

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING JUNE 17th, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

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

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

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek

Guests: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Vice Chair Ulrich at the Bagley American Legion Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Vice Chair Ulrich called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powell reported that a Machlitt soil test and Mississippi Resolution action items were to be added and Christenson was to be removed. Buell reported that an Area Meeting action item was to be added. Strandlien made the motion to approve the agenda with corrections. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were reviewed by the board. Lewis made a motion to approve the May minutes. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

NRCS

Staffing: Peek reported that Brant would be starting July 6th in the Bagley office.

Local Work Group Meeting: Peek reported that the local work group meeting would tentatively be meeting on July 20th at 9:00 am.

CSP: Peek noted that 25 applications had been accessed and ranked with only 1 in Clearwater.

EQIP: Peek reported that Clearwater had no applications.

Chair Rydeen arrives at 10:12.

Drought: Peek noted that since there has been an occurring drought that she has been asking clients to hold off on plantings and was urging to open CRP early. The Board, the District and guest Nelson discussed the drought and decided

on drafting a Resolution for Drought Relief with attention to forage producers. Powell noted that he would send out the draft to the board prior to signing. Lewis made the motion to move forward with drafting a Drought Relief Resolution. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that for the most part the AIS inspector season has been going well with a few bumps. Prokosch noted that 3 more tablets for the inspectors surveys had to be purchased due to previous tablets dying or becoming broken. Prokosch noted that they would start zebra mussel veliger netting in July.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that the first round of lake monitoring was on 6/14, 6/15 and 6/16 and that all the volunteers had dropped off their coolers. Prokosch noted that due to the drought Moose Lake's water level was not accessible by boat and therefore had to be skipped that day.

Prokosch noted that the District usually sends the Sonde to the MPCA to do maintenance on the equipment, but due to COVID Prokosch had done the maintenance herself.

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 Clearbrook-Gonvick school provided Lilacs to the children on 5/26. Prokosch explained that the rest of the trees from the tree sale were then donated to the local schools.

Prokosch reported that after find a quote for the 4H picnic tables from Home Depot, B&M Supply was contacted. B&M supply offered to donate the supplies for the 4H project. Strandlien made the motion to accept the donation of supplies from B&M. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.** Prokosch noted that the project date would be July 11th in Leonard. Prokosch reported that she had been working on the summer issue of the newsletter. Prokosch asked what the board would like to do for printing expenses, since last issues some had been emailed out and some had been mailed out. Lewis made the motion to look around for printing options and print a cutout in the Farmers Independent newspaper with an up to amount for spending at \$500. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Trees: Prokosch noted that the tree shed had been cleaned out and the rest of the trees were donated as previously stated. Prokosch participated in planting trees, Oaks and Pines, at the Conservation Farm on 5/25.

Trainings: Prokosch attended a Shoreline Training on 6/2-6/4.

SEASONAL DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT:

Water Planning: Buesing reported that he had attended a Clearwater 1W1P public kick-off meeting on 6/10 and a Mississippi steering team meeting on 5/28.

Soil Health: Buesing noted he had assisted with No Till-Drill calibrations at multiple locations and prepped and delivered the sprayer.

Trainings: Buesing had attended a Shoreline Training on 6/2-6/4.

Conservation Farm: Buesing reported that he mowed the trails and completed maintenance at the Conservation Farm. Buesing also noted that he was identifying plants at the farm for future public information.

Lake Monitoring: Buesing prepped the boat for lake monitoring use before going out onto the lakes. Buesing reported that he assisted with lake monitoring on 6/14, 6/15, and 6/16.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that the Mississippi 1W1P had sent a resolution to BWSR for final review. Powell reported that the board would have to formally adopt the plan. Strandlien made the motion to adopt the Mississippi 1W1P. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Powell reported that the Wild Rice Marsh 1W1P had received implementation funding and was now in the implantation stage.

Powell reported that he had attended a Clearwater River 1W1P advisory meeting on 5/23 with another coming up on 6/23 which would be a hybrid option of both in-person and virtual at the Clearwater County Courthouse. A policy team meeting would be held at the same date and place as well. Powell attended the public open house on 6/10 in Brooks and Gonvick and mentioned that each had about 25 people in attendance which was better than average. Powell noted that the planning work group meeting on 6/16 where they discussed the public input from the public kick off meeting.

Soil Health: Powell noted Forsberg and Haugen used the no-till drill with no-cost share. Mullan used the no-till on 9 acres and qualified for cost-share in the amount of \$225.00.

Powell reported that Machlitt had 1 soil test and qualified for cost share in the amount of \$25.00. Ulrich made the motion to provided cost share to Machlitt and Mullan in the amount of \$250.00. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Powell noted that Rydeen had 4 soil tests completed with 50 acres of cover crop and qualified for cost share in the amount of \$1,350.00. Lewis made the motion to provided cost share to Rydeen in the amount of \$1,350.00. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0 with Rydeen abstaining.**

Powell noted that the no-till will need new colters and chains this year.

Training: Powell noted he attended a Shoreline Training on 6/2-6/4.

Well Sealing: Powell reported that Schermerhorn had completed a well sealing and had qualified for cost share in the amount of \$250. Strandlien made the motion to provide

Equipment: Powell noted that the 2 smaller tree planters were to be brought in to resurface the spades and to be repainted.

Powell noted that he was to purchase a fuel shut off valve for the brush cutter.

Powell noted that a new 5th wheel type jack for the aerator was to be purchased since the last one was not the right height. It would cost roughly \$99.00.

Powell noted that he would like to purchase a tonneau cover for the bed of the truck. Ulrich made the motion to approve purchase for a tonneau cover with the up to amount being \$200.00. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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 the aerator rental (Line 3) was up \$800, the no-till rental (Line 4) was up \$5,000, Tree Sales (Line) was up \$1,000.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, 2019 increase compacity (Line 49) was up over \$1,000 with soil health payments, Education (Line 52) was up \$200 with Watch 'Em Grow expenses, Gas (Line 67) was up \$200, and AIS (Line 86) was up \$400 with tablet and net expenses which will be reimbursed.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of May, outside of normal transactions, was forest stewardship plan (Line 3), reimbursement for orchard pack (Line 14), soil health incentive (Line 19), tree planter repairs (Line 21), Houston Engineering (Line 28), 1W1P payment (Line 37) and Janssen forest stewardship (Line 37).

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of April there were deposits for: 1. Tree sales, platbook sales, soil health down payment, plantskydd 2. Trees, tree planter rental, no-till drill rental, aerator rental and tree tubes 3. Tree sales and no-till drill rental 4. Trees, custom planting, soil health payment 5. BWSR RIM easement payment 6. Trees, soil health payment, tree planter rental 7&8 interest earned on accounts.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of May the Checking Account balance was \$706,684.82 (Line 4) and the Savings Account balance was \$103,969.00. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable (Line 12) was at \$5,440.59, which is mostly tree invoices and soil health invoices that have been recognized.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Area Meeting: Buell informed the board that the area meeting was on 6/25 and invited the board members.

Audit Contract: Buell noted that the 2020 audit was coming up and would have to sign an engagement letter to do the audit with Peterson. Ulrich made the motion to sign the engagement letter to work with Peterson. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

County Fair: Buell noted that the county fair would be in August and mentioned that contract for a booth is \$150. Lewis made the motion to sign the fair contract for 2 booths (\$300) for the District. Seconded by Ulrich.

Garden Valley Info: Buell noted that she had received a quote for the printer at \$94.54 a month and that they would supply maintenance and ink.

Buell also had quotes for a cell plan and noted the old cell phone was no longer in use. Buell noted that a 1 GB phone would cost roughly \$80 per month while a 3 GB phone would cost roughly \$100 per month. Lewis made the motion to purchase the 3 GB cell phone. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Other: Buell noted that was a manager's meeting in June she would be attending.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. was made by Strandlien. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

**“Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”
- Hans Christian Anderson**

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.