



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 JANUARY 21, 2010 MINUTES



Board Members Present:

Robert Bilden, John Gunvalson, Paul Rydeen, Leonard Stinar & Harlan Strandlien

SWCD Staff: Stacy Cooper, John Knisley & Kathy Rasch

Guests: Cari Rebeschke, NRCS
John Nelson, County Commissioner
Casey Olson, Giziibii RC & D
Jack Shelton, KAXE Radio

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Bilden in the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Bilden stated that he enjoyed his last role as Chairman and spoke a bit about his family history.

Agenda: Chair Bilden called for additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda as written was made by Rydeen, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes: The Minutes of the regular December meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the Minutes as written was made by Strandlien, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 5-0.

Appointment of Officers: The 2010 board info, rates and meetings were reviewed. The meal and per diem rates remain unchanged however the mileage rate was changed to 50¢/mile - to match the IRS imposed rate. The officers reviewed the meeting dates for 2010 and all concurred that the dates look fine but they reserve the right to change any given date as needed. It was also decided that the committees would stay the same as they were in '09. The rotation of officer positions and motions made are as follows:

<u>Position – Member’s Name</u>	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Carried</u>
Chair – Harlan Strandlien	Rydeen	Stinar	5-0
Vice Chair – Leonard Stinar	Strandlien	Gunvalson	5-0
Secretary – John Gunvalson	Bilden	Strandlien	5-0
Treasurer – Paul Rydeen	Strandlien	Bilden	5-0
Member – Robert Bilden	No motion was necessary		

NRCS: Rebeschke started her reporting by stating the application status of the NRCS currently active programs. Rebeschke noted that there were 5 applications for CSP, 4 applications have been approved; the 5th applicant did not complete the application process so that one was not approved.

Rebeschke noted that the EQIP 30-day sign up is scheduled to start February 1st. Rebeschke stated that they hope to have the applications allocated and approved by April 1st.

Rebeschke reported that the Local Work Group Meeting was successful and a lot of valuable input was received. Rebeschke spoke of her intentions to participate in an internet meeting scheduled for January 28th.

Rebeschke introduced some new activity plans under the EQIP program for 2010 which are the use of wind tunnels, ring dikes in the Red River Basin, water control structures and drainage water management.

A look ahead for Rebeschke's office includes GIS training during the last week of January and an Area Meeting planned for February 2nd. Rebeschke stated that a sign up for the WHIP program has been approved and sign up should be starting soon.

Resource Technician's Report

Water Plan Projects: Rasch began her reporting on the water plan projects stating that she is in the process of completing the SWAG Final Work Plan for 2010/2011 to submit to MPCA. Rasch had hoped to conduct research on 7 lakes but funding for only 3 lakes was approved. Rasch stated that she has spent some time developing a shoreline erosion control plan for a Long Lake landowner for permit compliance and has been approved to do the work.

Rasch attended work session on sonde calibration and operation (lake testing instrument). Rasch also stated that she did 14 site reviews of bulrush plantings on Long Lost Lake and all look good and are doing very well.

State Cost Share: Rasch reported that she has been busy completing cost share project plans. Rasch noted that she is still working on native buffer cost share plans for Kleppe's. Other cost share plans and funding requests are as follows:

<u>Cost share activity plan/ total project cost</u>	<u>75% cost share portion - District</u>	<u>Motion made by / 2nd</u>
Wraa Shelterbelt / \$140.00	\$105.00	Rydeen, Bilden
Wraa Windbreak / \$421.00	\$315.75	Stinar, Gunvalson
Bonik Windbreak / \$1485.00	\$1113.00	Bilden, Stinar

All motions made and 2nd as noted above. Motions carried 5-0 on all cost share plans and requests.

Tree Program: Rasch reported that she has provided assistance and information to tree customers which have been helping the 2010 tree sales.

Other: Rasch stated that she is getting things in order for the upcoming Envirothon; she attended the EQIP workgroup session; and has been working on the year-end e-link reporting. Rasch requested approval to attend a Forest Management Research Symposium. Bilden made a motion to approve Rasch's request, 2nd by Gunvalson. Motion carried 5-0.

Water Projects/Technical Reports

AWR Grant: Knisley opened his reporting by stating that the SWCD can apply to receive an extension of the AWR Grant timeline. This extension will allow the implementation of projects by the SWCD staff. Knisley requested approval to proceed to apply for the extension. Stinar made a motion to approve Knisley's request, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 5-0.

Water Plan: The 2010 - 2020 Clearwater Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan was reviewed with the County Board and the public on January 5th. There were a few requests by Board Members to make some slight changes but there were no requests from the general public. The plan has been updated with the requests and sent to BWSR for review.

Wild Rice Watershed District: Knisley reported that he will again be looking to help implement incentive projects on behalf of the Wild Rice Watershed District. In 2009, the SWCD received \$1960 to help get incentive projects on the ground. The types of projects that the Watershed District is looking for are those that hold water on the landscape or hold back water. The Watershed District will be looking to do the same types of projects again for 2010.

Other: Knisley reported that he has been working on updating the SWCD website with programs and information as well as adding the 2010 Water Plan draft for interested viewers.

Knisley has been working with the U of M Extension Agent, Jim Stordahl to put together a workshop for livestock operators. This workshop will emphasize the win/win value of manure and its use on the landscape.

District Manager's Report

Financial Reports: The financial statements showing all revenue and expenditures for the month of December were presented to the Board for review. A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Rydeen, 2nd by Gunvalson. Motion carried 5-0.

Profit & Loss: Knisley reported that plat book sales were up \$314 and tree sales were up \$607 from November. Knisley acknowledged the receipt of the '09 BWSR State Service Grant for approximately \$23,000 and the \$11,000 income from the work done on the AWR Grant. Knisley also noted that it was a slow month financially and indicated that the '09 MASWCD dues, the MCIT Insurance premium and nursery stock certification expenditures were paid out.

Balance Sheet: The Board reviewed the financial statements while Knisley pointed out that the \$505 AR balance was primarily for plat book sales.

Checking/Deposit Report: Knisley reported that final payment was made to the EERC for the SWAT modeling done on Silver Creek. There was normal bill payment for the month of December, except as noted above.

Used Computers: Knisley stated that the 2 depreciated computers that are being held in the SWCD storage area are up to be removed from the asset list and would like to donate them as per a discussion earlier in '09. A motion to remove the computers from the asset list was made by Stinar, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 5-0.

2010 Plan of Work: Knisley reported that the 2010 plan of work is being drafted. The plan should be ready for review for the February meeting.

Budget Review: Knisley stated that the 2010 draft Budget has been presented and approved by the County Board. Knisley encouraged the Board to look for any adjustments they deem necessary but noted that it has not changed much from the draft done up in August of '09. Knisley asked the Board to consider approving an increase to the fee of tree planter daily rental rate from \$30/\$40 to a flat rate of \$45 because of the increase of maintenance costs for the planters.

2010 NRBG: Knisley reported that the NRBG Agreement and Plan was reviewed, approved and signed by the County Board on December 29th, 2009 and funds have already been received. The grant amount totaled over \$47,000.

MASWCD Legislative Day: Knisley mentioned that the MASWCD Annual Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capital is scheduled for February 17-18 in St. Paul. It was decided that Stinar should attend the 2-day event.

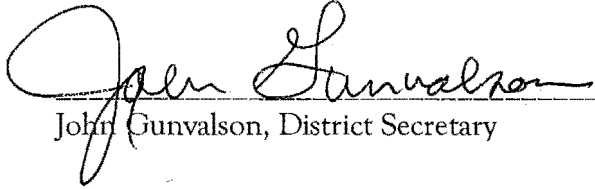
Employee Reviews: Knisley encouraged suggestions on how to go about doing employee reviews in terms of the Board Member's participation. Knisley stated that he has done reviews with the office staff and wanted to sit down with the Board to discuss reviews. Bilden suggested that employee reviews be done with the employee, the District Manager and the Board of Supervisors; but Board of Supervisors made a final decision that the assigned personnel committee of Board Members would meet for employee reviews at a neutral location.

2010 SWCD Lease Agreement: Knisley reported that he was able to reach a resolution regarding the monthly office rent with the building owner. It was decided that the SWCD's rent would be \$539/month for the current amount of office space/storage.

Other: Casey Olson with Giziibii RC & D attended the meeting briefly to present the '09 Annual Report. Olson handed out financial information booklets to the Board, waited for any questions or comments and left the meeting.

as well as the members privately in support of the establishment of a sister station in or around the Bagley/Bemidji area. A letter of support was drafted but after talking with a representative of BWSR, the District was discouraged to submit the latter. It was decided that the Board could not offer support in document nor financial form on behalf of the District as a whole, but they could offer it on a personal basis. Shelton thanked them for their input and any support they could offer and left the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 was made by Bilden, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 5-0.



John Gunvalson, District Secretary