



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 20th, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Paul Rydeen, Harlan Strandlien, Marty Cobenais, John Gunvalson and Alroy Lewis

SWCD Staff: Nathan Nordlund, Lori Buell and Nickolaus Phillips

NRCS Staff: Cari Roepke

Guests: John Nelson-County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chair Rydeen in the USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Rydeen called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Nordlund requested the addition of action items, Annual Convention be added under District Managers report and draft audit be added under other reports. A motion to accept the agenda with the additions as requested by Nordlund was made by Cobenais. Second by Strandlien.

Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes: Minutes of the regular September meeting were reviewed. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 5-0.**

NRCS

CSP: Roepke reported that she has been working on end of the year deadlines. Roepke noted that CSP will be “revamped” next year and she attended a two day training focusing on the upcoming changes for the next sign up.

EQIP: Roepke reported that it is EQIP’s end of the year and she has been busy reviewing projects, conducting field checks and processing payments to producers. Roepke noted that she has until November to check eligibility on the 2017 EQIP application. She will be working on getting those ready for review.

2015-2016 program payment breakdown: Roepke handed out a breakdown of programs and payments NRCS made to produces for 2015 and 2016 programs for the board to review.

Other: Roepke reported that she will be out of the office on September 26 and 27th as she will be attending a toolkit training.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

AIS: Phillips attended an AIS summit in St. Cloud on October 11th-12th. Phillips noted that he has collected all of the traffic counters and is still collecting equipment from the AIS Inspectors.

Buffer Law Update: Phillips reported that he has reviewed 8 parcels and so far all have been determined compliant after the site visit.

BWSR Academy: Phillips reported that he will be attending BWSR Academy from October 24th through the 26th.

Vehicle Purchase: Phillips presented the board with 3 vehicle quotes; a 2017 Ford F350 at \$28,203.00 a 2017 GMC Sierra 3500 at \$29,650.77 and a 2017 Dodge Ram 3500 at \$29,417.98. After reviewing the quotes and discussing the options Lewis made a motion for SWCD staff to purchase the 2017 Ford F350 for the amount of \$28,203 with \$20,000 to come out of 2016 Increased Capacity Funding. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Other

Trainings: Phillips will be attending BWSR Academy from Monday October 24th through Wednesday October 26th.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Nordlund Reported that we are currently 75% into 2016 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in September there was income increase of \$775.00 from Plat Book sales, income from 3rd quarter County Appropriations, income realized from grant activities pulled from Deferred Revenue. Nordlund reported that total income for the Month of September was \$34,972.00. Nordlund noted that outside of regular expenses, additional expenses included a payment to Abraham for weed control, a payment to Clearwater Polk for Tree storage and Transport and a No-Till incentive payment. Nordlund also noted that \$10,000 of expense was moved from the 2016 Increased Capacity Fund to the equipment line of the 2015 CWF grant.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of September additional expenses were; an incentive payments to Janssen, a payment to Clearwater Polk for DNR Forestry storage expense, a payment to NWC for weed spraying at the Conservation Farm and a payment to Johannessohn for work on the aerator.

Deposit Detail: Nordlund noted that in the month of September there was a deposit from the state in the amount of \$20,337.00 as an addition to the 2016 Increased Capacity Funding the SWCD previously received.

Balance Sheet: Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance is \$1091.32 and \$803.20 of that is an outstanding bill from Forsberg for renting the drill. Nordlund noted that he has spoken with the Forsberg's on several occasions and feels that they intend to pay the balance.

A motion to accept the September financial reports was made by Cobenais. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 5-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION

2017 Plat Book Donation: Nordlund reported the after exchanging the old 2015 Plat Books with new 2017 Plat Books with vendors the SWCD ended up with 13 extra 2015 Plat Books. Nordlund noted that the Bagley school is looking for

Plat Book donations for one of their classrooms. Nordlund suggested that the SWCD donate a portion of the Plat Books to Bagley High School and a portion of the Plat Books to Clearbrook School, depending on need. Strandlien made a motion to donate the remaining 2015 Plat Books to the Bagley and Clearbrook school districts. Second by Lewis. Motion Carried 5-0.

Use of BWSR Buffer Compliance and Tracking Tool (BuffCAT): Nordlund noted that BWSR has developed a tool for tracking and reporting efforts toward buffer compliance. This tool is optional to use, but stream lines the reporting expectations. Nordlund noted that by using this tool no other reporting will be required. Strandlien made a motion to allow the SWCD staff to use the BuffCAT tool created by BWSR. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

National Association of Conservation District Membership. Lewis made a motion to decline the National Association of Conservation District membership application as submitted. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

MASWCD 2016 Resolution Ballots: Nordlund reminded the board that the ballots are due by November 1st.

2016 MASWCD Annual Convention and Trade Show: Nordlund reported that this year's Annual Convention and Trade show will be held December 4th-6th in Bloomington, MN. Nordlund noted that the cost of registration is \$220/person for the full convention or \$145.00/per day. The cost of the rooms are \$89.00 plus tax and meals are not included in this package. Cobenais made a motion to approve covering the cost of up to two people to attend the meeting. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

OTHER:

Water Monitoring: Nordlund reported that water monitoring has been completed for the season.

No-Till Drill Workshop: Nordlund reported that the No-Till-Drill workshop is scheduled for December 8th with the keynote speaker being Kent Solberg. Nordlund noted that the topic of this talk will be "upping your game" the basic topic will be on ways to increase the return investment through grazing management. Kent plans to have some temporary fencing materials available that he has found to be effective. Nordlund noted that he is also looking to bring in some local perspective on the use of the drill and aerator.

2017 No-Till Program and New Hire: Nordlund noted that he is waiting on rental quotes for tractors and has received one "soft" quote ranging from \$10,000-\$12,000 depending on tractor availability and usage. Nordlund is wondering if he should be working on putting together a position announcement. Board felt that it may be a bit premature and would like Nordlund to assess the need of the District to see if there is enough demand to fill another full time position. No motion made at this time.

Chair Rydeen leave the board meeting, vice Chair Cobenais takes over conducting the meeting.

OTHER:

Area 8 Forestry Meeting: Nordlund noted that he attended the Area 8 Forestry meeting which discussed outreach opportunities. Nordlund noted that the DNR currently has Cost Share dollars available to fund local projects, there is also a \$300.00 reimbursement program for new stewardship plans. Nordlund noted that Hubbard County is considering adding a forestry position and would possibly be interested in sharing the position.

AIS Conference: Nordlund reported that he attended an AIS conference October 5th and 6th. Nordlund noted that he and Nick attended a variety of sessions that helped with planning efforts for revising the county AIS plan. Nickolas and Nathan went through and put together a more representative budget following the meeting.

Area 8 Joint Powers Board Meeting: Nordlund attended a JPB meeting on September 28th. Nordlund noted that they primarily talked about workload for the JPB staff and improving the capacity of the group.

2016 Conservation Tillage Conference:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m. was made by Lewis. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

**The test we must set for ourselves is not to march alone but to march in such a way that others
will wish to join us.**

- Hubert Humphrey

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.