



# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 18th, 2016*

### *MEETING MINUTES*

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

Paul Rydeen, Harlan Strandlien and John Gunvalson

**SWCD Staff:** Nathan Nordlund, Lori Buell and Nickolaus Phillips

**NRCS Staff:** Cari Roepke

**Guests:** John Nelson-County Commissioner

The Board met in the Clearbrook City Chambers at 8:30. The meeting moved out to the Rydeen farm so the board members could do a field visit.

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chair Rydeen at the Rydeen Family Farm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:** Chair Rydeen called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Nordlund requested the addition of action item, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership, be added to the agenda under the District Managers Report. A motion to accept the agenda with the additions as requested by Nordlund was made by Strandlien. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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

#### **NRCS**

Roepke reported that she has been busy working on the 2017 Environmental Quality Incentive Program signup. Roepke noted that the deadline is on August 19<sup>th</sup> and she currently has 6 applications.

#### **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN**

**AIS:** Phillips checked veliger sampling on July 26<sup>th</sup> at Big LaSalle, Pine, Clearwater, Long Lost, Long and Lomond. Phillips noted that he checked in with the inspectors at the access points.

**Trainings:** Phillips noted that he attended a Groundwater Management Workshop on August 4<sup>th</sup> in Thief River Falls.

**Buffer Law Update:** Phillips reported that he conducted a preliminary review of 2607 parcels and found 95% of them to be “obviously compliant”. Phillips noted that approximately 129 parcels were flagged as “needing further review”. The board discussed what they felt would be the most effective approach when contacting landowners regarding the buffer law and individual parcels. Phillips will form a letter for landowners and bring it in front of the board for review at the September meeting. No motion made at this time.

**Cost Share:** Phillips reported that he will be conducting site inspections on various 2007 Cost Share projects, RIM Easements and Bagley wastewater wetlands.

**Other:** Phillips noted that there were only a couple of nitrate tests conducted at the Clearwater County fair and feels that additional advertising may be needed in the future if the SWCD decides to host a nitrate clinic again.

## DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

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

**Profit & Loss:** Nordlund Reported that we are currently 58.33% into 2016 and expenses are currently in line with the annual budget. Nordlund noted that in July there was income from Plat Book sales, No-Till-Drill Rentals and PERA aid. Nordlund noted that outside of regular expenses additional expenses included an increase of Vehicle Maintenance for new tires on the truck, a payment to Wraa, a payment to Stormo and No-Till-Drill incentive payments.

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Nordlund noted that along with expected regular bills for the month of July incentive payments were made to Bellefy and McCollum, Cost Share payment and incentive payments were made to Stormo and a Cost Share payment was made to Wraa.

**Deposit Detail:** Nordlund noted that in the month of July deposits were for the Ob Well Contract and from the County for the Water Plan.

**Balance Sheet:** Nordlund reported that the Accounts Receivable balance was \$1068.96. Nordlund noted that the current outstanding balance are drill rental invoices.

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

## DISTRICT OPERATION

**Technical Approval Authority for Watering Systems (TAA):** Nordlund has been working with Dave Jones from NRCS to gain TAA for designing watering facilities. Nordlund noted he has received approval on the project design for the Anderson project and that Dave will be sending out a TAA for board approval.

**Cost Share:** Nordlund reported that he has closed out the 2013 and 2014 Cost Share grants.

**Fiscal Year 2017 Matching Grants:** Nordlund reported that BWSR is offering all SWCD's a \$1 for \$1 match of additional county funding designated to the SWCD above what they currently receive. Nordlund noted that the max match amount is \$22,750.00. These matching dollars can be used to fund county projects that address water quality issues, to purchase capital equipment related to water quality protection and more. Nordlund noted that has been talking with Environmental Services, The Highway Department and the Land Department to see if there are opportunities to partner with them.

**Water Monitoring:** Nordlund reported that he has been carrying out the regular water monitoring along with volunteer monitoring on Long Lost, Clearwater, Lone and Walker Brook.

**AIS Veliger Sampling:** Nordlund reported that he collected samples on Big LaSalle, Clearwater, Pine, Lomond, Long Lost and Long.

**2016 Local Capacity Funding Amendment:** Nordlund reported that he had to amend the 2016 Local Capacity budget to \$120,337.00. Nordlund noted the BWSR sent out additional funding that will, in the future, be allocated by matching dollars contributed by the county. Nordlund and Severts met to discuss the changes to the budget. Nordlund noted that the new budget will reflect the cost of adding an additional staff member and leasing a tractor to accelerate the No-Till program. Staff would also implement the buffer program and fulfill education and outreach activities in the off season. Strandlien made a motion to accept the amended and revised Local Capacity Funding budget as submitted by Nordlund. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

**2017 Budget:** Nordlund passed out copies of the 2017 budget for the Board to review. Gunvalson made a motion to accept the budget as submitted by Nordlund. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**2017 Water Plan Budget:** Nordlund passed out copies of the 2017 Water Plan budget for the board to review. Gunvalson made a motion to accept the Water Plan budget as submitted. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Aakre Lakeshore Project Funds:** Nordlund reported that funding for the Aakre project was previously approved but not encumbered. Nordlund noted that all remaining Cost Share was spent on other projects and there is still \$933.00 that was paid to Aakre that is not designated to a specific fund. Nordlund is requesting that the additional \$933.00 come out of the 2016 Local Capacity Special Projects funds. Strandlien made a motion to allocate the remaining \$933.00 of the Aakre Lakeshore Project funds come out of the 2016 Local Capacity Special Projects fund. **Second by Gunvalson. Motion carried 3-0.**

**No-Till-Drill Incentive Payment:** Strandlien made a motion, producers may only qualify for the No-Till-Drill incentive program if they use the drill owned by the Clearwater SWCD. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Supplemental Insurance Renewal:** Nordlund noted that the No-Till-Drill's supplemental insurance is coming up for renewal. Rydeen made a motion to renew the No-Till-Drill supplemental insurance for 2017 in the amount of \$566.80. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Aerator:** Strandlien made a motion to allow producers from bordering townships outside the county to use the drill. Requests for use beyond these townships would need to be approved on a case by case basis. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**US Fish and Wildlife Service:** Kurt Svendsgaard from USFWS is putting together a \$40,000 Conservation Partnership Legacy Grant proposal to do 50 wetland restoration projects in the county. Nordlund noted that the USFWS is looking to identify partners for the grant proposal and suggested a commitment of \$500.00 from the SWCD. **Proposal died due to lack of motion.**

**Area 8 Meeting:** The 2016 North Central Area VIII meeting and Tour will be hosted by Lake of the Woods on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nordlund noted that the board has until September 9<sup>th</sup> to register. Rydeen made a motion for SWCD to cover the registration and lodging cost of any staff or board member that would like to attend. Second by Gunvalson. **Motion Carried 3-0.**

**OTHER:**

**Groundwater workshop:** Nordlund reported that he attended a Groundwater Workshop in Thief River Falls on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Meetings:** Nordlund attended a county board meeting with Tim Terrill from the Mississippi headwaters Board and met with BWSR Executive John Jaske on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. was made by Gunvalson. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

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John Gunvalson, District Secretary

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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.