

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM APRIL 13, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes from the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting. 212 ½ Second Street West, Park Rapids, MN.

Members present: Don Sells, Chair
Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair
Carol Berg, Secretary
Lynden Nelson, PR&I

Members absent: Doug Ralston, Treasurer

Others present: Shane Foley, District Manager
Marilyn Berry, District Secretary
Rick Berscheid, NRCS District Conservationist
Cal Johannsen, County Commissioner

Sells opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rick Berscheid was introduced as the new District Conservationist in Hubbard County.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Berg, seconded by Nelson, to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Berg to approve the minutes of March 9, 2010. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Abstain: Nelson. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of March, 2010 was reviewed and accepted by the board subject to auditor's review.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was a brief discussion on carbon credits with Johannsen.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: Sells noted two newspaper articles, one on shoreline restoration information and the other on Crow Wing SWCD receiving legacy funds.

Supervisors' Reports: Berg attended the Area 8 meeting and commented that the topic on board responsibilities was very good. Rettinger also had attended the Area 8 meeting and commented that it was similar to the MASWCD boot camp for supervisors with pertinent topics discussed.

Manager's Report: Foley reported on his activities during the past month:

- Checked the status of two wetland restorations;

- Gave a presentation on the soil and water perspectives of the Rural Preserves Program at an Extension meeting in Bemidji;
- Well run;
- Attended a Mississippi Headwaters Board meeting;
- Attended the Area 8 meeting;
- Met with DNR shoreline specialist at the abandoned road site on Blue Lake;
- Wellhead protection meeting for the city of Park Rapids;
- WCA wetland replacement meeting in Grand Rapids;
- Final report completed and approved for 2008 SWAG;
- Submitted a grant application that was approved for \$6,600 to the MN Conservation Corps to pay for their labor to plant trees for a Lake Emma Township project;
- RIM teleconference;
- Attended final meeting in Walker for Healthy Lakes and Rivers before training meetings begin on April 23.

There have been problems with the district pick-up and brakes were repaired. The radiator is also leaking. Foley asked Johannsen about a possible agreement with the County to use a vehicle from their pool. The board discussed this with Johannsen.

Activities for the next month will include:

- Well run;
- Envirothon April 21;
- Healthy Lakes and Rivers training meetings;
- Blue Lake planting;
- Annual Report to commissioners;
- Freshwater Festival May 5;
- Tree sale;
- Several WCA checks both violations and road applications;
- Work on plat book. A picture will be needed for the cover by June 1. Supervisors were asked to submit photos.

District Secretary's Report: Berry reported that she presented the poster theme to the 5th grade class at Laporte. The Envirothon presently has 14 teams registered and is expecting more. The Freshwater Festival plans are set and a few more volunteers are needed. The Headwaters Science Center will be a presenter, replacing the MN Science Museum.

Berry submitted her letter of resignation, due to retirement, effective at the end of the work day on May 28, 2010. Sells made a motion, seconded by Berg, to accept Berry's resignation letter with regret and appreciation for her many years of service. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Berry presented the board with an updated page 18 in the Policy Handbook that was discussed at the March board meeting. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to approve these policy updates. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions will be due at the next Area 8 meeting in June.

A cost-share contract for Helga Township has been completed and a request for payment was submitted to the board. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to approve payment of the encumbered amount of \$6,435 for project #08-5. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Foley has talked with Mr. O'Brien regarding cost-share contract #08-3.

Cost share funds for FY09 must be encumbered by June 30.

CORRESPONDENCE

Foley presented a DNR water permit application to replace a bridge in Akeley. Discussion. No soil and water impacts were foreseen.

Berry presented a bill from the MN State Auditor for review of the district audit. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to pay this bill of \$184.00. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received from the Mississippi Headwater Board on a meeting to be held April 23 in Walker. Rettinger will attend.

JPB correspondence relayed that no work is currently planned in Hubbard County. Information from NACD, MASWCD, NRCS and Giziibii RC&D were reviewed with the board.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Berscheid updated the board on the current Farm Bill programs. There were eighteen EQIP applications of which 12 were approved totaling \$132,000.

Tours will be held April 19 in Thief River Falls and April 29 in Bagley. Berscheid has information for anyone wishing to attend.

CSP was funded in February and contract recipients have been contacted.

A WRP/RIM teleconference was held in the office; Hubbard County is not in a priority area, so any applications probably would not be ranked highly. The deadline for applications is May 14.

A FAC meeting was held with FSA to discuss the rent agreement. The SWCD negotiates their own agreement, but it is desirable for the ag service center to continue with all agencies. FSA is taking the lead on negotiating the lease.

Motion by Berg, seconded by Nelson to recess this meeting at 10:50 a.m. and reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on April 16 in the office at 212 ½ Second Street W, Park Rapids.

On April 16 at 8:00 a.m. Sells reconvened the meeting. A discussion was held to determine the future of the District Secretary position upon retirement of Marilyn Berry, effective May 28. The board reviewed the programs currently managed by the District and discussed other program opportunities currently available. They also reviewed the current budget and speculated on what cuts are likely to affect the 2011 budget. Current duties of the District Secretary were discussed.

Bookkeeping and having staff present at the office were determined to be the most essential duties. Finally, the options available for meeting those needs were discussed. The board came to a consensus to advertise for a part-time support position with a closing date of August 4. The personnel committee and District Manager will review the applications and bring recommendations to the board on August 10. Interviews will be held in mid-August. Starting date for the position will be September 1.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the office at 212 ½ 2nd St W, Park Rapids.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Berg, seconded by Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary