

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING JULY 16th, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson, Alroy Lewis and Paul Rydeen

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Jody Peek

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 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, American Legion Donation, be added to the agenda. Rydeen made a motion to approve the agenda with the change requested by Buell. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Jody Peek arrives at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed by the board. Rydeen made a motion to approve the June minutes as previously submitted. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried. 4-0.**

NRCS

CSP: Peek reported that 3 CSP contracts from Clearwater County were preapproved.

EQUIP: Peek reported that 2 EQUIP contracts from Clearwater County were preapproved.

Other: Peek noted that the Local Work Group meeting would be held next Wednesday, July 22nd at the Legion.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell noted that the Mississippi Headwaters 1W1P are in the planning phase of the draft reviews with expectations to be finished in 2021. Powell also noted that the Wild Rice-Marsh River 1W1P are in the full draft review phase with expectations to be finished by December 2020. The Wild Rice-Marsh River 1W1P will have a policy meeting August 10th.

Soil Health:

No-Till-Drill: Powell reported that he had 2 drill users, Lewis and O'Bryan. Lewis had planted alfalfa while O'Bryan had planted a foraging mix.

Aerator: Powell reported that there was 1 aerator user, Wilde. Powell also reported that while Wilde was using the aerator the rear drum had broken in the same place as last time and had been brought to EvenAire Systems to be repaired. Powell noted the quote to repair the aerator with larger bolts was \$780.00. Powell suggested the district buy a lighter model of the aerator and sell the current aerator to an interested Wilde. Rydeen suggested to keep the current aerator and buy a lighter model of the aerator as well. Powell noted he will bring a quote for the lighter model to the August meeting. Rydeen made a motion to pay the \$780.00 to have EvenAire fix the aerator. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Cost Share: Powell noted that the Pine Lake Ditch construction has been completed for a total project cost of 15,300.00 with 11,475.00 coming from FY2018-2019 with remaining 25% to be paid by the Red Lake Watershed. Lewis made a motion to approve the payment. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Conservation Farm:

Forest Harvest Plan: Powell explained that there had been a miscommunication with the Gerbracht Logging operator and the plan created by Clearwater County's Land Department resulting in a clearcut of the hardwoods (besides Maples of a certain size) instead of a select cutting of the hardwoods. Formal apologies had been made by both the Land Department and Gerbracht to the District. Gerbracht will send the District the stumpage harvest payback of what was taken. Powell noted that the local 4H group would be willing to plant trees next spring. Rydeen suggested that in addition to the stumpage harvest payback, that Gerbracht clear a trail system. Rydeen made a motion to receive the stumpage harvest payback and have Gerbracht clear a trail system for the farm. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Land Department Invoice: Powell noted that the district received an invoice for 7% of appraisal value of the net proceeds of the timber sale from the Clearwater County's Land Department totaling \$3,271.00 Lewis made the motion to remit \$3,271.00 to the Land Department. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

New Parking Lot Bid: Powell acknowledged that during the June meeting Rydeen had suggested doing more educational outreach at the Conservation Farm. Powell noted he and Prokosch had come up with a plan to advertise and start more educational programs at the Conservation Farm for the public, starting with a Day Use Area. Powell explained that a parking lot and picnic area would be the first priority. Powell noted that there was an open section roughly 800 feet East from the farm's driveway, straight across from the access Gerbracht Logging had made, that would work well for a Day Use Area. Powell reported he received a quote from Brady Ryrdaahl for \$12,000.00 to level and gravel a new parking lot. Powell also noted any extra gravel could be used for filling in the driveway. Rydeen and Lewis mentioned a locking gate would be useful for the driveway. Powell responded that he will get a quote for a gate for the August meeting. Lewis made the motion to spend \$12,000.00 for gravel and leveling the driveway and new parking lot. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Brusher Purchase: Powell noted that the District would benefit from purchasing a pull behind brusher for the ATV so they could keep the trails at the Conservation Farm cleared and mowed. Powell noted that it would be better to purchase a brusher rather than renting a brusher once a year. Gunvalson made a motion to spend \$1,999.00 to purchase a brusher for the ATV. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Storage Unit: Powell reported that he had received a quote to buy a storage unit as previously discussed including shipping and delivery. Powell noted that the storage unit could be kept on an open area on the South side of the Conservation Farm near the neighbor. Rydeen made the motion to purchase the storage unit for up to \$3,500.00 and store it at the Conservation Farm. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Local Work Group: Powell reported that the Local Work Group meeting would be held July 22nd at 1:00pm at the American Legion. Powell passed out a ranking sheet for each board member to fill out and bring to the meeting.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported AIS season is still going well and is receiving updates from Always There Staffing. Prokosch also reported that she had put out zebra mussel traps on several lakes with docks and had started veliger netting for zebra mussels.

Education/Outreach: Prokosch reported that she has been working on the district website keeping people updated on multiple programs. Prokosch noted that she is working on adding a Conservation Farm page to the website.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that the second round of sampling from 7/5 - 7/8 and that there are 3 more rounds to follow. Prokosch also noted she has begun putting the data from the lakes into a spreadsheet for the MPCA.

Pollinator Seed Packets: Prokosch took photos for, designed and created new pollinator seeds packets to give away to customers and at events.

Outdoor Signage: Prokosch noted that a new outdoor sign would benefit the District. Lewis noted the sign could be done locally at JAG Body Shop. Lewis made the motion to spend an up to amount of \$630.00 for a new outdoor sign. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Income: Buell reported that in the month of June Aerator Rental (Line 3-Aerator), No-Till Drill rentals are up \$1,000 (Line 5-No-Till), Plat Book sales are up over \$2,000 (Line 7-Plat Books), 3rd quarter Appropriations (Line 16-County Expenses), and Conservation Farm Timber Sales (Line 36- Misc Revenue).

Expenses: Buell noted the District had purchased a portion of the computer (Line 54- Office Expenses) and the Sprayer (Line 19- New Tech Solutions).

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of June, outside of normal transactions, the District had to buy new bearings for the Aerator (Line 13-EvenAire), the new laptop approved at the June meeting (Line 19- New Tech Solutions) and a Forest Stewardship Plan (Line 21-Allen).

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of June there were 7 deposits from 3rd quarter appropriations, soil health, tree sales and payments. Garden Valley credit cards, Gerbratch tree harvest and interest earned on checking and saving accounts

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of June the Checking Account balance was \$418,450.16 (Line 4). Buell noted that the Savings account is up \$103,743.36 up from \$57,001.56 due to Gerbratch logging and interest earned (Line 10). Buell also noted there is one deposited fund from Bellefy's truck payment (Line 17).

A motion to accept the June financial report was made by Rydeen. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Pickup Truck Sale Revenue: Buell suggested that the payment from the truck sale but put into the district funds account. Lewis made the motion to put the funds made from the truck sale into the district funds account. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Resolution: Buell explained that there would not be an Area 8 meeting, but it had been requested that board members take home to read the resolutions and come back during the August meeting with a yay/nay.

TSA 8/JPB Service Agreement: Buell noted that the last JPB agreement had been in 1995 and therefore all TSA 8 board members were needed to approve and sign the renewed agreement. Lewis made the motion to sign the JPB Service Agreement. Seconded by Gunvalson. Opposed by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 3-1.**

American Legion Donation: Buell suggested that a donation be made to Bagely's American Legion as thanks for allowing the District to hold board meetings in the auditorium for the past few months. Lewis suggested donating \$50 per meeting. Lewis made a motion to donate \$50 per meeting to the American Legion. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50p.m. was made by Gunvalson. Second by Lewis. **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.