



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 APRIL 21st, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Paul Rydeen, John Gunvalson, and Harlan Strandlien

SWCD Staff: Nathan Nordlund, Lori Buell and Nickolaus Phillips

NRCS Staff: Cari Roepke, Danny Weber- Assistant State Conservationist

Guests: John Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 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. A motion to accept the agenda as submitted was made by Strandlien. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the regular March meeting were reviewed. Strandlien made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Second Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

NRCS

Roepke introduced Assistant State Conservationist, Danny Weber, to the board. Danny attended the meeting to address question/concerns.

Roepke reported that NRCS has approved 15 EQIP applications since the last meeting.

Roepke reported that the CSP application deadline was March 31st, they ended up with 16 total applications.

Roepke noted that she will be gone at a training the entire week of May 2nd-May 6th.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

AIS: Phillips has been working on getting the AIS program ready for the season. Phillips noted that he has finished the inspectors AIS watch cards and had them printed by Richards Publishing.

Cost Share: Phillips reported that he has been working on mapping and documentation for Larson, Wraa and Anderson. Phillips noted the he attended a Cost Share meeting with Larson.

Larson Cost Share: Phillips noted that Larson is working with NRCS on an access control/cattle exclusion projects. Larson lost a few livestock and wants to protect his cattle by putting up a fence line. Nordlund noted that this is a joint project with the NRCS and will create a buffer on the Lost River. The total project cost is estimated at \$21,692.00.

Strandlien made a motion to pay up to 75% of the estimated project cost of \$21,692.00, less the contribution of the NRCS, with up to \$5,005.83 out of 2015 Cost Share funds, \$4,402.48 out of 2016 Cost Share funds and the remainder to come from EQIP. Total funds state and federal not to exceed 75% of project cost. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Larson Cost Share Well Sealing: Larson is requesting funding to help cover the cost of sealing an unused well. Phillips noted that the well sealing project is estimated at \$600.00. Gunvalson made a motion to pay 50% of project cost not to exceed \$300.00. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Anderson Cost Share: Nordlund reported that Anderson is interested in doing an access control/cattle exclusion project and is requesting funding from SWCD. Phillips noted that the project cost estimate is \$15,183.00. Strandlien made a motion to approve up to \$1302.32 out of 2016 Cost Share funds, up to \$5583.43 out of Increased Capacity Funding and \$3000.00 from RLWD. Strandlien noted that the funds are not to exceed 75% of project cost. Second by Rydeen. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Wraa Special Projects: Phillips noted that Wraa would like to do a cattle exclusion project estimating at \$14,448.00 including the cost of bulldozer work clearing the fence line. Strandlien made a motion to pay up to 75% of total project cost minus \$2,750 for the fence clearing activities for a total project estimate of \$11,698. Strandlien noted that up to \$5773.50 was to come from the Increased Capacity Special Projects funding and \$3,000.00 expected from RLWD. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Rain Gauge Reports: Phillips presented the board with a rain gauge report. Phillips noted that the report outlined 2015 rain gauge data and trends. Phillips noted that he mailed volunteers yearly reports and entered recent rain gauge data into the climatology database.

No-Till Drill: Phillips reported that he has been busy assisting Nordlund with the preparations and set up of the No-Till Drill workshop.

Aerator: Phillips reported that the Aerator has been ordered and expects it to be delivered to the SWCD by the end of the month.

Trees: Phillips reported that the SWCD staff has been busy prepping for tree sales. Phillips noted that he and Nordlund picked up trees from the nursery, picked up a tree planter and met with Birnstegel about his planting project.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Nordlund Reported that we are currently 25% into 2016 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in March we received income from Kathy's dental payment, plat book sales, tree sales, County Appropriations, Sonoma truck sale and the Increased Capacity Funding.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of March a down payment was made for the Aerator and a payment to RLWD for JD 72 Easement. Nordlund noted that we received the \$100,000.00 for the increased capacity funding.

Deposit Detail: Nordlund noted that in the month of March deposits included the Increased Capacity Funding, Plat book income, tree sales income and income from the truck sale.

Balance Sheet: Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance was \$1652.98. Nordlund noted that the current outstanding balance is \$815.85 all of these are for Plat book invoices and tree sales. Nordlund reported that the outstanding balance of \$348.45 to Klinkhammer has since been paid without additional action taken.

A motion to accept the March financial reports was made by Gunvalson. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

DISTRICT OPERATION

Water Plan Amendment: Nordlund held a Water Plan meeting on March 22nd. Nordlund noted that the Public comment period was held on April 19th and no comments were given during the comment period. Nordlund noted that he did receive written comments after the meeting from DNR, Department of Health and Department of AG. Nordlund noted that Corey Hanson from RLWD also had comments and project suggestions to incorporate into the plan.

2015 No-Till Drill Grant -Soil Health Workshop: The workshop was held on April 12 at the American Legion in Bagley. Nordlund reported that there were about 37 people in attendance and about 25 of them were producers. Nordlund noted that he received a positive response from many of the producers and have had people show interest in using the drill.

Tree Program: Nordlund reported that he and Phillips picked up trees from Badoura State Nursery and have been busy packing trees and preparing for tree hand out.

Biennial Budget Request (BBR): Nordlund reported that he finished putting together the BBR's for the SWCD and the County. Nordlund noted that he and Phillips worked with Dan Hecht from Environmental Services to create the county portion. Nordlund explained that the BBR is to help BWSR determine SWCD's financial needs. No motions were made at this time, the board would like to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Local Capacity Funding: Nordlund requested that the board consider adjusting the Increased Capacity Budget line item "Contracted Services." Nordlund does not feel that there needs to be such a high dollar amount in this category for 2016 and would like to see some of the funds allocated to "Special Projects". No motion was made Nordlund will present adjustment options at next month's meeting.

End of the year report: Buell confirmed that each board member received a copy of the end of the year report in the mail. Buell noted that there has been a significant change in accounting standards this year due to new PERA reporting requirements and these changes are reflected on the financials as a liability. No motion was made at this time the board would like to review further and make a motion when there is a full board present.

Computer upgrade: Nordlund reported that computers have been purchased for Buell and Phillips. Nordlund noted that he believes it would be in the best interest of the SWCD to purchase a laptop computer for presentations at board meetings and workshops. Nordlund noted that having a laptop would be helpful when meeting with landowners. Strandlien made a motion to approve the purchase of a laptop for the amount of \$1043.13. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

In-Kind Labor Rates: Nordlund handed out a copy of the Iowa Farm custom labor rates for in-kind labor. Nordlund noted that, in the past, these were the rates that the SWCD generally followed when figuring project costs. Nordlund suggested, for Cost Share purposes, the SWCD either follow the Iowa Farm custom labor rates or create their own standardized rates for labor performed by landowners. Nordlund noted that typical areas of labor are fencing hand clearing, grubbing, dozing, tractor driving, planting buffers, planting lakeshore buffers, installing core logs, hand planting trees etc. No motion was made board would like to have further discussion next month.

OTHER:

Board Member Election: Nordlund reminded the board that elections are coming up again and Strandlien, Lewis and Gunvalson were all coming to the end of their term. Nordlund noted that if they plan on running for another term they need to register by May 31st.

Enbridge: Nordlund reported that an Enbridge representative has offered to attend a SWCD board meeting to address any questions or concerns anyone may have regarding the pipeline projects. The board told Nordlund she was welcome to attend next month's meeting if available. No motion was made.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. was made by Gunvalson. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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.