

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 17th, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson, and Jackie Ulrich

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch

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

Agenda: Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. District staff had no additions or corrections. Gunvalson made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Ulrich. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed by the board. Ulrich made a motion to approve the August minutes as previously submitted. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

NRCS

NRCS had sent over a report made by Jody Peek.

CSP: Field offices are prepping to make 2020 payments.

CSP-GCI: FSA had sent out letters to eligible participants.

EQIP: The state is looking to have the 1st 2021 EQIP batching be in November.

CRP: Field offices have been completing plans for re-enrollment in CRP

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that on August 27th the Clearwater 1W1P had been officially funded for its planning process. Powell also reported that he had attended a steering meeting on Sept. 14th for the Mississippi 1W1P. Powell noted that the Mississippi plan is in the process of being edited and wrapping up.

Soil Health:

Soil Tests: Powell reported that Highberg had used the aerator for rejuvenating hay ground and is eligible for cost share at \$225.00. Highberg had also completed a soil test and is eligible for cost share at \$25.00. Powell also noted that Highberg had purchased adaptors at \$29.98 for his older tractor in order to use the aerator and suggested the District purchase the adaptors from Highberg for future renters and reimburse him. Ulrich made the motion to pay Highberg in the amount of \$279.98 for both cost shares and reimbursement for the adaptors. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Sprayer: Powell reported that the motor from the Ag Sprayer had been stolen. Powell noted that the police were informed, and the District had made a report. Buell noted that she had contacted MCIT for a possible insurance reimbursement. Powell explained that a replacement motor would cost \$685.79 and that he would like to contact a local welder to make a theft deterrent box for the new motor. The board decided to wait to see what MCIT will say on insurance before making a motion.

Cost Share: Powell reported that the City of Bagley had had a well decommissioned and is eligible for cost share at 50% of. Ulrich made the motion to pay the City of Bagley \$150.00. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Conservation Farm: Powell explained that the District and Fish and Wildlife Service had taken a walkthrough the harvest area of the conservation farm and had explained the miscommunication that had happened. The FWS suggested cleaning out the wetlands of the slash and were pleased to hear of the District's intentions to replant and turn the farm into more educational uses. Powell also noted that the FWS would be willing to help with a field day in the future. Powell reported that Dyrdaahl, who would be making the parking lot and trails, could pull the slash from the wetlands. Powell also explained that the District would like to purchase 3 trail cameras for the conservation farm for safety and theft purposes. Ulrich made the motion to purchase trail cameras and allow Dyrdaahl to pull the slash. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported AIS inspector season had ended on Sept. 13th and that overall, the season went well considering COVID-19 related hiccups. Prokosch noted that the inspectors were returning their AIS kits. Prokosch explained she had been writing AIS reports for Lake Associations who appreciate the AIS data. Prokosch noted that she was creating mailer for Lake Lomond residents to check their docks and boats for zebra mussels when removing them from the lake for the winter.

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 fifth and final round of lake sampling was Sept. 7th - 9th and that the data will be submitted to the MPCA. Prokosch noted that the lake sampling season this year went well. The volunteers, especially the new volunteers, also did well.

Outdoor Signage: Prokosch noted that the new outdoor sign is completed but will be received in a week or two due to a wrong bracket order.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss:

Income: Buell reported that in the month of August AIS expenses were claimed (Line 15- AIS).

Expenses: Buell noted that the District will be reimbursed from the RLWD for Dyrdaahl (Line 45- District Operations) and is up \$600.00 for the Brusher purchase (Line 104- 2018 Increased Compacity).

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of August, outside of normal transactions, was the city permit for the new outdoor sign (Line 8- City of Bagley), the Pine Lake ditch 159th Ave (Line 6- Dyrdaahl), repairs on the aerator (Line 15- EvenAire), and the brusher (Line 16- Wilbergs).

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of August there were No-Till drill payments, plat book payments and sales, water plan billing, and interest on accounts.

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of August the Checking Account balance was \$416,139.14 (Line 4). Buell noted that the Savings account is up \$103,787.42 with interest earned (Line 10). Buell also noted the AIS billing in Accounts Receivable (Line 14) and that Environthon happening is still undecided (Line 42).

A motion to accept the August financial report was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 3-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items:

Jury Duty: Buell commented that she is now on call for jury duty for the next couple months.

TSA 8 Meeting: Buell explained that a zoom meeting will be held on October 7th for the TSA Area 8 meeting.

Flex Hours: Buell explained that a vacation cap raise was needed since Powell will soon go over the current cap and therefore will lose vacation hours. Buell suggested that the vacation cap be extended from 160 hours to 200 hours. Ulrich made the motion to raise the vacation cap to 200 hours. Seconded by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m. was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Ulrich. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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.