



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Avenue North, Suite 3, Bagley, MN 56621 * Ph.: (218) 694-6845 * <http://clearwaterswcd.org/>

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING May 21, 2009

MINUTES

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

Staff: Kathy Rasch, John Knisley & Stacy Cooper
Guests: Brooke Knisley, NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Bilden in the Clearbrook City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Chair Bilden called for additions or corrections to the agenda. Knisley asked that the topic of a flex schedule for office staff be added to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda with corrections was made by Stinar, 2nd by Strandlien. Motion carried 4-0.

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

NRCS- Brooke Knisley announced that she'd be taking over for Cari Rebeschke during Rebeschke's maternity leave. Cari Rebeschke is home taking care of a bouncing baby boy, born May 4th and will be out of the office until July 27th.

Knisley reported that she's been busy attending trainings in May. Those trainings included CPR/First Aid, GPS training and will be attending the Roy Lake Shoreline Restoration Workshop over Memorial Day weekend. Knisley is planning to be out of the office the week of June 15th through the 19th so Jenny Burrack of the McIntosh NRCS office will be the acting DC in Bagley during Knisley's time out.

It was also reported that sign up deadlines are fast approaching for EQIP, May 22; WHIP, July 1, NOI, June 30; and WRP/RIM, June 10th.

Resource Technician Report-

Water Plan Projects: Rasch reported that a refresher training course was held for citizen monitors regarding the 2009 Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CWL SWAG Grant). Rasch is presently recruiting 4 new lake testers to replace those who declined to sample this year. There are 2 people who are considering it, but we are still looking for 2 more. It was also noted that there were 10 participants signed up for the Roy Lake Shoreline Restoration project and the final

stage of planning is about done. Rasch mentioned that Les Steenerson is eager for this workshop and his son will be involved as well to perform a science project. Stinar inquired about the date and time of the workshop and mentioned that he'd probably attend for the Friday night class. Ob well monitoring is moving ahead routinely. The CWL tree plantings were completed by MCC crew on May 5th. Rasch noted that there was no cost for the 5-person crew's help.

Cost Share: Eileen Horn has expressed that she would like to pursue a cost share project for the bank erosion on her land. John Hodgeson, JPB Engineer, gave an estimate of \$14,000 but would need to survey the site before a final cost could be decided. The survey could be scheduled for June and after that, Hodgeson would produce a plan and design for the site. The SWCD cost share for the project would be up to 75% of the cost of the project, not to exceed \$10,500. Rasch established to Rydeen that the site was visible from the road and that there would be a monetary cap on the project as written in the cost share contract. Stinar recalled his visit to that area during a flood period to Silver Creek (near Horn's site) and the problems he saw and how the SWCD projects were doing their jobs. Rydeen and Stinar discussed a resolution to the problem. Rydeen stated that the watershed was due to the latest railroad project, noting that there should be rules of recourse for improper plans for projects shouldn't need modifications in just a few years. Knisley pointed out the engineer is not always responsible as there can be changes upstream in the watershed that the engineer cannot account for in a design - some that are not taken into consideration. Rydeen suggested that a decision to proceed with this project be held until after the survey was done and a solid bid could be given. He expressed concern for incurring more cost during Horn's project. A motion to approve the Horn cost-share contract was made by Stinar, 2nd by Rydeen. Rydeen seconded the motion because the erosion was problematic for the homeowner. Motion carried 4-0.

Tree Program: Rasch reported that one custom tree planting project – the only one requested - has been completed. It was also reported that the planter rental is steady but down from previous years.

Conservation Farm

Forest Stewardship: Rasch has recently received notice that she is an approved plan writer and is currently working on Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners.

RIM: Rasch is in the process of sending conservation plan amendment to BWSR because there were errors made on the original. The plan was sent in following an old format; and now is being amended by joining the old and new formats.

Envirothon: Rasch noted the Area VIII Envirothon went well on April 22. Giziibii committee nominated Area VIII for an award and plan to present it at the next area meeting. Rasch stated that it was nice to be recognized for those efforts.

Rasch made mention of her plans to attend a leadership training in Lanesboro, MN the week of June 22nd.

Technical Reports: Knisley reported that not much going on right now, currently making arrangements to meet with Pennington SWCD to start writing a water plan around June 1st. Knisley set up a meeting to start to develop a budget for 2010 with the Budget Committee for 9:00 on June 11th. He's hoping to have an outline for the July meeting to submit for approval. Knisley also noted that he's working on agricultural plan should be wrapping up in September.

Knisley reported that the Natural Resources Block Grant was no longer an application process, it is considered an agreement. The Water Plans and Wetland Acts are known and will be in the agreement. Just a note acknowledged that BWSR will probably be taking a 10% cut from the State in the future. Shouldn't affect office service grants but will likely affect cost share. Over all, a dramatic affect is not foreseen.

District Manager's Report

Financial Reports: The financial statements showing all revenue and expenditures for the month of April were presented for the Board for review. Knisley stated that Stinar came in to office to check on banking and financial operations to confirm status of department; not out of mistrust but out of responsibility as the Treasurer. Stinar and Knisley also discussed keeping a file on the SWCD vehicles to manage repair, maintenance and the likes. Stinar complimented Knisley on his work and management of the Clearwater SWCD. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Rydeen, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 4-0.

Profit & Loss: Knisley reported that tree sales ended up at \$14,974.31 in '09 and there were orders totaling \$2,261.51 taken at the end of '08. The **total tree sales** were \$17,235.82 which was 97% of the \$17,750.00 that was budgeted for '09. **Tree costs** were \$8,817.70 for '09 and \$1,481.28 spent in '08 for the '09 tree season. The total tree costs were \$10,299 which was approximately 85% of what was budgeted for '09. Total profit vs. loss in the '09 Tree Season is +\$6,936.75. Once we deduct the staff time, we show a profit of \$3,159.75.

Checking/Deposit Report: Knisley reported normal payment of the bills for the month of April. Receipt of CWL/AWR Grant of \$80,425 on 4/3/09. The 2nd Qtr. County Appropriation payment of \$17,000 was also received.

'09 Tree Season: Knisley commented that the '09 tree season went well. About 2 weeks before the scheduled customer pick up of the trees, Lee's Nursery notified us that only a portion of our order could be filled. In a scramble, we called around the State of MN and then into extending neighboring states to try to get enough trees put together to accommodate customer orders. Thankfully, nurseries were understanding and accommodating to us. We were able to fill about 99% of our orders. We tried to have staff at the DNR cold storage building just one weekend instead of two to accommodate the customer and have staff not having to go up there constantly throughout the week. As a result, it reduced staff costs.

Other business: A tour route for the September Clearwater SWCD sponsored Area VIII Meeting was discussed. It was decided that there are several prospect stops for the tour. There are plans to seek approval from landowners. Possible bus owners' names were given and will be contacted for quotes. Joint Powers Board / Area VIII meeting is scheduled for June 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Beltrami Electric Office. Knisley, Bilden, Strandlien & Stinar plan to attend.

Knisley will be out of the office June 15th-19th. It was requested and accepted that the next Board meeting be set for June 25th in Clearbrook at 8:00. The meeting will be posted ahead of time so that anyone interested in attending the meeting will be aware of the change. A motion to accept the date change was made by Rydeen, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 4-0.

Staff notices: John Knisley requested a flex schedule for the SWCD staff during the summer months because school is out. Currently Kathy Rasch is working a flex schedule, taking every other Monday off. With the board's approval, John Knisley and Stacy Cooper will employ the flex schedule as well. Knisley will be taking the alternative Monday's off and Cooper will be off

every other Friday. Rydeen expressed importance to post hours for public. A motion to accept the staff flex schedule was made by Strandlien, 2nd by Stinar. Motion carried 4-0.

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


Paul Rydeen, District Secretary