



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2011

MEETING MINUTES

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Board Members Present:

Leonard Stinar, Harlan Strandlien, John Gunvalson, and Alroy Lewis

SWCD Staff: Kathy Rasch, Nathan Nordlund, Emily Lindell

Guests: Cari Roepke, NRCS
John Nelson, County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Vice Chair Stinar, acting in place of Chair Paul Rydeen, in the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Acting Chair Stinar called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Rasch requested an addition to the agenda for the board to consider approval of the Conservation Delivery Grant from BWSR. Rasch also requested that the copier lease and office rental agreements topics be moved to be just after the NRCS report, so that NRCS representative Cari Roepke would be present for those discussions. A motion to accept the Agenda with these changes and additions was made by Strandlien, with second by Gunvalson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes: Minutes of the Regular September meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the September Minutes as written was made by Lewis, with second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.**

PROJECT REPORTS

NRCS Report

EQIP: Roepke reported that she is busy processing payments and finalizing contracts. She indicated that she is working on 4 grazing plans for this fiscal year sign up and also on an Ag Waste update for an existing contract site.

WHIP: Roepke is working on a few tree plans for this year.

Miscellaneous: Roepke has finished interviews for the open Soil Conservation Technician (SCT) position. Brooke Knick, the SCT from Baudette, has been helping in the Bagley office twice a week.

Roepke passed around the Memorandum of Understanding between the SWCD and the NRCS. Roepke also reviewed the Justice for All poster and non-discrimination statement that must be included on all NRCS publications. Roepke then reviewed 2007 census figures on the demographics of farmers in Clearwater County as tracked by race/ethnicity and gender. Roepke stated that diversity

can take many forms and that diversity should be one of the considerations when board positions are to be filled.

Copier replacement options update: Roepke has been informed that a new copier will be provided to each NRCS office. It is expected that this will be a full color copier, scanner, and fax machine similar to the current copier. The lease on the existing copier is held by the SWCD and is due to expire in March 2012. Possible options regarding how to proceed were discussed, no decisions were made. Rasch agreed to provide figures regarding lease termination and shipping on the existing copier.

Office rental lease agreement: Roepke reported that the USDA currently has a month-to-month lease on their current office space. Rasch shared the 12 month lease extension addendum prepared by County Attorney Richard Mollin at the request of the board for the SWCD office space. A motion was made by Gunvalson to accept and have Acting Chair Stinar sign the lease addendum on behalf of the district. Motion was seconded by Strandlien. **Motion carried 4-0.** The addendum was then signed and notarized by Sheri Gerbracht.

Resource Technician Report

Water Plan projects: Lake testing is complete for 2011.

WCA: Rasch reported that there are not a lot of applications coming in at this time.

State Cost Share: Rasch performed a site visit at the Sumrall property and discussed the site with the landowner. She reported that the cost share area is fenced at this time and the trees look ok. The site will need to be re-inspected in the spring.

Rasch is working with Roos on his shoreline project. Plans from JPB have been completed and Roos has begun site prep.

Rasch and Nordlund did site visits at the Aakre and Country Faith shelterbelt cost share sites where trees were clipped along with weeds. The Aakre site will be re-evaluated in spring regarding tree replacement needs and options. Country Faith requested an estimate yet this fall regarding possible tree replacement.

Tree Program: Rasch has placed order for 2012 tree season. Rasch added a couple new species including Black Walnut and Wild Grapes. The district will also sell tree tubes as we have had requests for them and NRCS is promoting them for tree plantings.

Conservation Farm: Rasch worked with students and an instructor from Trek North High School who assisted with bud capping pine trees at the Conservation Farm. The group is interested in returning to help there next year as well. Rasch also applied Plantskydd to Conservation Farm oaks on the same day.

Other: Rasch attended the last workshop of the ECS series which began in 2010. She will receive Forest Stewardship Certification credits and Technical Assistance Authority from the series. Rasch reported that she will work with the Thief River Falls NRCS office this winter to get Nordlund and her own TAA credentials in order.

Program Technician Reports

Water Plan activities:

Lake Protection Challenge Grant: RMB has finished the data collection for Pine and Clearwater Lakes. The reports should be done in 2012.

Clearbrook Flood Reduction: Nordlund is getting up to speed on past work. He has spoken with engineers and Myron Jesme. Nordlund is also talking with the USFWS about wildlife pond options and investigating whether a particular DNR grant might be a fit to address this issue.

Bagley Lake Water Quality: Nordlund is in the beginning stages of research on possible ways to address blue green algae blooms that have been reported on this lake during the last two years.

Coalition of Lake Associations: Nordlund will be working over the winter on creating on a CoLA in Clearwater County.

Cost Share: Nordlund completed site inspections due this year and will send out letters in the coming week with reports for each landowner.

Training and Conferences: Nordlund will attend BWSR Academy October 25-27.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

District Manager Report

Financial Reports: The financial statements showing all revenue and expenditures for the month of September were presented to the board for review.

Profit & Loss: No major changes. Rasch reported that gas and telephone/postage are a little high, but could also be expected to taper off toward the end of the year. Plat books are selling well and the district has ordered more than expected this year. We have now ordered a total of 500 books at the higher initial printing rate. Those ordered beyond 500 will have a lower price and reduce district plat book costs in 2012.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Bills were normal for month of September.

Balance Sheet: The primary outstanding items are invoices to local businesses that are selling plat books.

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

Supervisors agreed to discuss MASWCD resolutions at this time as Gunvalson wanted to participate in discussion before needing to leave meeting early.

MASWCD resolutions: Supervisors discussed the resolution packet provided by MASWCD and completed voting forms which Rasch will compile and submit for district by Monday, October 24.

Conservation Delivery Grant: Rasch reported that the FY 2012 grant agreement had been received from BWSR for district approval and signature. The amount received was the same as what was expected. Strandlien made a motion to accept the grant. Second was by Lewis. Motion carried 3-0.

Computer Replacement: Two computer tower replacements and one monitor were ordered as approved at September meeting. The monitor is currently back ordered. The total cost was \$15 less than expected.

Clean Water Fund Grant Applications: Clearwater SWCD's grant applications have passed the first round of evaluation. The total amount requested by potential grantees statewide is approximately three times the amount of money available.


SWCD fall newsletter and tree order: The newsletter and order form are to be printed in the Clearwater Shopper through the Farmers Independent as in past years. Cost will be approximately \$900. Environmental Services has committed to sharing 20-25% of the cost. Motion to approve printing the newsletter and order form in the Shopper by Lewis. Second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**

OTHER REPORTS AND MEETINGS

MASWCD Annual Meeting: Rasch reported that dates are December 5-7 and registration is \$200 each, plus rooms for two nights at \$95 per night. Rasch expressed willingness to represent the district at this conference. Lewis reported that he would possibly be interested in attending, but would need to check his calendar. Motion to for the district to send one staff member and one board member to the MASWCD Annual Meeting by Strandlien. Second by Lewis. **Motion carried; 2 in favor (Strandlien and Lewis), 1 opposed (Stinar).**

Looking Ahead: BWSR Academy is coming up. Also, Rasch reported she received an email regarding RIM easement site visits that were due in 2010. She stated she would get the district caught up on those next week.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m. was made by Lewis, second by Strandlien. **Motion carried 3-0.**



John Gunvalson, District Secretary