

# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 20th, 2020*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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#### **Board Members Present:**

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

**SWCD Staff:** Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

**NRCS Staff:** Jody Peek

**Guests:** John Nelson, County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chair Strandlien at the Rydeen Family Farm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:** Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Powell asked for Action item, Driveway Gate Quote, be added to the agenda. Rydeen made a motion to approve the agenda with the change requested by Powell. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the July meeting were reviewed by the board. Lewis made a motion to approve the July minutes as previously submitted. Second by Ulrich. **Motion carried. 5-0.**

#### NRCS

**CSP:** Peek reported that there were no new contracts in 2020.

**EQUIP:** Peek reported that 6 applications from Clearwater County were being worked on, with Bemidji staff helping.

**CRP:** Peek reported that Clearwater County has 6 applications for new or renewed contracts.

**Other:** Peek noted that the Local Work Group meeting info was submitted and that due to COVID-19 the Clearwater NRCS office had gone to Phase III (meaning doors still locked, but public may enter by appointment only).

Peek also noted that NRCS may be working with the District on reporting some management practices for Conservation Technical Assistance.

#### WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

**Water Planning:** Powell noted that he had attended a policy meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> for the Wild Rice-Marsh River 1W1P. The Wild Rice-Marsh River 1W1P's plan is now completed and out for the public's 60 review.

Powell also noted that the District will find out whether the Clearwater River 1W1P will be granted funding on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Soil Health:***

**Soil Tests:** Powell explained that Wood Ash Applications through Beltrami County required soil tests. 3 Clearwater County farmers had completed the soil tests and are eligible for \$25 per test, with M. Titera at \$200.00, J. Titera at \$175.00 and Bellefy at \$50.00. Rydeen made a motion to approve soil health payments in the total amount of \$425.00 for the soil tests. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Forestry Cost Share:** Powell reported that Johnson had completed a Forest Stewardship plan on 120 acres and is eligible for 92 acres at 50% cost share and 28 acres at 75% cost share in the amount of \$557.43. Ulrich made the motion to pay Johnson cost share amount of \$557.43 out of Local Capacity-Forest Stewardship. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Cost Share:** Powell reported that the City of Bagley had completed a well sealing and is eligible for cost share up to \$500.00 or at 50% of total cost. Lewis made a motion to approve the payment. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Powell reported that Nordlund is building a stock farm Cattle Exclusion. The exclusion would fence off cattle from the pond, along with adding 3 watering tanks. Nordlund is eligible for 75% cost share for the Cattle Exclusion. Lewis made the motion to approve Nordlund for an up to cost share amount of \$1,200.00. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

### ***Conservation Farm:***

**Forest Harvest Plan:** Powell explained that after discussing the miscommunication with the board in the July meeting he had received a call from Gerbracht Logging. Gerbracht informed Powell that since the plan was confusing, had bid on what they had read and saw while walking the property (which is why their bid was so high) and had operations stopped before they thought they were completed, Gerbracht felt they should not pay the additional stumpage fee since they did not feel they had over harvested and will not break even if they have to pay the additional stumpage fee. Powell said that Gerbracht would be willing to come to the next board meeting to plead their case. John Nelson, of Clearwater County, suggested that the plan needs to be looked into further. Powell suggested that to keep good standing with both the Land Department and Gerbracht Logging that the timber sale be concluded and that Gerbracht not pay the additional stumpage fees, Strandlien agreed. Ulrich made the motion to conclude the timber sale as is and to rescind the previous month's motion and not accept the additional stumpage fee funds. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 4-0** with Lewis abstaining.

**Driveway Gate:** Powell reported that he had gotten a quote of \$1,900 for the making of a steel tubing driveway gate that was discussed in July's meeting. Gunvalson, Rydeen and Lewis determined the price was too high and asked Powell to find a lower quote for September's meeting.

### **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT**

**AIS Program:** Prokosch reported AIS season is still going well and is receiving updates from Always There Staffing. Prokosch noted the end date of the AIS inspector season would be mid-September. Prokosch also reported that she had done zebra mussel veliger sampling on 5 lakes. Prokosch reported that after submitting the samples to the lab, there were NO presence of zebra mussels found.

**Education/Outreach:** Prokosch reported that she has been working on the district website keeping people updated on multiple programs.

**Lake Monitoring:** Prokosch reported that the third and fourth round of sampling from 7/26 - 7/29 and 8/16 - 8/19 has been completed and that there is one more round to follow. Prokosch also noted she has continued entering the data from the lakes into a spreadsheet for the MPCA.

**Outdoor Signage:** Prokosch noted that the new outdoor sign is currently being made by JAG now that the city has approved the permit for the sign.

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

**Profit & Loss: Income:** Buell reported that in the month of July income is up \$400 with O'Bryan rental (Line 5- No-Till Drill), Ob Wells are down from previous years due no testing due to COVID-19 (Line 6- Observation Wells), Plat books are up \$100 (Line7- Plat books), and the first half of the Water Plan billing submitted (Line 17- County Plan).

**Expenses:** Buell noted the filing cost for the new sign (Line 47- Education and Promotion), and the porta john rental for AIS, which will be reimbursed (Line 81- AIS Supplies).

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Buell noted that for the month of July, outside of normal transactions, the AIS porta john expense (Line 16- Solid Bottom), the donation to the American Legion for use of the auditorium (Line 23- American Legion), the observation well deposit (Line 27- MN DNR), and the 2021 Cost Share and 2021 Conservation Delivery from BWSR ( Line 30- BWSR).

**Deposit Detail:** Buell noted that in the month of July there were truck payments, plat book vendor payments, observation well payments, the 2021 Cost Share funds and 2021 Conservation Delivery funds and interest earned on checking and saving accounts

**Balance Sheet:** Buell reported that at the end of July the Checking Account balance was \$425,694.12 (Line 4). Buell noted that the Savings account is up \$103,765.39 with interest earned (Line 10). Buell also noted the Water plan billing (Line 14), the 2021 Cost Share funds (Line 39) and the Conservation Delivery funds (Line 40) have been received.

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

## DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

**Safety Deposit Box:** Buell suggested either renting a safety deposit box at the bank for \$20 per month or buying a fire proof safe for the office to keep important documents. Rydeen made a motion to buy an office safe with an up to amount of \$200. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Audit Update:** Buell explained that there is now an annual audit.

***Flex Hours:*** Buell explained there is a need for flex hours due to family care during the upcoming school year during COVID-19. Rydeen made a motion to return to this action item during board meetings to evaluate each month. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

***Other:*** Buell noted that a budget meeting will need to take place and will call those on the budget meeting to establish a date for the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. was made by Lewis. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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Jackie Ulrich, District Secretary

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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.