



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17th, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Marty Cobenais, John Gunvalson, Harlan Strandlien and Alroy Lewis

SWCD Staff: Nathan Nordlund, Lori Buell and Nickalous Phillips

NRCS Staff: Cari Roepke

Guests: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Vice Chair Cobenais in the USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Cobenais called for additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda as submitted was made by Strandlien. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the March 7th Special meeting were reviewed. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Second Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

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

NRCS

Roepke reported that she has the 16 eligible EQIP applications ranked. Roepke noted that the applications are currently going through the Area's quality review and 8 out of the 16 applications will get approved.

Roepke reported that the CSP application deadline is March 31st.

Roepke and Knick will be attending an all employee meeting in Erskine.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Nordlund Reported that we are currently 16.67% into 2016 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in February we received income from plat book sales, tree sales, WCA and the 10% retainer for CWF12. Along with regular monthly expenses, additional expenses included a payment to Farmers Publishing for the tree newsletter.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of February a payment to MASWCD was made for dues, fees were paid to RLWD for the JD 72 project a payment to Career Track for Admin training Buell attended and a Payment to Farmers for tree newsletter.

Deposit Detail: Nordlund noted that in the month of February deposits included plat book income, tree order income and WCA.

Balance Sheet: Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance was \$862.35. Nordlund noted that all of these are Plat book invoices to retailers with the exception of the outstanding balance of \$348.45 to Klinkhammer.

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

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

AIS: Phillips noted that he and Nordlund met with the County Board to review the work plan for the 2016 season. Phillips reported that he has obtained templates for AIS awareness cards. Phillips noted that the cards will be for inspectors to distribute. Phillips purchased an additional tablet for the AIS inspectors. Phillis drafted reports for County and for some of the areas Lake Associations.

Trainings:

Pine Lake: Phillips attended the Pine Lake Management meeting in Thief River on 3/2/2016. Phillips noted that they are still in the planning stage of this process.

SONDE: Phillips and Nordlund attended a SONDE training in Crookston 3/2/2016.

JPB: Phillips attended the Area 8 JPB meeting on 3/4/2016. Phillips noted that the premise of the meeting was to introduce new area specialists, service etc.

MAWQCP: Phillips met with Area Certification Specialist (Rachel Elshaug) to discuss SWCD's role in the program. Phillips reported that he submitted a ¼ page MAWQCP ad in the Farmer's as part of Education/Promotion portion of the program.

Other: Phillips noted that he has been busy researching the Aerator, helping with Water Plan revision, reviewing computer options, and performing additional office tasks.

Phillips entered and shipped rain gauge data and noted that the data base is currently up to date. Lewis requests that Phillip's put together a rain gauge report for the April meeting.

DISTRICT OPERATION

Adoption of County Water Plan: Nordlund presented the board with a resolution to formally adopt the County Water Plan with the all the amendments. Strandlien made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Lewis Second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

MN DNR Walk in Access Nordlund presented the board with the Walk in Access program outline submitted by the DNR. Nordlund noted that the program is intended to support increased access to private grounds for hunting. And would pay the SWCD \$125.00 per established easement. Lewis made a motion to decline the Walk-in Access program at this time. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Bank Signature: Strandlien made a motion for Alroy Lewis, the Board Treasurer, to become an approved signatures on the SWCD checking account held at First National Bank of Bagley. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Bank Account Access Lewis made a motion for Office Manager, Lori Buell, to have full access to all account information held at First National Bank of Bagley. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Local Capacity Funding: Nordlund reported that the Local Capacity Funding budget has been established in eLink and noted that he had to make slight modifications to meet reporting requirements.

2015 No-Till-Drill: Nordlund worked with BWSR representative Severts and NRCS representative Roepke to come up with an incentive outline. Lewis made a motion to accept the incentives as followed:

- Develop a 2 tier approach \$25.00 in 300' priority area. \$15.00 in ¼ mile.
- Pay for soil sampling. \$50 per sample. Provide U of M recommendations to landowner.
- Offer a \$250 per acre incentive for acres of livestock exclusion established.

Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Aerator: Nordlund noted that the Ranchworx drill is heavier than tow capacity of 1 ton truck. Nordlund wanted to know if he should still move ahead with the purchase as agreed upon at the previous board meeting. The Board agreed that no amendments were needed to the motion already in-place and Nordlund may go ahead and purchase the aerator as planned. No motion made.

OTHER:

Computer upgrade: Nordlund feels it would be in the best interest of SWCD to go ahead and purchase new computers for Phillips and Buell. Nordlund noted that Phillips' computer is currently 8 years old and was a NRCS computer. Nordlund estimates the total purchase to be \$2,149.00. Lewis made a motion to allow Nordlund to purchase two new computers at the estimated price. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

MASWCD Area 8 Meeting: Nordlund attended the MASWCD Area 8 meeting Friday, March 4th at 9:00a.m and the JPB meeting that followed.

Water Plan Amendment:

- Nordlund attended a Water Plan meeting on March 22nd.

AIS Activities:

-Nordlund attended the County Commissioner work session on March 4th to discuss inspection schedule and other activities.

-Nordlund attended the Count Board meeting on March 15th to approve staffing agency contract, Itasca Park funding and ad campaign.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. was made by Gunvalson. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried 4-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

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.