



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 MAY 19th, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

.....

Board Members Present:

Paul Rydeen, Harlan Strandlien and Marty Cobenais

SWCD Staff: Nathan Nordlund, Lori Buell and Nickolaus Phillips

NRCS Staff:

Guests: John Nelson and Chad Severts

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 a.m. by Chair Rydeen in the Clearbrook City Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Rydeen called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Nordlund requested the addition of action items; Fair Booth rental, No-Till-Drill incentive and In-Kind labor rates be added under the District Managers report. A motion to accept the agenda with the changes as requested by Nordlund was made by Strandlien. Second by Cobenais.

Motion carried 3-0.

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

NRCS

Roepke was unable to attend the May meeting-no report submitted.

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

AIS: Phillips reported that he has been working closely with Always there Staffing and the inspectors regarding changes and training concerns. Phillips noted that he deployed the traffic counters at Minerva, Long, Long Lost, Clearwater, Lindberg and Walker Brook and plans on checking them at the end of the month.

No-Till Drill: Phillips reported that there have been a couple complaints that the acreage meter is reading low. Phillips noted that he did adjust the meter once and thinks it may need new batteries.

Aerator: Phillips reported that the Aerator has arrived, the board suggested that Phillips look for an acreage meter for the aerator somewhere in the \$200.00 price range.

Trees: Phillips reported that tree handout is pretty much complete and there are still around 1700 trees remaining. The board recommended checking with area schools to see if they were interested in tree donations.

Cost Share: Phillips sent approval letters to Anderson, Wraa and Larson. Phillips noted that he attended the RLWD meeting on the 28th to secure additional funding for Wraa and Anderson.

Boat: Phillips reported that after searching various ads and vendors Nordlund purchased a 1985 StarCraft and trailer from a private seller for \$700.00.

Envirothon: Phillips and Buell attended the 2016 Area 8 Envirothon on May 4th. Phillips noted that he assisted at the Wildlife station.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

Profit & Loss: Nordlund Reported that we are currently 33% into 2016 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in April there was income from Plat Book sales and an increase of tree sales. Nordlund noted that outside of regular expenses additional expenses included an increase in Office Supply expenses due to the purchase of the computers and an increase in AIS supplies.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of April a payment was made to Farmers Independent for the No-Till-Drill workshop Advertisement, a payment was made to the American Legion for the rental of the Auditorium and a payment to Kent Solberg for mileage cost for No-Till-Drill workshop.

Deposit Detail: Nordlund noted that in the month of April deposits included Envirothon donations, tree sales income and platbook income.

Balance Sheet: Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance was \$1660.72. Nordlund noted that the current outstanding balance are for Plat book invoices and tree sales.

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

DISTRICT OPERATION

Biennial Budget Request (BBR): Nordlund reported that he finished putting together the BBR's for the SWCD and the County. Nordlund noted that the BBR can be adopted as the SWCD's Annual Plan of Work. A motion to accept the BBR as submitted by Nordlund was made by Strandlien. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 3-0.**

End of the year report: Nordlund noted that Buell made a couple corrections to the end of the year report and will be adjusting the format of the report. Rydeen made a motion to accept the End of the year financial report with the changes as submitted. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Audit Bid-Peterson Company LTD: Nordlund reported that the Clearwater SWCD is due for an audit this year on 2015 financials. Nordlund noted that we did receive a bid from Peterson Company LTD in the amount of \$2,150.00. A

motion was made by Cobenais to accept the bid from Peterson Company LTD in the amount of \$2,150.00. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Ads-Farmers-North Country Beef Producers: Nordlund requested permission to run two ads in the North Country Beef Producers, a magazine formatted and distributed by Farmers. Nordlund noted that the ads will be for MN Ag Water Quality Certification for \$90.00 and the second will be for the Aerator/No-Till-Drill program for \$98.00. A motion to approve the purchase of both ads as submitted was made by Strandlien. Second by Cobenais. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Clearwater County Fair: Nordlund reported that the Fair booth registration and rental fee is \$150.00 this year. Nordlund noted that we will have the No-Till-Drill and Aerator displayed at the fair this year. Cobenais made a motion to approve the Clearwater County Fair registration fee of \$150.00 Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

No-Till Incentive Payments: Nordlund reminded the board that incentive rates were previously approved at the March 17th Board meeting. Nordlund felt it was unclear whether or not the SWCD staff has the authority to approve each individual contract and payment or if prior approval is required by the board. Strandlien made a motion to delegate all No-Till-Drill incentive payment authority to the SWCD staff with the contingency that the staff will provide a report to the board each month. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 3-0.**

In-Kind Labor Rates: Nordlund noted that, in the past, the Iowa Farm rates were the rates that the SWCD generally followed when figuring In-Kind rates for 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. The board requested that Nordlund come up with estimated rates for labor. No motion was made board would like to review and have further discussion next month.

Water Plan Amendment: Nordlund noted that he and Phillips revised the Water Plan based with the agency comments. Nordlund noted that he tracked and sent those changes on to Severts. Nordlund noted the final major step of the process is for the plan to go up for review by the Northern Regional Committee on June 8th.

Aerator: Nordlund reported that the aerator was not fully assemble upon arrival and he hired the Land Department to assemble it.

Tree Program: Nordlund reported that he and Phillips planted 3000 white spruce for Birnstengle and Keith Gebhardt was hired to drive the tractor. Nordlund reported that there are still around 1700 trees remaining.

Local Capacity Funding: Nordlund clarified the differences between the board approved local capacity budget and the budget that was established in eLink. Nordlund noted that the major difference between the two budgets was the absence of an administration line in the original budget excepted by the board. This item needed to be pulled out from the other budgeted items.

OTHER:

Area 8 Resolution Meeting: Nordlund reported that the MASWCD Area 8 resolution meeting will be held on June 3rd in Bemidji. Strandlien made a motion for the SWCD to cover the registration cost of any staff and board member interested in attending. Second by Cobenais. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Grazing Workshop: Nordlund noted that the Grazing Workshop will be held May 26th and 27th. Nordlund will be out of town on those days and does not plan on attending.

AIS Activities: Nordlund reported that he met with the commissioners to update them on AIS activities.

Board Member Elections: Nordlund reminded the Board members Strandlien, Lewis and Gunvalson that their terms were ending and filing closes May 31st.

Admin Training: Nordlund noted that the 2016 Admin training will be hosted by Area 8 this year. The training will be held in Bemidji on June 22nd and 23rd. Buell noted that she will be taking registration and will be setting up an account in QuickBooks that will show up on next month's reports. Cobenais made a motion to approve the registration cost of \$65.00 for Buell to attend the Admin training. Second by Strandlien. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

Marty Cobenais Enbridge: Cobenais presented the board with a resolution of Non-Support of Enbridge Pipelines. Cobenais made a motion to approve the resolution as submitted. Motion died due to lack of a second.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m. was made by Cobenais. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

John Gunvalson, District Secretary

Date

The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change.
The leader adjusts the sails.

- John Maxwell

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.