



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JUNE 25, 2009

MINUTES

Present: Leonard Stinar, Harlan Strandlien, Robert Bilden and Paul Rydeen

Staff: John Knisley & Stacy Cooper
Guests: Brooke Knisley, NRCS
John Nelson & Tom Anderson, County Commissioners

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair Bilden in the Clearbrook City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

It was noted that Supervisor, John Gunvalson's absence was due to a funeral for his father-in-law; who passed away in a fight against a drug-resistant pneumonia.

Stinar commented on the Rain Gardens that are seated on the southern edge of Clearbrook, are doing quite nicely.

Chair Bilden acknowledged and greeted guests and commented that this is the first time we were honored to have two Commissioners present. At that time he thanked the Commissioners for their work and they in turn, thanked the Board for the work they've contributed.

Agenda: Chair Bilden called for additions or corrections to the agenda. John Knisley asked that the 2010 Budget Plan be reviewed and approved for presentation to the County Board. A motion was made to accept the agenda with additions and corrections by Strandlien, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes: Minutes of the regular May meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the May Minutes as written was made by Rydeen, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 4-0.

NRCS: Brooke Knisley announced that the EQIP deadline closed on 6/22/09, with 16 applications to process. Knisley also announced the extension of deadlines for the Organic Initiative, closing 7/16/09 and the WHIP deadline concluding 7/15/09. The WHIP program resulted in 10 applications for '09 thus far.

Strandlien inquired about the spraying application of weeds perhaps seeking fall spraying, Knisley informed him that summer is an active growing season for the weeds and that a local elevator may be able to line him up with a chemical such as Milestone,

should he want to tackle it now. Anderson spoke of his luck with the chemical Forefront and its effect on thistle.

Resource Technician Report

The Resource Technician report was read by John Knisley, due to Kathy Rasch's absence. Rasch was attending her 7th leadership training out of a series of 8 trainings. Rasch had to travel to Lanesboro which is located in southern Minnesota for this particular training. This training came with specific homework that needed to be completed before attending the training.

Water Plan projects: All of the citizen lake testers are lined up and in place for the 2009 testing season. There were some new-comers as well as some repeat testers. The first sampling weekend for the SWAG grant has come and gone with no problems. We're hoping that it stays that way through out the testing season. Knisley invited anyone interested in helping with the testing of the 5 area lakes that the SWCD is responsible for to come along, just let the office know. Stinar, who participated in the June testing, stated how interesting the testing was to do.

It was reported that the Roy Lakeshore Restoration project had many eager citizens to help and learn in the process. The landowner, Les Stenerson, was happy to participate and was very accommodating to the people working on the project. One satisfied participant sent a note to the SWCD Board complimenting Rasch on the effort and planning that was done for this project as well as Knisley's enthusiasm to help.

It was good to see the interest and participation in this workshop and it was even nicer to be recognized for it. Bilden suggested that a picture display of the project in progress - as well as completion - be created for the Area VIII Fall Tour & Meeting and/or winter newsletter publishing. Knisley informed the Board of his plan of visiting this project during the tour planned for September.

Cost Share: The cost share estimate for the Roy Lake workshop was for \$2,800; the Board agreed to cost share 75% of the project, no greater than \$2,100. The project incurred more charges than what was anticipated - bringing the end total to \$3,428.41. Les Stenerson, the land owner, agreed to pay the difference; thus bringing the \$2,100 cost share down to about 63% of the end price. After a discussion of how we should get better at estimating plan costs on our cost share projects, Knisley requested approval from the Board to pay the final voucher on this project. A motion to pay the final billings of the Lakeshore Restoration Project was made by Strandlien, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 4-0.

Ob Well Monitoring: It was noted that the Ground Water Level Monitoring Agreement has been received and that it will need to be reviewed before signing by the Board Chairman. The 2010 budget remains the same as the 2009 budget.

WCA: Rasch has plans to attend the WCA Wetland Delineation Training as well as review WCA applications for comment.

Conservation Farm

Stinar inquired about the cockleburs out on the Conservation Farm and mentioned that maybe they should be managed before the Fall Tour visit.

Forest Stewardship: Rasch was hoping to write 9 grants for 2009, but due to the delay in notification of plan writing approval, 2 were completed. Rasch is anticipating writing 9 plans again for 2010. Rasch's report stated that she is currently working on stewardship plans for a landowner.

District Manager's Report

Financial Report: The financial statements showing all revenue and expenditures for the month of May were presented to the Board for review. An Accounts Receivable report was presented to the Board. Knisley pointed out that a big share of the AR were invoices to the County for quarterly water plan appropriations. It was also confirmed that all of the outstanding bills for trees have been paid. A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Stinar, 2nd by Strandlien. Motion Carried 4-0.

Checking/Deposit Report: Knisley reported normal payment of the bills for the month of May, with the exception that all of the tree nursery bills were paid in full.

Rydeen asked about plat book sales; pertaining to where they were being sold; Knisley indicated that The Farmer's Independent and Shortstop Sports had them for resale. Rydeen suggested talking to Trudee Torgerson at Northern Bait and Convenience in Gonvick for distribution as well.

Strandlien questioned the district paid health insurance pertaining to Knisley. After checking into it with Sue Vennes at Overmoe & Nelson, Knisley reported that it is an acceptable practice to take it as a cash payment however this money is subject to payroll taxes.

Proposed Budget Plan: Knisley presented the Proposed Budget Plan to the Board for review and discussion. It was decided that the only modification that this budget needed was to increase projected plat book expenditures an additional \$500. Knisley will make the necessary changes and present this plan to the County Board at the meeting scheduled for the 30th. A motion to accept the proposed budget plan with corrections was made by Stinar, 2nd by Strandlien. Motion carried 4-0.

Tree Program: It was suggested that any personal tree transport and/or storage in 2010 for individuals should be a charge of \$5 per box. The SWCD will pick up personal orders because the equipment used in transportation and storage will accommodate more than just the SWCD's orders. This has proven to be an appreciated service that the SWCD can do, Rydeen suggested that if that service is provided, the SWCD should request that the landowner rent/lease planting equipment for installation of the trees. The money generated from that would be beneficial.

It is the opinion of the Board that no staff should be taken away from the office for planting projects. It was decided by board members that a roster of enterprises interested in planting jobs be created and distributed by the NRCS and SWCD for future tree planting projects as well as during tree sale time. It was also mentioned that Minnesota Conservation Corps would be an excellent resource for this work as well.

District Manager's Report: The Area VIII Fall Meeting & Tour plans are underway. Rydeen sought approval to add Clearwater Rice to the tour schedule. The SWCD is still waiting on word from Marsh's to visit their dairy & beef farm on tour. It was decided that the Rain Gardens should be visited during the tour stop in Clearbrook.

A 6-month review was done on Knisley's District Manager position. The Board substantiated their approval of the job that Knisley is doing. Some performance reviews were submitted to office staff by Board members. A motion approving Knisley's hourly wage increase by \$1 was made by Strandlien, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 4-0.

Other Business: Knisley requested that the contract between the Clearwater SWCD and Overmoe & Nelson be renewed. Knisley explained the firm's role with the SWCD. They manage the health insurance monies for the SWCD staff. To renew this contract, a payment of \$300 should be submitted with signed contract document. Knisley confirmed that this is just a renewal and that this expense has been included in the budget plan. A motion to renew the contract was made by Stinar, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 was made by Stinar, 2nd by Rydeen. Motion carried 4-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Rydeen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paul Rydeen, District Secretary