

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING JUNE 18th, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien, Jackie Ulrich, John Gunvalson and Paul Rydeen

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Strandlien in the American Legion Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Buell asked for Action item, ob well contract, be added to the agenda. Powell asked for Action item, the conservation farm timber sale, be added to the agenda and the Johnson's living trust be removed from the agenda. Gunvalson made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes requested by Buell and Powell. Second by Ulrich. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were reviewed by the board. Gunvalson made a motion to approve the May minutes as previously submitted. Second by Ulrich. **Motion carried. 3-0.**

NRCS

COVID-19: Peek explained the phasing criteria they are following to reopen field offices.

CSP: Peek reported the deadline was May 29th for accepting general applications. There were 8 applications from Clearwater County of which there was only 1 considered high priority.

EQUIP: Peek reported that Clearwater had 8 eligible applications with 2 preapproved.

Other: Cari Roepke's last day was May 22nd. Wade Jackson will be stationed at Bagley full time. The date for the Local Work Group Meeting is scheduled for July 15th.

Paul Rydeen arrives at 1:17pm.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell noted that the Mississippi Headwaters 1W1P are in the drafting reviews phase with a policy meeting to be held on July 1st. Powell also noted that the Wild Rice-Marsh River 1W1P are also in the drafting reviews phase with their next policy meeting being held on August 10th.

1W1P Clearwater: Powell stated that the grant proposal for the Clearwater River 1W1P has been submitted.

Trees: Powell reported that all the trees have been sold and the storage shed has been cleaned out.

Soil Health:

Sprayer: Powell stated that Hoie had sprayed 40 acres for pasture management. Currently, the sprayer is with Riever who will use it when weather allows.

Aerator: Powell reported that Simenson had used the aerator on 20 acres for pasture renovation. Powell noted that Simenson had trouble using his tractor's hydraulics to lift the aerator, though they work fine with the SWCD truck's hydraulics. Rydeen suggested to look into getting larger cylinders on the aerator so other customers would not have the same problem.

No-Till-Drill: Powell reported that he had one No-Till Drill rental eligible for cost share and two straight rentals. Titera used the No-Till Drill on 49.7 acres of land in the Secondary Zone totaling \$1,242.50 eligible for cost share. Ulrich made a motion to pay Titera the \$1,242.50 out of Local Capacity Soil Health. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Forestry Cost Share:

Powell reported that Ripley completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 73 acres and is eligible for 75% Cost Share in the amount of \$624.44.

Gunvalson made a motion to pay the Ripley 75% Cost Share in the amount of \$624.44 out of Local Capacity-Forest Stewardship. Second by Ulrich. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Cost Share: Powell noted that the Pine Lake Ditch construction started 6/15 and should finish today. Powell also said that though there was ground water seepage and previously unknown springs making the ground soggy, the construction is going satisfactorily.

Conservation Farm: Powell reported that the Forest Harvest sale occurred on 6/12 selling for 81% of the appraised value at \$46,730.40. Powell noted that the logging will begin sometime within the next 2 weeks. Powell noted that a Liability Agreement will need to be signed to ensure any damages would fall on behalf of the loggers. Ulrich made a motion to sign the Liability Agreement. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

NRCS AFA RCPP Grant Letter of Support: Powell reported that the RCPP AFA has asked for the district to support their proposal "Landowners CHOOSE Minnesota's Forest for the Future" that would grant federal funding for forestry to the Mississippi watershed. Ulrich made the motion to sign the Letter of Support. Second by Strandlien. Rydeen opposed. **Motion Carried 3-1.**

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported AIS season is in full swing and besides a couple mishaps with survey tablets, all is going well.

Trees: Prokosch reported that all the trees have been sold and the storage shed has been cleaned out.

Education/Outreach: Prokosch reported that she has been working on the district website keeping people updated on SWCD COVID, AIS, etc. Prokosch noted that she had added the sprayer to the list of soil health rentals.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that the first round of sampling from 6/7-6/10 has been completed and that the new volunteers are doing very well. Prokosch also noted that due to Lake Lomond's zebra mussel infestation that Lomond is being left for last during the district's sampling.

Conservation Farm: Prokosch had planted native flowers bought from a MN Native Landscapes end of season sale last October in a new flower bed at the farm. The district had purchased the native flowers to see if they would be a good item to add to the spring tree sale if the flowers flourish after being in storage.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Income: Buell reported that in the month of May that No-Till rentals are up (**Line 4-No-till rental**) tree tubes and flags (**Line 7-Tree Accessories**), GV Capital Credits (**Line 35- Misc Revenue**). The aerator rentals will be reflected on next month's financials.

Expenses: Buell noted that outside of regular expenses for the month of May (**Office Expenses**) the district had to buy a new paper shredder, (**Line 87-941 Taxes**) quarterly taxes that will be paid in June and (**Line 96-Tree Transport**) the cost to ship trees.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of May, outside of normal transactions, there was a payment made to Gesell for repair of a tree planter and to Ameritas for the district's new vision insurance.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of May there were 4 Tree Sales deposits.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of May the Checking Account balance was \$418,115.58. Buell noted that the Accounts Receivable balance in May was \$3,071.13. Buell noted that the soil health payments and tree payments have since been paid out and deposited.

A motion to accept the May financial report was made by Ulrich. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items

Timber Sales- Saving Account: Buell suggested that the payment from the timber sales but put into the savings account to be saved for future usage. Rydeen suggested the payment may be used towards some form of educational outreach on the conservation farm in the future. Ulrich made the motion to put the funds made from the Timber Sale into the saving account. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Ob Well Contract: Buell explained that a new Ob Well Contract would need to be signed to continue monitoring ob wells. The motion was made by Gunvalson to sign the new Ob Well Contract. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion Carries 4-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:16p.m. was made by Gunvalson. Second by Ulrich. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Jackie Ulrich, District Secretary

Date

"Leadership is the art of giving people a platform for spreading ideas that work." --*Seth Godin*

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.