

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MAY 20th, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

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

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

NRCS Staff: Cody Karr

Guests: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chair Rydeen at the Bagley American Legion Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Rydeen called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Prokosch reported that a 4H Picnic Table action item was to be added. Powell reported that Bakke No-Till and Gebhardt No-Till action items were to be added. Ulrich made the motion to approve the agenda with corrections. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed by the board. Gunvalson made a motion to approve the April minutes. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

New Hire: The District introduced Kaleb Buesing to the board as the new Seasonal District Technician.

NRCS

Staffing: Karr reported that an individual had be selected for a position in Bagley to start in July. Karr noted his last day would be May 28th.

Local Work Group Meeting: Karr noted that the Local Work Group Meeting still needed a scheduled date/time/place.

CSP Classic: Karr noted that the deadline in general sing up for CSP is May 28th. Clearwater has two high ranked candidates.

RCPP: Karr reported that sign-up will run until June 4th with two available funding pools: MDA and ABC.

EQIP: Karr noted that the deadline for the second sign-up is May 28th and had no Clearwater applications.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that the inspectors had picked up their equipment last week and that there were 8 returning inspectors and 2 new ones. Prokosch noted that since the training was all online, that the 2 new inspectors shadowed the senior inspectors. Prokosch noted that the AIS inspector season will run from Fishing Opener to Labor Day. Prokosch explained that a new zebra mussel veliger net had been purchased so that they could now get two samples from two different lakes in one day.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that all previous volunteers said they would be returning this year and had been sent the schedule for the season. Prokosch noted that the first lake sampling day would be 6/14.

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

Prokosch reported that the District had Watch 'Em Grow programs with the first graders of Bagley school on 5/14 and a Bagley Girl Scout Troop on 5/19 and provided Lilacs to the children. Prokosch explained that the Clearwater school would participate in Watch 'Em Grow on 5/26.

Prokosch reported that the local 4H would like to do a project with the District. It was suggested they make picnic tables for the Conservation Farm's day use area. Prokosch noted that a supply quote would be brought to the next meeting. Rydeen expressed concern about vandalism. Strandlien made the motion to use education outreach funding to purchase supplies for the 4H to build the picnic tables. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Trees: Prokosch noted that she had picked up trees from Badoura on 4/22 and that Schumacher and Lincoln Oaks had been delivered later that week. Prokosch noted that due to an excel sheet error the District had over sold both Crabapple species but had made another order which arrived in time for the pick-up days. Prokosch noted that the tree pick-up days were 4/29, 4/30 and 5/1. Prokosch reported that over 85% of trees had been sold either during the original sale or with the leftover trees afterwards. Prokosch noted that the District was still selling leftover trees. Prokosch explained that the tree planters were being rented frequently.

Prokosch participated in 3 custom tree plantings. 2,600 Red Pines for Hammon on 5/11, 2,000 White Spruce for Johnson on 5/14 and 125 Apples, Crabapples and White Pine for Sauer on 5/17.

Clearwater 1W1P: Prokosch had attended and took minutes for the Clearwater policy meeting on 4/28.

Trainings: Prokosch noted that a Shoreline Training was coming up on 6/2-6/4.

SEASONAL DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT:

Start Date: Buesing noted that he had started 4/26.

Water Planning: Buesing reported that he had attended a Clearwater 1W1P policy meeting on 4/28, a Planning Work Group meeting on 5/19 and a Clearwater Lake Area Association meeting with Powell to give info to the CLAA about 1W1P's.

AIS Program: Buesing noted that he had set zebra mussel traps at 10 lake's public accesses.

Soil Health: Buesing noted he had assisted with No Till-Drill calibrations at multiple locations.

Trainings: Buesing had attended a Tree and Shrub Planning and Planting training on 5/12 and would be attending the Shoreline Training on 6/2-6/4.

Trees: Buesing reported that he had helped with tree pick-up days on 4/29 and 4/30. Buesing participated in the 3 custom tree plantings on 5/11, 5/14 and 5/17. Buesing noted he had assisted in renting out the tree planters often.

Education Outreach: Buesing participated in the Bagley School and Girl Scout Watch 'Em Grow programs on 5/14 and 5/19 and would be participating the Clearwater School as well on 5/26.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that the Mississippi 1W1P public hearing/policy meeting would be held on 5/27 with both an in-person and virtual option.

Powell reported that the Wild Rice Marsh 1W1P had received implementation funding.

Powell reported that the Clearwater River 1W1P had a planning work group meeting on 4/21 and 5/19 where they were planning for the first advisory meeting. Powell noted that there was a policy team meeting on 4/28 where they approved the advisory meeting with the advisory meeting being held on 4/26. Powell also reported that he had attended the Clearwater Lake Area Association meeting to give information to the CLAA as to what a 1W1P is and what was expected of them.

Soil Health: Powell noted Engebretson used the no-till drill for 16 acres of clover, Simonson for 20 acres of alfalfa, Willard for 20 acres of alfalfa, Larson for 26 acres of grasses, Bakke for 16 acres of alfalfa, and Christenson for a not yet completed annual forage mix.

Powell reported that Sunquist used the aerator for 69 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$1,725.00, Hughes for 46 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$1,150.00, Herman for 43 and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$1,075.00 and Nordlund for 66.8 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$1,762.00. Strandlien made the motion to provide cost share to Sunquist, Hughes, Herman and Nordlund respectfully in the total amount of \$5,12.00. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Powell reported that Nordlund used the no-till drill for alfalfa/oats for 13.31 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$354.65, Machlitt for alfalfa for 26 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$708.95 and Gebhardt for soybeans for 16 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$640.00. Gunvalson made the motion to provide cost share to Nordlund, Machlitt, and Gebhardt respectfully in the total amount of \$1,703.60. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Lewis arrived at 10:08 a.m.

Forest Stewardship: Powell reported that Buerkle had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 94.5 acres and is eligible for cost share in the amount of \$539.18, Johnson on 156 acres and eligible for cost share in the amount of \$1,021.68 and Stockton for 229 acres and eligible for cost share in the amount of \$888.00. Gunvalson made the motion to pay Buerkle, Johnson and Stockton respectfully in the total cost-share of \$2,448.86. Seconded by Ulrich. **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.

Education Outreach: Powell noted he had participated in the Bagley School and Girl Scout Watch 'Em Grow programs on 5/14 and 5/19 and would be participating the Clearwater School as well on 5/26.

Trees: Powell participated in the 3 custom tree plantings on 5/11, 5/14 and 5/17 and noted he had rented out the tree planters often this year.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss:

Income: Buell reported that in the month of April the aerator rental was up \$1,120.00, the no-till rental up \$1,731.80, Tree accessories like flags, plantskydd and tree tubes up over \$1,500, tree planter rental up \$340, custom tree plantings up \$890 and tree sales were up \$15,924.96 from \$10,511.94.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, the state auditor was paid \$124, Buesing was paid and shipping for trees were paid. Buell noted that the number under Publication and Subscriptions was supposed to be under Audit.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of April, outside of normal transactions, was the Farmer's Seasonal Tech ad, and the MN revenue quarterly tax payment.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of April there were deposits for 1W1P Planning Grant, donations for Environthon, trees, platbooks, tree tubes, tree sales, no-till rental, aerator rental, 2nd quarter county appropriations, and interest earned on accounts that have since been reorganized.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of April the Checking Account balance was \$752,133.81 (Line 4) and the Savings Account balance was \$103,951.34. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable (Line 12) was at \$5,904.85, which is mostly tree invoices.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Garden Valley Quote: Buell noted that since the NRCS was planning on moving eventually, Buell thought it would be smart to get quote for a printer, phones, computers, etc. in case NRCS would come to void the contract it had with the District. Buell presented the quotes to the board.

Area Meeting: Buell informed the board that they would have to submit resolutions for the Area 8 meeting.

Observation Wells: Buell reported that the District would like to continue monitoring ob wells. Buell noted it was 6 wells a month for 8 months with \$30 per well. Strandlien made the motion to approve the ob well contract. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Other: Buell noted that was a manager's meeting in June and that the Area 8 meeting may be in June as well.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

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.