



# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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## *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2010 MEETING MINUTES*

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### **Board Members Present:**

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

**SWCD Staff:** Stacy Cooper, John Knisley & Kathy Rasch

**Guests:** Cari Rebischke, NRCS  
John Nelson, Clearwater County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Strandlien in the Bagley USDA Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:** Chair Strandlien called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Knisley requested that the status of the Staehnke field windbreak cost share project be added to the Agenda. A motion to accept the Agenda with the additions was made by Bilden, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rydeen. Motion carried 5-0.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the regular January meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the Minutes as written was made by Rydeen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Stinar. Motion carried 5-0.

**NRCS:** Rebischke started her reporting off by stating that the season is quite busy. The sign-up for EQIP and WHIP continues as the deadline is February 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. There have been 7 applications taken for WHIP for tree plantings and wildlife openings. The Grassland Reserve Program and Organic Initiative application deadlines are set for March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 with one application submitted thus far for each program.

Rebischke stated that she attended the GIS training at the end of January and the Area Meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***Resource Technician's Report***

**Water Plan Projects:** Rasch began her reporting by talking about the Water Plan projects. Rasch stated that the 2010/2011 SWAG contract has been received from MPCA. Rasch requested an action to sign the contract. A motion to sign the contract was made by Bilden, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rydeen. Motion carried 5-0.

Rasch reported that efforts are being made to finalize and submit the invoices for the 2008/2009 SWAG Grant.

Rasch stated that she has submitted an erosion & sediment control plan to Environmental Services for a lakeshore project.

**WCA:** Rasch noted that an application has been submitted for the installation of a wildlife pond.

**State Cost Share:** Rasch reported that she has met with Kleppe's to discuss the initial plan and costs for a Native Buffer project which would entail the applicants retiring pasture and converting it to a native buffer area along the lakeshore. Plan details should be finalized by the March meeting for Board approval.

**Tree Program:** Rasch stated that she continues to provide assistance and information to tree customers.

**Forest Stewardship:** Rasch mentioned that she is working on her first stewardship plan and was advised that even though the grant came out later than planned, writers have been encouraged to do as many as they possibly can.

**Other:** Rasch told the Board that she continues to work on the Envirothon planning - scheduled for April; she attended the GIS Training in TRF at the end of January; finished up the e-Link year-end reporting and just returned from a stewardship plan writing workshop in Cloquet.

#### ***Water Projects/Technical Reports***

**AWR Grant:** Knisley's reporting told of the grant contract concluding on March 1, 2010. After gaining some progress with a landowner by developing plans; the landowner decided that he would be retiring from the cow/calf livestock business and just continue with grazing practices for his herd - so one plan won't be needed. Knisley is still working with other landowners in the Silver Creek area.

**Water Plan:** Knisley stated that the 2010 - 2020 Clearwater Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan is still under agency review but he has received an approving response from the Department of Ag. Knisley stated that the plan needs to be presented and reviewed by the Northern Water Planning sub-Committee and again one more time by BWSR. Once Knisley has received the "green light" from these two agencies, he can present it to the County Board for approval and adoption.

**Wild Rice Watershed District:** Knisley mentioned that the WRWD held a public hearing on February 17<sup>th</sup> to solicit public comment regarding the petition for a plan amendment that proposes to establish a water management district in the corner of the WRWD that presently encompasses 632 square miles in an effort to "collect revenues to support the Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project". Knisley assured the Board that none of the areas in this plan affect Clearwater County.

**Other:** Knisley reported that the "Valuing your Manure" workshop has been rescheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. The meeting will be held at the Clearwater Polk Co-op Board Room. The U of M Extension agent will be putting notices in the paper and on the radio.

Knisley attended a meeting with the City of Bagley and MDH staff to review recent amendments to the Wellhead Protection Plan. The SWCD will play a part in the implementation of the plans through technical assistance and educational activities.

Knisley has also attended a HLRP steering committee meeting to brainstorm for the training sessions coming up in April. Knisley also attended a listening session presented by BWSR and the U of M regarding the disbursement of the 3/8 of 1% increase in sales tax money. The decision of whether the money should be distributed geographically or per capita is the contention right now.

***District Manager's Report***

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

***Profit & Loss:*** Knisley stated that the tree sales have been slow but steady. Knisley gave a \$3,000+ figure for tree and plantskydd sales; as always, plat books always seem to do well.

***Expenditures:*** Knisley reported the regular expenditures for the month of January. Knisley noted that the starter did need replacing on the Ford F-150 truck.

***Balance Sheet:*** Knisley noted that the AR balance was due to an open invoice for trees, an invoice for plat books and a misc invoice to Beltrami SWCD.

***Checking/Deposit Report:*** Knisley reported that in January the MASWCD dues were paid for 2010, the cafeteria plan monitoring fee was paid as well as some publication bills.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Bilden, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gunvalson. Motion carried 5-0.

***2010 Plan of Work:*** The BWSR-required Plan of Work has started to take form and will be submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup>. A motion to adopt the Plan of Work was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gunvalson. Motion carried 5-0.

***Other:*** Knisley reported that the staff is striving to complete the '09 year-end financial reporting as required by BSWR and will be submitting the reports on or before March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Knisley reported that an office lease agreement has finally been received from Bubba Star II. Knisley sent it on to the County Attorney for review. The agreement covers 10/31/09 - 10/31/10. Knisley requested an action to sign the 1-year agreement. A motion to sign the lease agreement was made by Bilden, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stinar. Motion carried 5-0.

Knisley reported that the JPB held its yearly auction of equipment and annual meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. No SWCD staff or supervisors were in attendance due to prior engagements. Currently Clearwater does not have any engineering requests with the JPB.

***Giziibii RC & D Report:*** Strandlien reported that potentially RC&D's will be non-existent in the future because of the budget cuts at the federal level. It's clear that they are an important resource to the development and innovation in rural communities.

Nelson left the meeting at 11:10.

*Employee Reviews:* The employee reviews were put on the agenda per SWCD staff's request. Knisley proposed that the reviews that were discussed earlier in the month between himself and the personnel committee be brought up for discussion again for the Board and the staff/employee. Knisley commented that doing it this way would give the staff a chance to discuss any and all issues. Rydeen contested this idea but would be content with a unanimous decision if it's reached to the contrary. It was decided to try it the way Knisley suggested so Cooper left the meeting. After discussing the request, it was decided not to discuss employee reviews but rather to discuss Board efficiency, conduct and meeting conduct.

After discussion about open meeting policy, the Board re-opened the meeting. A motion to re-open the meeting was made by Rydeen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stinar. Motion carried 5-0. The Board made the decision to discuss the Clearwater SWCD by-laws pertaining to missing meetings. This discussion was tabled until the March meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 was made by Rydeen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stinar. Motion carried 5-0.



John Gunvalson, District Secretary