



# 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 MARCH 18, 2010 MEETING 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

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 establishing an approval fee for the Rural Reserve Program be added to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda with additions was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bilden. Motion carried 4-0.

Nelson entered the meeting at 9:09.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the regular February meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the Minutes as written was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gunvalson. Motion carried 4-0.

**NRCS:** Rebeschke began her reporting by noting that the season has been busy and the sign-up deadlines have concluded. Rebeschke gave the sign up statistics as follows: EQIP had 25 applications with requests of over \$600,000; WHIP had 5 applications with only 1 being funded thus far; and GRP had 1 application. Rebeschke also noted that the funding status of these applications should be determined by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rebeschke reviewed that the meetings she will be attending now through April would be the Manure Workshop, Itasca Managing Forests, GPS training in Thief River Falls and the Envirothon.

Rydeen entered the meeting at 9:11.

### *Resource Technician's Report*

**Water Plan Projects:** Rasch began her reporting on the water plan projects stating that the supporting documents for the 2010/2011 SWAG grant have been completed and she attended a Mississippi Headwaters Riverwatch session as well as started taking obwell readings.

**State Cost Share:** Rasch stated that she has finished the cost share schedule for the native buffer grant noting to the Board that she will be seeking Board approval for this project during the regular April meeting. Rasch also said that she has had 2 requests for shelterbelt plans in the past couple of weeks so she will be getting information together on those.

**Tree Program:** Rasch has been in the office providing assistance and information to tree customers. Rasch stated that she has had one inquiry/request for a custom planting estimate - a site review is planned for April.

**Forest Stewardship:** Rasch stated that she is working on finishing up the Hilton stewardship plan and has another one to work on after that.

**Other:** Rasch has been helping with the planning of the Envirothon that is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> and has been working on a conservation plan for a landowner

**Rural Reserve Program:** Rasch has attended a workshop on Rural Preserves and Forest Property Tax program. Under this program, qualifying land parcels with the 2B tax status that have a conservation management plan with a 10 year covenant and are not currently producing an income can be taxed at a lower rate. Rasch and Knisley asked that a \$50 plan approval fee be set by the Board if a written plan is requested. A motion to accept the fee of \$50 was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bilden. Motion carried 4-1.

Plan writing fees were discussed and it was suggested that the SWCD would have a sliding scale for plan writing service fees based on the sum of acres involved in the plan. The base price for plan writing would start at \$50 for a 20 acre plan and increase \$10 for every 10 acres up to 120 acres. A motion to accept the plan writing service fee was made by Gunvalson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stinar. Motion carried 5-0.

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

**County Weed Task Force:** Knisley opened his reporting by talking about the Weed Task Force meeting that he attended earlier this month. The topic of Certified Gravel Pits was reviewed and the task force is looking to make improvements to the program to reduce the spread of noxious weeds. It was also discussed to find a local person with expertise in noxious weeds as it's not certain that the person who currently holds this position will be returning for the summer of 2010.

**Conservation Farm:** Knisley reported that weed planning management for the Conservation farm is on task in the 2010 Plan of work. Knisley reported that forms of bio-control will be used this year through root and seed-head weevils as a long range solution to the knapweed. Knisley assured the Board that this is an economical way and environmentally smart way to manage the weeds which would also free up funds to repair and maintain the road into the farm.

**Red River Basin Quality Commission:** Knisley reported that he attended a training session on administering a water quality monitoring program which includes the Riverwatch and the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. At this training, SONDE calibration training was also given.

**Manure Workshop:** The workshop has been rescheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. The U of M Extension office is planning to help with the public notice for this workshop as well as doing a radio notice.

**MPCA Feedlot Meeting:** A representative from the MPCA came to speak with the County Board earlier this month about the process in obtaining a NPDES permit. Knisley felt that having the permit process explained to him as well as county officials was beneficial and helps prevent confusion.

**District Manager's Report**

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

**Profit & Loss:** Knisley stated that the tree sales have been steady and by the end of February sales were up about \$2,300. Plantskydd and platbook sales were also up.

**Expenditures:** Knisley reported the regular expenditures for the month of January. Knisley mentioned that the annual fee of \$230 for web hosting was paid during the month of February. Rent for October through February was also paid.

**Balance Sheet:** Knisley noted that the AR balance was due to an open invoice for the SWAG grant as well as invoicing for plat books, trees and an invoice to Beltrami SWCD. There was discussion to write off the invoice for the Beltrami SWCD.

**Checking/Deposit Report:** Knisley reported that payment was made for the repairs done on the truck, final payment was made to JPB for the surveying and mapping done on the feedlot sites and the rent was paid.

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

**JPB Report:** Knisley reviewed the March JPB report with the Board. Nothing on this report pertained to Clearwater County.

**Clearwater SWCD By-laws:** It was decided to table the discussion regarding the by-laws and supervisor term limits until the April meeting. Strandlien commented that he thought each district should have its own set of by-laws.

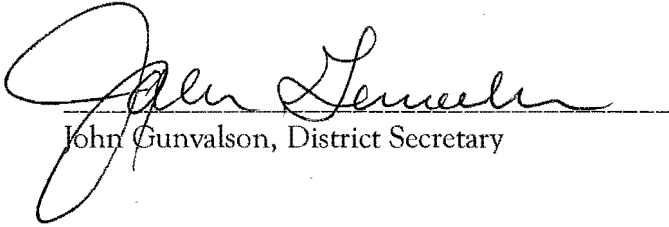
**Other:** Knisley reported that the BWSR year-end financial reporting was completed and submitted for 2009 and a copy was given to all Board members for review. Knisley welcomed any feedback.

Knisley briefly talked about the news article that was published in the local newspapers about Stinar's day at the capital. Stinar visited with local legislators and discussed the state budget and the disbursement of the increase on the sales tax money.

Knisley noted that a representative of MCIT will be at the upcoming MASWCD meeting and the topic will regard personnel policy and management training as well as by-laws.

It was also mentioned that the 2010 first quarter newsletter will be out sometime in March and asked that the Board distribute the newsletters in their respective districts. Knisley reviewed the upcoming meetings with the Board

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gunvalson. Motion carried 5-0.



John Gunvalson, District Secretary