



# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Avenue North, Suite 3, Bagley MN 56621 • (218)694-6845 • www.clearwaterswcd.org

## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 15th, 2016*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

.....

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

Paul Rydeen, Harlan Strandlien, Alroy Lewis and John Gunvalson

**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 10:10 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; 2017 Buffer Law Grant Agreement and 2017 Budget Revision be added under Program Technician Report. A motion to accept the agenda with the additions as requested by Nordlund was made by Lewis. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular November meeting were reviewed. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **NRCS**

**EQIP:** Roepke noted that she currently has 7 applications and has until the end of December to get planning and eligibility finalized.

**CSP:** Roepke reported that she has completed the 2016 payments and is able to review and approve applications. Roepke noted that she currently has 6 applications up for renewal. Roepke reported that she is currently taking 2017 applications, the sign up period ends Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN**

**Larson Cost Share Project:** Phillips reported that adjustments of the fence were made as requested except for one posts but due to the ground freezing will not be moved until the spring. Nordlund met with Larson on site to clarify fence location. Phillips noted that the rest of the project has been completed. Lewis made a motion to approve paying Larson \$5005.83 out of 2015 Cost Share funds and the remaining \$1039.98 out of 2016 Cost share funds in the total of \$6045.81 . Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

**F150 Repairs:** Phillips received quotes to fix the rear-end F150 from Willberg's Auto Center and the Ford Dealership. Phillips noted that Willberg's quote was roughly \$600 and parts may need to be ordered if they are not currently on hand. The quote from the dealership was around \$650 and all parts are on-hand. Lewis made a motion to take the truck to Walberg's for repair. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 40.**

**Larson Well Sealing:** Phillips noted that Larson completed the well sealing and is requesting final payment. Phillips noted that the total project cost was \$365.00. Strandlien made a motion to approve the SWCD pay 50% of the project cost of \$182.50. Second by Lewis. **Motion Carried 40.**

## Other

**Buffer Law Update:** Phillips reported that the draft APO guidance from BWSR had become available on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Phillip's noted that the draft will be presented to the county board in January and may need county action sometime before April.

**No-Till-Drill:** Phillips reported that the Drill is being stored for the winter at Aspen Hill Shed. Phillips noted that the total cost for storage for the season was \$194.52.

**F-350:** Phillips reported that the F-350 has been delivered. Phillips noted that he will contact Moose Creek Graphics about getting the SWCD signage created. Phillips noted that the truck will need a new trailer hitch/mount and is looking for quotes.

**Education:** Phillips reported that the SWCD staff distributed the Envirosapes to the Clearbrook school district. Phillips noted that he had some discussion with teachers about possible educational needs for next year. Phillips provided GIS assistance to a student from Bagley High School.

## **Trainings:**

Phillips attended the MASWCD meeting in Bloomington on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

Phillips attended a Soil Health Conference in Fargo on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

Phillips attended a forestry meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> at Itasca State Park.

## 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 91.66% into 2016 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in November there was income increase of \$95.00 from Plat Books Sales and an AIS payment from Clearwater County in the amount of \$990.00. Nordlund noted that the Clearwater County Water Plan bill has been submitted in the amount of \$20,887.00 and there was an increase in the amount of \$2,175.68 for hours claimed on Buffer Law activities. Nordlund reported that there were no additional expenses outside of the SWCD's normal monthly expenses.

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of November additional expenses were; a registration payment for BWSR Academy in the amount of \$287.00 and a \$35,938.00 grant disbursement from BWSR for 2015 CWF. Nordlund noted that he reallocated some of his flex dollars to fully fund his HSA for 2016 so an additional \$700.00 payment was made to Select Account.

**Deposit Detail:** Nordlund noted that in the month of November there were deposits from Plat Book Sales, a MCIT Dividend and the 2015 CWF 40% grant payment in the amount of \$35,938.00.

**Balance Sheet:** Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance is \$793.12. Nordlund noted that this amount is primarily outstanding invoices to Plat Book vendors which we generally don't expect payment until they have sold all of their Plat Books.

A motion to accept the November financial reports was made by Strandlien. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

## DISTRICT OPERATION

**SWCD Newsletter and Tree Ad:** Nordlund reported the SWCD has put together the annual newsletter for the Shopper again this year. Nordlund noted that the cost of running the Newsletter is \$725.00 for a Black and white 2-page spread and \$970.00 full color two page spread. Lewis made a motion to run the full two page spread in full color the week of January 15<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$970.00. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-1. Strandlien opposed.**

**Anderson Cost Share Project:** Nordlund reported that Anderson has completed the installation of the watering system. Nordlund noted that Anderson had completed the fencing earlier in the year and everything else is in place. Nordlund noted that total expenses for the project are \$16,406.07 and the maximum Cost Share rate on the project is 75% or \$9,885.75 whichever is less. Lewis made a motion to pay Anderson project expenses in the amount of \$9,885.75 \$1,302.32 to come out of 2016 Cost Share funds and the remaining \$5,583.43 to come out of 2016 Increased Capacity Special Project Funds, and \$3,000 from the RLWD. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

**2017 Buffer Law Grant Agreement:** Nordlund informed the board that the SWCD received the 2017 Buffer Law grant agreement. Strandlien made a motion to accept the \$20,000.00 Buffer Law grant agreement as submitted by BWSR. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-1. Rydeen Opposed.**

**2017 Budget Revisions:** Nordlund reported that there has been a few changes in expenses and incomes from the originally drafted 2017 budget. Nordlund noted that there will no longer be a vehicle expense of \$6,000.00, income from tree orders may be lower than originally anticipated given stock ordered and income from AIS activities may be overestimated if Buffer Law activities become time sensitive. Strandlien made a motion to accept the revisions as presented by Nordlund. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

**Joint Powers Board Meeting.** Nordlund noted that there will be a Joint Powers Board Meeting on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**County Lake Access Enhancement Project:** Nordlund reported that on November 29<sup>th</sup> the County Board approved the partnership to fund this project. Nordlund noted that they have been working with Bruce Cox from the Land Department to come up with specific lake access projects. Nordlund noted that funds allocated by the County for this project will be matched by BWSR \$1 for \$1 up to \$22,750 through additional increased Capacity funding.

**Red Lake Food Initiative:** Nordlund reported that Michael VanHorn is working on putting together trainings for tribal members on the production of vegetables. Nordlund noted that he would like our assistance by doing a Soil Health presentation and Q&A. Nordlund noted that they would cover our travel and time to attend the meeting.

**Forestry Discussions:** Nordlund and Nick met with representatives from Hubbard County, Itasca County, BWSR and DNR Forestry to access forestry needs in our district and get a sense of whether there is interest in pursuing a shared forestry position. Nordlund noted that Hubbard is definitely interested in obtaining forestry services for their district and that the DNR has Cost Share Dollars available for forestry practices.

**Tree Orders:** Nordlund reported that 2017 trees order forms have been completed and that the DNR was able to source Red Pine Seedlings from private nurseries to cover their loss and will be available.

**No-Till Drill Workshop:** Nordlund reported that the Soil Health workshop titled “Upping Your Game” was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> with Kent Solberg as keynote speaker. Nordlund noted that the basic topic of the workshop was ways to increase the return on investment through grazing management. Nordlund noted that Rydeen presented on his use of the Aerator, Mark Larson shared some feedback of his experience and Phillips did a presentation and conducted a Soil Health demonstration.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 a.m. was made by Strandlien. Second by Lewis. **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.