



# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 17th, 2015*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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#### **Board Members Present:**

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

**SWCD Staff:** Nathan Nordlund and Lori Buell

**NRCS Staff:** Cari Roepke

**Guests:** John Nelson, County Commissioner, Chad Severts BWSR

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 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 adding the action item, 2016 CWF Local Capacity Service grant be added under the District Manager's report. Nordlund requested that the action item, Ford truck settlement, be added under the District Manager's report. A motion to accept the agenda with these amendment was made by Rydeen. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular November meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the November minutes was made by Rydeen. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **NRCS**

Roepke reported that EQUIP's sign up period ended on November 20<sup>th</sup> and NRCS ended up with 31 total applications. Roepke has been working on applicant's eligibility with 18 currently eligible. Roepke noted that the deadline is Friday to get the rest eligible. Roepke expects to here who the funding recipients will be sometime the end of January. Roepke reported that CSP's year end is approaching and she has currently has 3 CSP renewed contracts approved.

#### **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN REPORT**

**2015 CWF No-Till-Drill:** Nordlund reported that SWCD, NRCS and MN Extension Service put together an informational workshop for area producers. Nordlund noted that about 20 area producers attended the seminar and he felt that the seminar was well received. Nordlund noted that the workshop was held at the American Legion in Bagley on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00-12:30 and speakers included Mark Hayak, NRCS Grazing Specialist; Jim Stordahl; and two other area producers.

**2013 CWF Grant: Stormo's Riparian Forest Buffer:** Nordlund reported that Stormo's solar powered watering facility installation will not be complete by the previously extended deadline of 12/31/2015 Nordlund noted that the

construction and final payment will not be achievable without an amendment. Rydeen made a motion to amend Stormo's contract extending the installation date deadline to 7/21/2016. Gunvalson Second. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**2013 CWF Grant:** Nordlund reported that the 2013CWF grant is reaching its end date and will need to be extended to coincide with the project extension given to Stormo's. Lewis made a motion to extend the CWF13 deadline one year ending on 12/31/2016. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**2013 CWF Grant-Stormo's partial payment:** Nordlund reported that Stormo's are requesting payment for unpaid expenses incurred to date. Nordlund noted that expenses include \$1160.00 for the Solar Watering system (panels, pump, float switch, control box) \$278.93 for a watering tank, and \$909.65 to Roy Abraham for weed spraying. Expenses incurred total \$2348.58. Stormos are requesting Cost Share amount of \$2,113.72 which is 90% of the project cost. Lewis made a motion to pay Stormos \$2113.72 90% of the project cost out of 2013 Cost Share funds. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**2013 CWF JD 72:** Nordlund reported that Thompson Sand and Gravel has completed work on the JD 72 project and the Joint Powers Board engineering staff have inspected and signed off on the project. Nordlund noted that the total project cost was \$7,895.00. Lewis made a motion to pay Thompson Sand and Gravel \$7895.00 out of the 2013 CWF grant for their work on the JD72 project. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**SWAG and District Water Monitoring Projects:** Nordlund noted that he has been working on reviewing data and submitting it to the MPCA.

### *Cost Share*

**Aakre Bioengineering:** Nordlund reported that construction has begun on Pine Lake, Coir logs and fill have been completed and the planting, seeding process is expected to begin in the spring. Nordlund noted that the total cost to date is \$3750.00. Gunvalson made a motion to pay Aakre \$2131.73, 75% of the total project cost to date. \$680.77 is to come out of 2012CWF dollars and the remaining out of 2013 Cost Share Funds. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Other:** Nordlund and Lewis attended the MASWCD Convention. Nordlund noted that he attended sessions in regards to MAWQCP, the new Buffer Law, employee hiring and management.

**Conservation Farm:** Nordlund noted that the SWCD recently received a request to allow trapping on the conservation farm. The board discussed different options. The topic was tabled with no motion made at this time.

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

**Profit & Loss:** Nordlund Reported that we are currently 91.67% into 2015 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in November we received income from RLWD for JD 72, funds transferred from Deferred Revenue, MCIT dividend and interest on outstanding invoices. Along with regular monthly expenses, additional expenses included registration for BWSR Academy, MASWCD Convention, the Nursery Stock Dealer Certificate, Cost Share payments and payments to Rouland on JD72' project.

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of November payments were made to Rouland's for tree damage, the MASWCD registration, payments for BWSR Academy, Cost Share payments, a payment for our Nursery Stock Certificate and a dividend from MCIT.

**Deposit Detail:** Nordlund noted that in the month of November deposits included a drill rental payment, plat book income, an Envirothon donation and a MCIT dividend check.

**Balance Sheet:** Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance was \$717.95. This includes a drill rental invoice, plat book invoices and a tree planter invoice.

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

## DISTRICT OPERATION

**Cafeteria Plan:** Nordlund noted that the annual cost for Overmoe and Nelson to continue their service, including the Cafeteria plan, in 2016 will be \$500.00. Rydeen made a motion to continue using the services of Overmoe and Nelson and pay the annual fee of \$500.00. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Computer:** Nordlund reported that he is currently borrowing a laptop from NRCS. Nordlund feels he will be fine using the laptop and/or Kathy's computer until the New Year and will re-addressed at the January meeting.

**Budget Approval:** Nordlund made some adjustment to the budget to include income from MAWQCP and Buffer law monies. Nordlund noted that he also made changes to income items to better reflect actual income and added expenses to reflect increased cost for additional programs and trainings. Nordlund passed out copies of the amended budget and the increased capacity budget to each board member for review.

**Budget-Strandlien** made a motion to pass the budget with the adjustments as submitted by Nordlund minus the increased capacity funding. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 5-0**

**BWSR Rep, Chad Severts:** Severts attended the December meeting to answer questions regarding BWSR's expectations of the \$100,000.00 increased capacity funding and discuss the importance of accountability. Severts noted that there will be more information coming out about buffer laws in the near future and the D&R is currently working on creating new maps that will be available for use soon.

**Ford Settlement:** Nordlund noted that the SWCD received a notice that the Ford truck is part of a settlement do to issues with the sparkplugs not coming out properly. Nordlund noted that we can either opt out of the settlement in writing or get the plugs replaced and submit the expenses as part of the settlement if the cost exceeds \$300.00. The board requested that Nordlund look into this further and will re-address the topic at a later time. No motion was made.

**Giziibii RC&D Request for support:** Giziibii is requesting a letters of support from the SWCD for a proposal they have put together for the Enbridge-Eco footprint grant program. Nordlund noted that Giziibii is also requesting the SWCD to renew support by designating a board member to serve on their committee.

Gunvalson made a motion for Nordlund to write a letter of support. Gunvalson and Strandlien in favor. Rydeen, Lewis and Cobenais opposed. **Motion died due to lack of votes 2-3.**

Lewis made a motion that the SWCD decline the offer to renew support and become members again. Second by Rydeen. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Local Capacity Service Grant Agreement.** The SWCD received the 2016 final grant agreement for the \$100,000.00 increased capacity funding. Nordlund noted that once the agreement is approved he will have to go into E-Link to establish those funding's. Cobenais made a motion to approve the final agreement as submitted. Second by **Lewis**. **Motion carried 5-0.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. was made by Lewis. Second by Rydeen. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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Marty Cobenias, District Secretary

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Date

**“It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.**  
Albert Einstein

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.