

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Avenue North, Suite 3, Bagley MN 56621 • (218)694-6845 • www.clearwaterswcd.com

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING JULY 15th, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

.....

Board Members Present:

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

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

NRCS Staff: Nate Brant

Guests: Chad Severts

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Vice Chair Ulrich at the Clearwater County Courthouse Boardroom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Vice Chair Ulrich called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Lewis made the motion to approve the agenda as is. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Rydeen arrived at 10:08 and took over as Chair.

Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed by the board. Lewis made a motion to approve the May minutes. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

NRCS

Brant introduced himself and noted he started July 6th as Clearwater County's new District Conservationist.

Local Work Group Meeting: Brant reported that the local work group meeting would be held next week on the 20th at the Bagley Legion at 9:00 am where they would evaluate local resource concerns.

CSP: Brant noted that there were 18 active CSP applications and he would work on expanding the program, though funding is tight.

EQIP: Brant noted that there were 4 active EQIP applications and he would work on expanding the program.

Bison Grazing System: Brant reported he would be working with the Red Lake Tribe to approve their grazing, feeding and watering structures for Red Lake's Bison Grazing.

Other: Brant and the board talked about ways to join programs and cooperate with the District.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that for the most part the AIS inspector season has been going well. Prokosch noted that one inspector had left for a different job opportunity and that the remaining inspectors would cover the leaving inspector's lakes. Prokosch noted that she was getting AIS pamphlets and items for the fair. Prokosch noted that they would start veliger netting during the next lake monitoring timeframe.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that the first round of lake monitoring was on 7/6 and 7/7. Prokosch noted that due to the drought Moose Lake's water level was not accessible by boat and therefore had to be skipped again. Rockstad's volunteer could not get the sample either due to the drought and Prokosch and Buesing had to use a kayak to get the sample.

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 4H had completed building the picnic tables on 7/11. Prokosch noted that the 4H club had burned their name and the District's name into the table and that a plaque would be made for B & M supply for donating the supplies. The tables would be shown at the Clearwater County Fair before settling at the conservation farm day use area where they would be locked into the ground.

Prokosch reported that she had completed the summer edition of the newsletter and is waiting to hear back from Farmer's Independent about putting an insert in the paper.

Trees: Prokosch noted she had attended and taken minutes for the Clearwater 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting on 6/23.

SEASONAL DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT:

Water Planning: Buesing reported that he had attended a Clearwater 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting on 6/23. Buesing noted he had been assisting the Red Lake Watershed District with ground truthing culvert locations.

Soil Health: Buesing noted he had assisted with 2 No Till-Drill calibrations.

District Operations: Buesing reported he had attended an area meeting on 6/25.

Conservation Farm: Buesing reported he had cleared the trail on the South side of the farm and had sprayed for weeds with Powell at the parking lot and future no-till site. Buesing noted he has been identifying plants for future public use.

Lake Monitoring: Buesing reported that he assisted with lake monitoring on 7/6 and 7/7.

Maintenance: Buesing noted he had repainted a tree planter and performed general maintenance on the no-till drill.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that BSWR needed a Comp Plan Resolution where the board will need to sign a separate resolution for adopting the Clearwater 1W1P in place of the Clearwater County Water Plan. Lewis made the motion to sign the Comp Plan Resolution. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Powell reported that the Mississippi 1W1P had an Agricultural Implantation Meeting on 6/29 where it was discussed that if Beltrami SWCD purchased a no-till drill would Clearwater SWCD be willing to perform the technical assistance for the watershed? Powell noted he would either have all that TA brought to the District or none at all and all funds would be billed to the water plan. Powell noted it would be advantageous to keep Buesing as a full-time employee if the board approved. All board members gave approval for Powell to tell the Mississippi Watershed committee that the District would manage the soil health program for Beltrami and Hubbard counties within the watershed. Powell also noted that a Policy meeting would be held on 7/30.

Powell reported that he had attended a Clearwater River 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting on 6/23 and a planning work group meeting to held later that day.

Soil Health: Powell noted that Maruska had used the no-till drill to put alfalfa into hay, Christianson to put in an annual hay and grazing mix, Nordlund for an annual mix and Erickson for tef grass, alfalfa and sorghum sudan none of which had used cost-share. Powell noted that when Christianson used inoculated seed into already existing alfalfa the existing alfalfa it grew better than in fields not using inoculated seed. Powell suggested looking into a new project to find out if inoculated application would extend the life of existing alfalfa.

Powell reported that O'Bryan had used the no-till drill for 37 acres for \$930.00 and a 4 soil tests for \$100.00. Gunvalson made the motion to award cost share in \$1,030.00. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Well Sealing: Powell reported Milton had sealed a well at \$725.00 at 50% cost share. Gunvalson made the motion to provide cost share in the amount of \$362.50. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Powell reported that Ulrich had sealed a well at \$725.00 at 50% cost share. Lewis made the motion to provide cost share in the amount of \$362.50. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0 with Ulrich abstaining.**

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 the no-till (Line 4) was up, misc revenue (Line 42) \$8,00 from MCIT, Capital Credits and Mapping Solutions.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, Gas (Line 67) was up over \$200, AIS (Line 86) was up over \$400 for nets, tablets and the porta john that will be reimbursed.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of June, outside normal transactions, Ramdell's reimbursement for tree order (Line 2), Sundquist no-till (Line 5), Machlitt soil health payment (Line 8), Hlghes soil health payment (Line 9), Clearwater-Polk tree shed (Line 14 & 15), Soild Bottom AIS expense (Line 24), Nordlund stock farm soil health payment (Line 25), Mullen soil health payment (Line 30), and Machlitt soil test payment (Line 32).

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of June there were deposits for: 1. Tree sales, aerator rental, no-till soil health down payment, custom seeding/aerator (Hughes) 2. MCIT refund 3. Trees sales and no-till drill rental 4. Garden Valley capital credits, Mapping Solutions vendor payments, trees and tree tubes 5. Interest earned on accounts 6. Interest earned on accounts.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of June the Checking Account balance was \$538,311.83 and the Savings Account balance was \$103,986.09. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable was at \$5,974.78, which is soil health invoices that have been recognized.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Per Diem: Buell informed the board that the per diem amount had gone up to \$125 due to legislative action. Strandlien made the motion to increase the per diem to \$100. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-1.**

Legion Payment: Buell noted that since the Bagley American Legion had not been charging the District for hosting previous board meeting it would be best to make a payment to them. Rydeen made the motion to pay the American Legion \$100 per time used for a total of \$300. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Juneteenth Holiday: Since June 19th was now a federal holiday Buell asked if it could be added to the bylaws and policy handbook for a holiday for the District as well. Lewis made the motion to add Juneteenth to the bylaws as a holiday. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-1.**

County Fair: Buell noted that Prokosch had purchased the countertop rain simulator for the fair instead of having to borrow the large trailered rain simulator. Buell also noted that the booths had been paid for, a schedule had been set and was gathering information, pamphlets and other items to be at the booth.

Seasonal Position: As was previously talked about in the meeting Buell set a date for a budget meeting, August 17th, to discuss turning the seasonal position into a full-time position and then to be brought up at the August board meeting.

Other: Buell noted that BWSR Academy would be held in October and the Annual Convention in November.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m. was made by Ulrich. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children”

- Theodore Roosevelt

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.