



Board Of Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes

January 16th, 2025

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Board Members Present: Paul Rydeen, John Gunvalson and Ken Christenson

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

NRCS Staff: Nate Brandt and Megan Wells

Guests: Mark Titera

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. at the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by the board. Buell added the audit quote to the agenda. Powell added a WASCOB to the agenda. Christenson made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed by the board. Gunvalson made the motion to approve the minute. Seconded by Christenson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

NRCS REPORT:

Current and Future Funding: Brandt explained that existing and potential Inflation Reduction Act funds are being reviewed with the possibility of contracts being terminated. Brandt noted he was unable to process any payments and any ability to pay, modify or obligate contracts had been frozen with future funding levels being unclear and expectations being there will be reductions to future program dollars. Brandt noted the continuing resolution ends March 14th and a government shutdown may be possible.

Staffing: Brandt noted both the recently hired Soil Conservation Technicians in Bemidji (Ian Adams) and Bagley (Skylar Jensen) had been terminated, both of which had been of the 55 positions in MN terminated by email since last Friday, with more terminations occurring daily. NRCS is preparing for more reduction in the force and that very little information had been supplied to the agency.

EQIP: Brandt noted the 2025 application deadline was 9/6 and had 11 applicants submitted. Brandt noted 8 applicants had been obligated into contracts, yet the timeline is unsure.

CSP: Brandt noted the annual payments had been completed. Brandt noted ranking deadline was March 14th yet the timeline for obligations is unsure.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

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

Water Plan: Prokosch reported she has been entering rain gauge data and that the 2024 data had been sent to the state climatology office.

Trees: Prokosch noted 55 tree orders had come in with 32% of trees being sold and 3 flower orders had come in.

AIS: Prokosch noted that she had attended 2 pre-season workshops on 1/31 and 2/10. Prokosch noted the pre-season paperwork was being completed. Prokosch noted the county board had approved the AIS staffing agreement with Always There Staffing for 2025.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Outreach Education: Buesing noted 2 Coffee and Cover Crops events had been held on Rydeen Farms on 2/5 and in Fosston on 2/19. Buesing noted he attended a grazing workshop on 2/12.

Trees: Buesing made estimated for multiple tree plantings.

USFWS Pollinator Program: Buesing attended a meeting with USFWS to talk about budget and contracts with possible pollinator plantings.

Lake Monitoring: Buesing gathered budget data for the SWAG grant with RLWD.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell plans on attending Clearwater 1W1P meetings on 2/20 and 3/19 and Wild Rice 1W1P meetings on 3/4 and 3/24.

Soil Health: Powell attended 2 Coffee and Cover Crop events and the grazing workshop on 2/12 with Buesing.

Forest Stewardship: Powell noted that the original signee of the Walker FSP had passed and the heirs would be taking over the plan. Buell noted Powell should talk to the county attorney before the board voted on approval to change payee names.

Cost Share: Powell noted the Nordlund WASCOP was an NRCS project that the District had helped fill in the cost share payments since NRCS only offered ~50% of total payments while the District could bump that up to 75% with the District payments being paid out of RLWSD funds. Powell asked for \$4,246.13 to be paid out of RLWSD funds for Nordlund's cost share project. Gunvalson made the motion to approve cost share. Seconded by Christenson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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:

Line 5 (Tree Accessories) up over \$1,000 past budget, Line 6 (Tree Sales), up over \$4,000 more since January, Line 17 (County Appropriations) 1st Qtr County Appropriations, Line 37 (Misc Revenue) interest earned on accounts.

Expense:

Line 48, (Fees and Dues) Overmoe and Nelson flex benefit tracking, w-2 and 1099 prep, Line 51 (Insurance Bond) MCIT Insurance Line 109 (2022-Local Special Project) moved to line 118 2023 Special projects-2 SH payments and 1 FS payment.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Line 20-22 (Herman, Oraskavich and Holm) SH Cost Share, Line 24 (BWSR) 2025 Buffer Law payment, Line 25 (Kleppe)SH Cost Share, Line 25 (Beltrami SWCD) Check for Trask FH plan, Line 33(MCIT) WC Insurance.

Deposit Detail: Deposit 1: BWSR 2025 Buffer Law Payment, Deposit 2: 1st Qtr County Appropriations, Tree payments, 1W1P payment from Beltrami and SH Payments, Deposit 3: Interest earned on Checking, Deposit 4: Interest Earned on Savings

Balance Sheet:

Line 4 (Checking Account): the end January was \$295,132.37

Line 10 (Savings Account): the end of January was \$24,839.47

Line 13 (accounts Receivable) the end of January was \$65, 701.80 mostly 1W1P invoices and invoices to the County for AIS and Water plan (have since been received)

Line 13 (Unearned Revenue): Closed out 2022 Local Capacity in the amount of \$43,836.96. claimed some of 2023 Local Capacity, received 2025 Buffer Law in the amount of \$20,000 and requested the 40% of 2025 SH funding in the amount of \$16,000

A motion to accept the January financial report was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Christenson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:

2025 Meeting Dates : Buell noted Titera had previous engagements for the District's board meeting dates. The board decided to wait until Lewis returned before making a decision.

Area 8 Meeting: Buell noted that an Area 8 meeting was taking place March 7th. Christenson made the motion for anyone who wanted to attend the meeting can. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Audit Quote: Buell gave the quote for Peterson's to do the audit. Rydeen made a motion to approve the quote for Peterson's. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 A.M. was made by Christenson. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Alroy Lewis, District Secretary

Date

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.