



# Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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*BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING April 16, 2009*

## MINUTES

**Present:** Harlan Strandlien, Robert Bilden & Leonard Stinar

**Staff:** Kathy Rasch & John Knisley  
**Guests:** Glen Kajewski & Cari Rebeschke, NRCS

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

Chair Bilden introduced to staff, supervisors and guests.

**Agenda:** Chair Bilden called for additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda as written was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Strandlien. Motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular March meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the March Minutes as written was made by Strandlien, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stinar. Motion Carried 3-0.

**NRCS-** Rebeschke reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> sign up period EQIP is end of May. On April 27<sup>th</sup> there is a teleconference on WHIP, sign-up for the program is scheduled for the end of May. The Bagley NRCS has had a few EQIP/WHIP waivers to plant trees. WRP/RIM sign up is scheduled April 20<sup>th</sup>-June 10<sup>th</sup>. Cari Rebeschke and Brooke Schneider attended meetings on Biomass Workshop on March 26.

**Staff notices:** Judy Christianson, FSA, is retiring on May 1. Rebeschke will be going on maternity leave about the beginning of May; Brooke Knisley will be taking over spot and giving DC reports to the board in Rebeschke's absence. Jenny Burrack from McIntosh will be the acting DC in Bagley. Rebeschke plans to return in early August. Glen Kajewski reported of Warren DC vacancy – not many vacancies in the area, usually dealing with 2-3 vacancies. Kajewski also reported that the NRCS Budget not set for 2009.

**FOIA** – Kajewski briefly explained what the changes to the FOIA were. He stated that the changes are not as big of a deal as it has been made up. Kajewski explained if you willfully explain something about a client's private information, you may cause some trouble; if you respect people's private information, you should be just fine. Homeland Security brought this all on.

**EQIP:** First scoring period end of April to May 15. Plan to have a teleconference on April 27 to go over applications, still not definite.

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**WHIP:** Haven't heard anything new but still anticipating a sign up within the next few weeks.

**WRP/RIM:** We have a sign up starting April 20 – June 5. There is a teleconference this afternoon about the sign up.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:** Biomass - March 26 in Ponsford  
Wetland training – April 1 in Bemidji  
Area Meeting – April 2 in Thief River Falls

***Resource Technician Report-***

***Water Plan Projects:*** Rasch reported that she's currently coordinating citizen monitors for the CWL/SWAG grant, all but 1 of last year's volunteers are participating. The Shoreland Restoration Workshop at Roy Lake is going well, sent out brochures to area lakeshore owners, lake associations and other interested parties. The workshop is scheduled for May 22-23. It will be set up classroom style on Friday night from 6-9; and outside and working on the lake all day Saturday. Did Ob wells and Rain Gauge reports, but are still looking for a boat motor for doing lake testing. It was noted that SWCD can use TeHennepe's boat and Leonard's trolling motor to test 5 area lakes this summer. Leonard wants to go with one time to test. There's a possibility that Les Steenerson's son wants to do a science project on impacts of shore land restoration and shore land buffers on water quality.

***Clearbrook TMDL:*** presentation was discussed relative to what options and opportunities are available for the Watershed EERC/ Task Force.

***APEX-EERC:*** sent climatological data to Bethany of the EERC. There is ongoing work between the EERC and the SWCD.

***WCA:*** Rasch discussed intentions to attend follow-up session on the NE Wetland Migration Program in Grand Rapids.

***Cost Share:*** Rasch reported that she is working with bio engineering plans for Eileen Horn, who has bank erosion, site on Silver Creek; she is setting up a date with John Hodgeson to take a look at the potential project.

***Tree Program:*** Rasch reported about the custom tree planting projects, there are 2 of them. One small one and a 1-2 day project as well. Leonard stated that when we get trees from Lee's, he would like to go with because we might need to look for different place to get trees and shrubs. Leonard then added that the catch basins in Bagley were working perfectly - they are holding water and reducing sediment but the trees that were planted 2-3 years ago were lost, and he was wondering if they would be replaced. Rasch stated that it was a cost share project, they are not obligated to replant – they can do the replanting if they want to but they are not forced to do so.

***Roy Lake Project:*** - Leonard inquired about supervisors being charged for attending this project. Strandlien advised that they've never been charged for workshop at Conservation Farm. The SWCD is looking to have the program for landowners and other interested parties to attend the workshop.

***Envirothon:*** The Area VIII Envirothon was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bemidji State Park.

***Program Technician's Report:***

***AWR Grant:*** Clearwater SWCD has received that grant agreement for the grant and this winter Phase 2 of the grant will be taking place.

**Other Reports:**

***District Manager's Report***

***Financial Reports:*** The financial statements showing all revenue and expenditures for the month of March were presented for the Board for review. The financial report showing the Profit & Loss vs. Actual for FY 2009 was also presented for the board for review. In early April, the Clearwater SWCD received the AWR Grant (\$80,425) and 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. County Appropriation, so these funds are not accounted for in the March P/L Report, so it looks like we are way behind, but the April financial reports will show us how our budget is on schedule. It was reported that salaries payable for the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. were right on schedule with what was budgeted for 2009. It was reported that plat books and tree sales were still steady during the month of March. Regular reports of the Checking Account were reviewed by the Board. Following discussion a motion was made by Stinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Strandlien to accept the financial reports and approve all bills as paid totaling \$403.00. Motion carried 3-0.

***District Manager's Report:*** Knisley reported that the position of Office Manager was offered to Stacy Cooper, and Stacy has accepted the offer for the position. After discussion with the Personnel Committee and reviewing Stacy's experience, the position was offered to her at \$13.00/hr. Stacy will be starting in the office on April 27, 2009.

It was noted that the tree sales were going to be held at the DNR Forestry Office April 30-May 2; each person who ordered trees will be contacted to remind them of dates and times. The Area VIII Envirothon will be hosted at the Bemidji State Park on April 22.

***Meetings:*** Knisley reported that he, accompanied by Leonard Stinar, presented the Clearwater PCSD to the Northern MN Water Plan Committee in Bemidji on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The PCSD was reviewed and approved by the committee; now actual work on writing the new water plan can be started. Knisley noted that he attended the Administrative Training Day in Thief River Falls and the meeting was very useful and informative. Knisley and Schneider both attended the Soils Training offered by the NRCS in Thief River Falls, the course was very helpful and both passed the course.

***Knisley Vacation Request:*** Knisley requested that he is able to take off June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> for honeymoon. Strandlien made the motion to allow Knisley to take off June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bilden. Motion carried 3-0.

Casey Olson, coordinator from Giziibii RC and D, handed out the Annual Report and Giziibii minutes from February 25, 2009 for review by board.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Strandlien, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stinar. Motion carried.

  
Paul Rydeen, District Secretary