

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 21st 2023

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present: Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson, Paul Rydeen, Alroy Lewis

SWCD Staff: Lori Buell, Chester Powell, Brielle Prokosch

NRCS Staff: Nate Brandt, Jody Peek

Chair Gunvalson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. at Rydeen Farms. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by the board. Rydeen made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

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

NRCS REPORT:

NRCS Employment Opportunities: Brandt reported that NRCS is hiring.

EQIP: Brandt has 16 applications on file with 14 selected for funding with \$390,000 allocated so far and existing projects are moving forward. The deadline for the 2024 application is October 6th.

CSP: Brandt has 1 new contract in Clearwater county and 2 renewals.

CRP: Brandt noted there were several new CRP contracts.

Other: Brandt attended a NE NRCS meeting and planned to attend an American Bird Conservancy field day and a CRP training.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

AIS: Prokosch reported the watercraft inspector season had come to an end on Labor Day and that all equipment was returned by the inspectors.

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

Lake Monitoring: Prokosch went out lake monitoring during 9/11-9/13. Prokosch has also been adding the lake data to the MPCA spreadsheet.

Prokosch reported she has been entering rain gauge data for the MN Climatology Dept.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT

Soil Health: Buesing brought/retrieved equipment to/from Pemberton and Stenseng. Buesing worked on drill repairs. Buesing sprayed the landfill in Bemidji. Buesing seeded clover at the conservation farm.

Lake Monitoring: Buesing went out lake monitoring during 9/11-9/13 and winterized the boat.

Meetings: Buesing attended a Mississippi 1W1P meeting on 8/30.

Training: Buesing attended a grassed waterway training on 9/6.

Misc.: Buesing noted that the new platbooks would be printed in Feb/March. Buesing cleaned out and canceled the second storage unit.

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR/TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Planning: Powell attended a Mississippi 1W1P on 8/30 and will attend a policy meeting on 9/25 to plan for budget adjustments. Powell will attend a Clearwater 1W1P meeting on 10/18.

Soil Health: Powell noted the following producers had rented the no-till drill and asked for cost share out of the Clearwater 1W1P funds and/or local compacity funds:

Bellefy for 23 acres and 3 soil test for \$875.00, Dickey for 61 acres for \$2,440.00, and Gebhardt for 45 acres for \$1,800.00. Rydeen made the motion to approve the cost share and soil tests for each respected party. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Powell noted LeClair, Pemberton, Larson and McCollum used the no-till without cost-share.

Lake Monitoring: Powell went out lake monitoring 9/12.

Cost Share: Powell is working on Rydeen's fencing project.

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, Line 3 (1W1P) Claimed first half of the year's expenses and hours, Line 7 (No-Till Drill Rental) up \$3000, Line 11 (Observation Well Program) up \$1440 for this year's Ob Well contract, Line 22 (County AIS Plan) Invoiced the county for 1st half of the year hours. Line 23 (County Appropriations) Received 3rd Qtr County Appropriations, Line 24 (County Water Plan) Billed the County for the first half of the County Water Plan. Line 38 (Misc Revenue) up \$81,432.30 temporally until direction from the Board.

Expenses: Buell reported that out of usual expenses, Line 46 (Education and Promotion) up over \$200 Fair Supplies, Line 54 (Office Supplies) Reams of paper, colored paper and colored folders for programs Line 80 (AIS) up \$200 Porta Johns, Line 102 (Cl- 1W1P) up over \$15,000 for SH cost share payments Larson, Rydeen and Nordlund.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Buell noted that for the month of August, Line 4 (Bryantt Bolduc) Soil Health payment, Line 7 (Red Lake Watershed District) 1W1P hours billed to RLWD, Line 8 (Shawn Bushelle) Soil Health Payment, Line 9 (Solid Bottom) AIS expense, Line 12-13 SH Cost share payments Line 14 (MN DNR) Observation Well Payments, Line 15 (Richards Publishing) SH Flyers . Line 47 (Imle) SH Cost Share payment Line 50-70 transferring CD's and Savings account money to new CD.

Deposit Detail: Buell noted that in the month of August there were deposits for: Deposit 1: Soil Health payments, Deposit 2: MN DNR ob well payments, Deposit 3: Soil Health payments and 1W1P reimbursements, Deposit 4: Interest earned on Checking, Deposit 5: Interest Earned on Savings

Balance Sheet: Buell reported that at the end of August the Line 4 (Checking Account): the end August was \$371,330.90, Line 6 (13 mo. CD): the end of August was \$100,000, Line 10 (Savings Account): the end of August was \$24,526.65, Line 13 (Accounts Receivable): Most of that was open invoice to RLWD for 1W1P hours (has since been received)., Line 30 (2021-1W1P-Clearwater) (-\$3990.29) need to claim remaining %10. A motion to accept the August financial report was made by Lewis. Seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION-Board Action Items and Information:

Fall Tour: Buell reported the Fall tour and area meeting would be held on October 12th & 13th in Hubbard County. Buell noted she would get in touch with board members who would like to attend as registration would be needed soon.

BWSR Academy: Buell noted all employees had enrolled for BWSR Academy on October 24th- October 26th.

General Fund Allocation: Buell went over how the new General Fund Allocation (made possible by the omnibus bill) would eventually replace local compacity funds and that these new funds would not be as restrictive as local compacity funds were. Buell noted the Distrct would receive roughly \$170,000 per year in 2 amounts. Since this first amount was not budgeted for and the District did not plan for these funds to be spent, the board decided the first amount received would be placed in a CD or savings account at First National in Bagley. After the funds are placed in the budget the funds would then be used for local projects. Strandlien made the motion to place the funds in a CD or savings account until they could be budgeted for and used. Seconded by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m. was made by Lewis. Seconded by Rydeen. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Alroy Lewis, District Secretary

Date

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.