

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING June 23rd, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present: Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson, Jackie Ulrich and Paul Rydeen.

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

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek and Audrey May

Guest: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chair Ulrich at the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Ulrich called for additions or corrections to the agenda. No additions to the agenda were made. Strandlien made the motion to approve the agenda as is. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

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

NRCS REPORT

EQIP: 7 total EQIP projects have been funded in Clearwater County.

Emergency Disaster Flood Signup is now accepting applications with an end date of July 15th. It is only for those located in the Red River Watershed area of Clearwater County.

CSP: Is currently accepting applications.

Staffing: Peek noted that Jackson had retired, and May had been hired as a forester. Jackson's positions will be advertised soon.

Other: The Local Work Group was held on June 9th.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch is in communication with CLAA, the Clearwater County Commissioners and the DNR to work together to purchase and install a CD3 at the Clearwater

Prokosch reported that the AIS inspector season is going well. 2 new inspectors were hired since the start of the season, and had 2 other quit, bringing the total number of inspectors up to 9.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch went out lake monitoring to 11 lakes during 6/21-6/22.

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

Trees: Prokosch reported that she was out on 6/3 for the extra tree pick up day the District had scheduled. Prokosch noted that it had been a very good tree sale year and that around 97% of trees purchased had been sold. Prokosch had planted trees at the Imle property.

1W1P: Prokosch had attended and took minutes for the Clearwater 1W1P meeting on 5/25.

Other: Prokosch had attended the Local Work Group meeting on 6/9.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Trees: Buesing that around 7,500 trees on 5 different properties had been planted over the course of the last month. Buesing noted that all the tree planters had been returned to the farm and preformed maintenance on the little green planter.

Conservation Farm: Buesing noted that the pollinator plot on the farm had been burned on 5/24 and had been seeded with a forb mix afterwards.

Buesing noted that the new orchard plot had been prepped and seeded.

Buesing reported that he had mowed the farm trails.

Trainings: Buesing attended a basic survey training on 5/31, a GPS survey training on 6/8 and a plant material training on 6/16.

Lake Monitoring: Buesing assisted with lake monitoring on 6/21-6/22.

Soil Health: Buesing noted he had assisted with the no-till drill and aerator.

Buesing had a field visit with Syverson about the hay field.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that he attended Clearwater River 1W1P meeting on 5/25.

Powell reported that since the District had been put in charge of the Mississippi 1W1P soil health program 5 customers had already used the Mississippi 1W1P's new no-till drill.

Powell noted that since the Mississippi 1W1P used ArcMap Online for reporting requirements, trainings, etc. that the District would benefit having 1 or 2 accounts. Powell noted 1 account was about \$100.00 per year. Strandlien made the motion to purchase 2 Arc Map Online accounts. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Powell reported that he will attend a Wild Rice 1W1P meeting on 6/27.

Trees: Powell reported that he had planted trees at Imle's.

Powell reported that he had attended a community ed. Watch 'Em Grow program on 6/22.

Soil Health: Powell noted that 13 customers had used the no-till drill (total acres being over 500 this year so far), 1 had used the aerator and 1 had used the sprayer so far this year.

Powell reported that Marsh had used the no-till and had qualified for cost share in the amount of \$825 along with a soil test. Powell reported that Simonson had used the no-till and had qualified for cost share in the amount of \$525 along with a soil test. Gunvalson made the motion to approve the cost share for both drill users in the amount of \$1,350.00. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Powell also reported that a customer wished to use the aerator, but he was well out of the 'past 2 townships out of the county' boundary that had been previously set. Powell noted that since the aerator had only been used once this year and it would be a full price paid/straight rental that the customer should be allowed to use it. Gunvalson made the motion to allow the aerator to be used by the of out of the county customer. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Conservation Farm: Powell noted that the pollinator plot at the farm had been burned, a pollinator mix had been seeded there and a new orchard plot had been prepped.

Trainings: Powell reported that he attended a plant material training on 6/16.

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 No-till drill rental (line 6) was up over \$2,000 from last month, the \$120 education outreach money from the community ed class (line 9), the tree planter rental (line 12) was up over \$100, the custom plantings (line 13) by staff, and the misc. revenue (line 48) was up over \$200 for GV capital credits.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, the education and promotion (line 56) expenses for the watch 'em grow and rain barrel classes, the vehicle gas (line 70) was up over \$200, the 2020 local compacity (line 120) for mostly soil health payments and the 2022 1W1P (line 121) expenses that will be reimbursed.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of May, outside normal transactions, there was the JAG Body Shop signs (line 6), the Elitehydraulics for the no-till drill (line 7), and the tree reimbursements (line 16 & 17).

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of May there were deposits for: 1. 2022 local compacity and 2022 buffer law 2. Trees, soil health hand platbooks 3. 1W1P planning grant (40%) 4. Tree and flower deposits, and platbooks 5. Tree and flower sales, payment from community ed for hosting rain barrel class, GV capital credits 6. Interest earned on checking accounts 7. Interest earned on saving accounts

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of May the Checking Account balance was \$494,022.42 and the Savings Account balance was \$104,177.14. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable was at \$11,067.22 which is mostly soil health and platbook payments. Buell reported that Deferred Revenue in which 1W1P had been 40% received, 2022 buffer law and 2022 local capacity funding.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION Board Action Items and Information:

Fair Booth Rental: Buell reported that the Distrsct usually books two booths for the fair. Strandlien made the motion to approve booking two booths. Seconded by Gunvalson.

TSA& Supervisor Meeting: Buell noted a supervisor meeting would be held on July 29th in Bemidji and needed help with the PWRAP. Buell noted she would ask if anyone would like to attend at a later date.

Soil Health Contracting: Buell noted that since the District had been put in charge of the Mississippi 1W1P soil health program that staff would be spending a lot of time in another county. Buell suggested having a separate billable rate for when staff would work outside of the county and bill it to the 1W1P fund. The board approved on having a separate billable rate. Buell noted she would come back to the next meeting with wage numbers and an update.

Mississippi Headwaters Funding: Buell noted that she had submitted a proposal to the Mississippi Headwaters board to see if they would fund paying for drinking water sampling for those that live in the Mississippi watershed. Buell noted she would be attending a meeting with them tomorrow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m. was made by Strandlien. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

“The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.”

— *Wendell Berry*

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.