19 and the work plan was out for a 60-day review.

Powell reported that the Wild Rice Marsh 1W1P had a steering team meeting on 3/25 where the work plan was being sent to BWSR for approval and would receive funding after said approval.

Powell reported that the Clearwater River 1W1p had received the grant. A policy team meeting would be held on 4/28 where the advisory committee would be approved and would be held virtually every other month. Powell noted a Planning Work Group meeting had been held on 3/24 and another one planned for 4/21 where they will prep for the policy meeting. Powell noted that each county was allowed 3 people on the advisory meeting and asked the board if they had anyone in mind to serve that role. Powell noted that they were hoping for more lakeshore owners to attend.

Soil Health: Powell noted that Sunkuist and Hughes had planned on renting the aerator, and Engebretson had planned on using the No-till drill. Powell also noted that he had planned on doing a 20-acre hay mix custom seeding with the ATV and broadcast seeder for Hughes. Powell noted that all the rentals depended on weather conditions and had to be pushed down the road.

Forest Stewardship: Powell reported that Spray had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 259 acres and is eligible for 75% cost share in the amount of \$947.85. Lewis made the motion to pay Spray the \$947.85 cost share. Seconded by Gunvalson. **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 he had sat in on some of the interviews for the Seasonal Tech on 4/8.

Trees: Powell noted that he had picked up the trailer and was ready to start maintenance and prep for the tree planters.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss:

Income: Buell reported that in the month of March Platbook Sales(Line 6) were up \$600 from previous month, Tree Accessories (Line 8) were purchased and up over \$300, and Tree Sales (Line 11) was up \$10,511.94 from \$4742.94.

Expenses: Buell reported that the Area 8 dues were paid (Line 45), that Publications and Subscriptions should be in line 65 and would reflect that next month, part of the newsletter was paid for in Water Plan (Line 90), and a portion of the Ag Sprayer in Soil Health (Line 105).

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of March, outside of normal transactions, was the TA expense for the Pine Lake Project (TSA 8-Line 9), and the Shoreline Training (Crow Wing- Line 23). Buell also noted that April expenses shouldn't be in line 6 and were now moved.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of March there were deposits from Water Plan Billing, AIS billing from the County, Tree Sales, Plat book Sale and Interest Earned on Accounts.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of March the Checking Account balance was \$482,459.72 (Line 4) and the Savings Account balance 103,934.25. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable (Line 12) was at \$2,617.44, which is mostly tree invoices.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Seasonal Employee Interviews: Buell noted that Strandlien, Ulrich and Gunvalson attended the Seasonal Tech interviews on 4/28. Buell noted it had been decided that out of the top candidates the person who could start the closest to April 26th would be offered the position.

Pay Equity: Buell noted that the District had to file an equity report. Buell asked the board if they would like to follow the County's point system to grade the equity report again. Ulrich made the motion to follow the County's point system. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m. was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” — Chinese proverb

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.