



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 20th, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Harlan Strandlien, Alroy Lewis, John Gunvalson and Marty Cobenais

SWCD Staff: Kathy Rasch, Nathan Nordlund and Lori Buell

NRCS Staff: Cari Roepke

Guests: Bill Westerberg, Joint Powers Board

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chair Strandlien in the USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Nordlund requested that the action item, Nordlund Riparian Buffer approval motion be dropped. Nordlund requested that the action item, Gunvalson Riparian Buffer cost share approval motion be dropped. Nordlund requested one action item be added to the agenda, a partial payment to Stormo's. Cobenais requested that the action item, Enbridge pipeline's Line 3 replacement motion be dropped. A motion to accept the agenda with these amendment was made by Cobenais. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the regular August meeting were reviewed. Strandlien requested adding additional language to the Enbridge Line 3 replacement motion as follows "motion died due to lack of Second". A motion to accept the August minutes with the correction was made by Lewis. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

NRCS

Roepke reported that EQIP's fiscal year ends on September 30th and they will be busy with year-end reporting, payments and recording. Roepke noted that she has three CSP renewals due at the end of the month and will be conducting quality reviews on 10% of their CSP plans.

OTHER:

Roepke presented the board with the mutual agreement that was signed in 1997 between NRCS and SWCD for the board to review.

Roepke passed out informational material and had discussion with the board about the "Justice for All" discrimination guidelines. Roepke noted that the EEP Non-Discrimination language needs to be posted on all printed material.

Ropeke reminded the Board that NRCS and SWCD have a partnership and that all confidential information tied to USDA producers obtained at the meetings need to remain confidential.

Roepke attended a Leadership Training on August 26th and 27th.

RESOURCE TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Plan Projects: Rasch reported that she and Nordlund have finished the 4th round of lake testing and will complete the 5th round today.

CWF16: Rasch noted that the Accelerated Implementation grant has been submitted. As stated the previous month, the City of Bagley has expressed an interest in conducting an evaluation of their current water treatment ponds to ensure they meet the current storm water run-off needs of Bagley. The city has also expressed interest in developing a management policy for future development. Rasch pointed out that this grant was not for implementation but rather evaluation.

RIM: Rasch noted that she has attended two RIM Wild Rice Lake Protection program meetings.

Trees: To get ready for this year's tree sales, Rasch has been comparing prices and availability at different nurseries.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT

Water Plan Activities

Water Monitoring: Nordlund has been collecting stream samples for 2014 SWAG, RLWD and District Lake Monitoring. Nordlund noted that he is finished collecting all stream samples and he and Rasch will be collecting the final lake samples this afternoon.

2015 Clean Water Fund Grant-No Till: Nordlund has been busy coordinating the use of the drill with area producers. Nordlund noted that they will need someplace to store the No-Till-Drill over the winter months. Lewis offered to check with the fairgrounds and his in-laws to see if either have room available.

2013 CWF Grant: Stormo's Riparian Forest Buffer: Nordlund reported the crossing has been completed and Stormo's are requesting partial payment of 90% of the crossing expense. Nordlund noted that cost of the crossing is \$7,002.73 of which 90% is eligible for Cost Share Nordlund is recommending that we use \$4,000.00 from USFWS that has been earmarked for this project and the remaining \$2,302.46 to come out of the 2013 CWF grant. Lewis made a motion to approve 90% partial payment to Stormo's \$4,000.00 out of matching funds from USFW and the remaining \$2,302.46 out of 2013 CWF. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 4-0.** Nordlund noted that the next major part of the project will be to establish a watering facility.

CWF Grant-JD 72 Buffers and Stabilization Project Roulands: Nordlund noted that the JD 72 easement work is complete and all parties have signed off for the acreage bordering Rouland's property. The easement is valued at \$5,400.00. RLWD will pay for 25% of the project total in the amount of \$1,350, Nordlund is requesting 75% payment in the amount of \$4,050.00 come from the 2013 CWF grant. Lewis made a motion to pay for the JD72 easement work on Rouland's property in the amount of \$5,400.00 noting that \$4,500.00 will come out of the 2013 CWF grant and the remaining \$1,350.00 will come from RLWD. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

AIS: As part of the AIS program SWCD received vehicle traffic counters to monitor lake usage. Nordlund has been working on calibrating and disbursing the counters to selected lakes.

Cost Share

Site Inspections: Nordlund started the inspections for Cost Share and Clean Water Funds projects. Nordlund noted that he has to have the inspections completed by the end of the year.

Trainings/Meetings

Four Legged Lake Flood Reduction Project: Nordlund noted that the purpose of the meeting was for the advisory group to discuss the progress of the Flood Reduction Project.

Wild Rice Easement Program: Nordlund attended the Wild Rice Easement meeting, the focus of the meeting was to prioritize the waterbodies within Clearwater County and discuss the current easement opportunities within eligible counties.

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: Rasch Reported that we are currently 66.6% into 2015 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Rasch noted that we received a payment for Ob Wells, the BWSR Conservation Delivery and Easement Grants and RLWD SWAG income. Expense items on the budget include AIS expenses and CWF 15 drill expenses.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Rasch noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of August payments were made to JAG to replace the rear truck window, RMB Labs for lake testing, AIS service, TRAFx for AIS supplies, MASWCD training, Moose Creek Graphics for signage on the No-Till-Drill and Linfors for the additional insurance added to the No-Till-Drill.

Deposit Detail: Rasch noted that in the month of August deposits included a payment from MPCA, Ob Well revenue, an MCIT insurance reimbursement, a payment from Hubbard SWCD for the Crow Wing WRAPS, Clearwater County AIS reimbursements, Farmers Publishing for Plat books, and a BWSR grant payment.

Balance Sheet: Rasch reported that the Accounts Receivable balance was \$15,313.07 at the end of August this includes an invoice to the County of \$13,071.07 for AIS supplies and 4 No-Till-Drill invoices. Rasch noted that two of these invoices were now 1-30 days past due and if not paid will be charged a 1.5% late fee.

A motion to accept the August financial reports was made by Cobenais. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2013 CWF Grant: Rasch reported that the contractor has completed work on the JD 72 project and final cost is \$82,816.80 for the buffer and the ditch stabilization work. Rasch noted that SWCD will also need to reimburse RLWD for bid fees in the amount of \$72.00 and buffer legal fees in the amount of \$260.00 as part of the grant. Lewis made a motion to pay 75% of the JD 72 project cost totaling \$ \$62,112.60, the \$72.00 bid fees and the \$260.00 buffer legal fees from Clean Water funds. Gunvalson Second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2013 CWF Grant: Rasch reported that following the last rain event some additional work is needed to stabilize the slope around the culvert. RLWD engineering technicians and the JPB are developing a plan and cost estimate to address the need. Bill Westerberg from JPB attended to meeting to answer any questions regarding the JD72 project.

2016 Buffer implementation and MAWQCP Funding: Rasch presented two grant agreements that SWCD received from BWSR. The first agreement is a two year contract for the amount of \$20,000 for Buffer implementation. Cobenais made a motion to accept the two year grant agreement from BWSR for \$20,000 for Buffer Implementation giving SWCD the authority to fill out the application as they see fit. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.** The second contract Rasch presented to the board is a one year contract for \$4,000.00 for MAWQCP promotion. Rasch noted that the goal was to accumulate at least five contracts but the SWCD will not be faulted if they do not meet those requirements. Cobenais made a motion to accept the one year grant agreement from BWSR for the amount of \$4,000.00. Gunvalson second. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Lease office agreement: Rasch informed the board that the SWCD building lease is up in October and noted that the current lease rate is \$590.00/month. Rasch updated the board regarding the possible staff reduction/relocation of FSA stating that, at this time, there has been no news of FSA relocating and recommends that we see if Wiebolt's would consider drawing up a year lease. Rasch noted that by entering into a one year contract we can re-evaluate the status of FSA and the terms of our lease again at the end of the year.

North Central JPB: Rasch and Strandlien attended the North Central Joint Powers Board meeting in Bemidji. The focus of the meeting was to discuss transfer of host district duties to Crow Wing SWCD. It was decided to transfer the duties but the office is to remain in Bemidji.

BWSR Academy Training: Rasch requested permission for all SWCD staff to have the option to attend the BWSR training held on October 27, 28 and 29. Rasch feels that they are offering an excellent selection of workshops and the trainings will be beneficial to all staff. The cost of the training is \$123.00 per person for registration and rooms are \$74.00 per night. Lewis made a motion to cover registration and lodging costs for Nordlund, Rasch and Buell to attend the BWSR training in Brainerd on October 27th–29th. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 4-0.**

State Increase: Rasch disbursed handouts to the board with information on the \$100,000.00 increase each SWCD will be receiving starting in 2016. Rasch will ask BWSR representative Chad Severts attend the October board meeting to answer questions.

Other:

Plat books: Rasch noted that SWCD will place a plat book ad in the local papers with a list of vendors for deer hunters.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. was made by Cobenais. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Marty Cobenias, District Secretary

Date

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”
– John Quincy Adams

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.

