

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 SEPTEMBER 16th, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

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

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

NRCS Staff: Nate Brant

Guests: John Nelson

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

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

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

NRCS

CRP: Brant reported that there were 2 CRP re-enrollments in Clearwater County (windbreak and tree planting).

CSP: Brant noted he is reviewing CSP contracts and certifying enhancements.

Other: Brant noted that the state conservationist may stop by Clearwater County on September 28th or 29th.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS Program: Prokosch reported that the AIS inspector season had ended on 9/6 and that the season had overall gone well. Prokosch noted she would organize the equipment once it was all returned. Prokosch noted that she had written an article for the Clearwater County Lake Association regarding AIS data for their lake.

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch reported that the fifth and final round of lake monitoring had taken place on 9/7 and 9/8 and is currently entering the data gathered into an excel format to be sent to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

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

Prokosch noted that the Newsletter had been sent out in the shopper portion of the Farmer Independent newspaper and had emailed anyone on the mailing list that wasn't in the newspapers route.

Rain Gauge: Prokosch reported that there was a new rain gauge volunteer from Itasca Township and is working on getting them set up with the along with the State Climatology Department.

1W1P: Prokosch noted she had attended and taken minutes for the Clearwater 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting on 8/25.

SEASONAL DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT:

Water Planning: Buesing reported that he had attended a Clearwater 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting on 8/25 and a planning work group meeting on 9/14.

Soil Health: Buesing noted he delivered the no-till drill and assisted producers. Buesing also noted he had assisted with pick up and delivery of the Beltrami no-till drill to the Blackduck Co-op.

Conservation Farm: Buesing noted he has been identifying plants for future public use. Buesing noted he had mowed the trails and had started mapping the trails for an online map to be used by the public.

Lake Monitoring: Buesing reported that he assisted with lake monitoring on 9/7 and 9/8.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell reported that he had attended a Clearwater River 1W1P Advisory and Policy meeting on 8/25 where issue statements were approved and a planning work group meeting on 9/14 where goals were drafted.

Lewis arrived at 10:19 a.m.

Soil Health: Powell noted that Eck had used the no-till for cover crops on 43.2 acres with 3 soil tests for \$1,155.00, K. Christenson had done a pasture mix on 10 acres with 1 soil test for \$275.00, Lost River Livestock had done cover crops with 1 soil test 86 acres for \$2,025.00, Maruska had done alfalfa and 1 soil test on 35.5 acres and 1 soil tests \$912.50, Cole had 2 soils tests for \$50 and Lewis had done rye on 76 acres for \$3,825.00 (Lewis will be funded from the Wild Rice 1W1P). Ulrich made the motion to provide cost share they are respectfully owed to the above producers. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0 with Lewis abstaining.**

Powell noted that Erickson, B. Christianson, and Norgaard had used the No-till as well and were in the process of being finalized. Kelm in Beltrami had sought advice about a hay field.

Powell reported he, Buesing and Lewis had travel to Fargo to attend the Big Iron Farm Show to talk to representatives about no-till drills. Powell noted they could not find a drill that would fit the Districts needs.

Powell reported that the Beltrami SWCD has paid mileage and billable rate for himself and Buesing to deliver their no-till drill to the Blackduck Co-op.

Forest Stewardship: Powell reported that Everitt, who was in 2 incentive areas, had completed a forest stewardship plan on 202 acres and is eligible for cost share in the amount of \$889.70. Lewis made the motion to pay Everitt the cost share amount of \$889.70. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Trees: Powell noted he had started the 2002 orders.

Conservation Farm: Powell reported that he, after Buesing had cleared and leveled the trails, had planted the trails with a clover, oat and timothy mix.

Equipment: Powell noted that he had found someone to create a 16ft gate with well pipe stands for the conservation farm's driveway for \$660 including install and labor. The board decided it would be better to find bigger well pipes for the gate, which would cost more. Powell noted he would look into it.

Powell noted that getting a drone would be helpful for things like social media and educational videos of the no-till in action, the timber sale at the conservation farm, etc. and for flying over buffer zones instead of walking to them. Powell noted he had found a 4K camera for \$299.99 and that BWSR had approved its use.

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 the no-till (line 4) was up over \$2,000, plat book sales (line 6) were up \$500 with the new plat books, sprayer rental (line 7) was moved from soil health.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, vehicle maintenance (line 57) purchased a new hydraulic hose, 2019 local capacity (line 96), and cost share (line 97) was paid to Milton, Pubb and Krenz.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of August, outside normal transactions, JAG (line 5) where 2 metal plates were purchased for the picnic tables, Milton (line 10) was a well sealing, O-Bryan (line 11) for soil health, Krenz (line 20) was for soil health, more soil health (lines 20-24), RLWD (line 25) where 1W1P hours were billed, more soil health (lines 26-27), well sealings (line 28) and soil health payments (lines 29-31).

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of August there were deposits for: 1. No-till soil health payments and plat book payments 2. Soil health payments, WCA, AIS and county water plan 3. Plat books and soil health 4. Interest earned on accounts 5. Interest earned on accounts

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of August the Checking Account balance was \$492,395.60 and the Savings Account balance was \$104,021.42. Buell reported that Accounts Receivable was at \$7,389.18 which is soil health invoices and plat book sales.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:

Fall Tour/Area Meeting: Buell informed the board the fall tour and area meeting was next Thursday and Friday and needed a head count of who was coming.

Audit: Buell informed the board that the audit was almost complete and needed the Chair to sign the audit letter stating nobody was withholding any information. Chair Rydeen signed the letter.

Annual Convention: Buell noted that there was no updates for the annual convention on whether it would be in-person or online.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. was made by Gunvalson. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 5-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

“A river is the report card for its watershed.” — Alan Levere

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.