

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2009 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. This meeting was postponed from the regular meeting date of April 14.

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
Russell Johnsrud, NRCS District Conservationist
Cal Johannsen, County Commissioner
Glen Kajewski, Area Conservationist
Casey Olson, Giziibii RC&D Coordinator

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

AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009. Berg noted that personnel policy will again be reviewed in May. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of March, 2009 was reviewed and accepted by the board subject to auditor's review.

REPORTS

Sells reviewed the legislation updates from MASWCD. He noted the news article on Foley's presentation to the county board.

Berg had attended a state RC&D meeting where they ordered three new display boards for councils to use at fairs, etc. The next Giziibii RC&D meeting will be held April 22 in Bagley.

Rettinger stated that no JPB meetings have been planned. A summer technician has been hired. He will call Beltrami SWCD to find out about the status of JPB meetings.

Nelson commented that there were some very good presentations at the Area 8 meeting. Forestry concerns were discussed. A letter from the MN Forest Resources Council was sent to SWCD supervisors, and Foley has been asked to participate on the North Central council that meets quarterly. This will be a board agenda item in May.

Sells addressed the concern that area and state meetings in some of the SWCD areas do not have a high percentage of supervisors on them, and supervisors need to have the input on agendas and committees.

Foley noted meetings and activities he has attended in the last month:

- 3 BWSR training meetings in Grand Rapids (pipeline affecting wetlands, new rules for WCA, wetland mitigation)
- Area 8 meeting
- 2-day NRCS soils training in Thief River Falls
- Well runs for March and April
- Forestry workshop in Ponsford
- Worked with WCA applicants on questions and applications
- Checked RIM site for compliance
- Reviewed forest stewardship plan writer information from DNR
- Cost-share work—reviewed sites

Foley also presented the district's annual report to the commissioners and explained the different projects and activities the SWCD is involved with.

Upcoming projects and activities include: Envirothon; meeting on Blue Lake restoration; tree program; Freshwater Festival; 5th grade Education Day; WCA site visit.

Foley developed a map showing WCA sites in the county. He will update this monthly for the Board (maps will also be dated monthly).

Johnsrud introduced Glen Kajewski to the Board

PUBLIC INPUT

Casey Olson entered the meeting at 10:00 a.m. to present the 2008 Giziibii RC&D Annual Report and the MARC&D Annual Report. Olson is the new Giziibii RC&D Coordinator who was introduced by Johnsrud. She noted that Hubbard County has been awarded the 2009 grazing workshop contract which Johnsrud discussed later in the meeting. Giziibii will be meeting in Hubbard County in June.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to review the Personnel Policy at the May board meeting. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried. The mileage policy will be revisited. Foley was requested to get quotes for items that possibly need repair.

The board discussed compressed time with Foley, who presented his reasons for going on compressed time during the summer months. Most other districts in Area 8 give this option to their employees. He urged supervisors to talk with supervisors from other districts to get their opinion on benefits seen to the district from this time schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Foley presented the completed plan and cost estimate for a cost-share application from Helga Township for roadside erosion. This plan divided the project into four sections with two cost estimates, north side and south side. The board discussed this project at length. Motion by Berg seconded by Rettinger to approve cost share at 50% not to exceed \$7,150 based on the cost estimate of \$14,300. Discussion. Affirmative: None. Opposed: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Motion failed. Motion by Berg, seconded by Nelson to approve cost share at 45% not to exceed \$6,435 based on the cost estimate of \$14,300. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The board discussed having a cap on cost-share to public agencies, but no action was taken.

Foley presented a cost-share request from a landowner on Lake Benedict whose shoreline is eroding. He has lost 4 feet of ledge, and white cedar and ladyslippers are in danger. He asked the board consider cost-sharing up to 75% because of the species of special concern involved. No plan has yet been completed. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to commit to funding this project after the plan and cost estimate have been received. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from JPB was reviewed.

Resolutions will be reviewed at the June 12 Area 8 meeting in Bemidji.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Johnsrud attended these meetings during the last month:

- March 18—Hubbard County weed meeting;
- March 20—Emergency flood training at Thief River Falls;
- March 25—Career Day at Park Rapids Area High School;
- March 26—Biomass workshop at Ponsford; Laternus and Foley also attended;
- March 27—Ag In the Classroom presentations for Nevis, Laporte and Park Rapids 4th graders;
- March 31—Soils presentation to class at PRAHS
- April 1—Net meeting in Bemidji;
- April 2—Area meeting at Thief River Falls
- April 9—Urban Forestry meeting
- April 16—RIM-WRP teleconference (Laternus and Foley also attended)
- April 16—Presentation on soils to class at PRAHS

Johnsrud will be one of the oral presentation judges at the Envirothon on April 22.

Two MPCA Public Notices were reviewed for Akeley and Federal Dam.

There may be an EQIP signup as early as next week. If the signup doesn't occur then, it will be in the near future.

The grazing tour was set for July 23 with an alternate date of July 16. Lunch will be at the Environmental Education Building. Berg will make contacts for busing and at the next board meeting everything will be finalized so brochures can be printed. The grazing tour will be an agenda item for the May board meeting.

The Giziibii RC&D coordinator's report for March included: NW Regional Sustainable Development Partnership to discuss regional local foods and RC&D assistance; Biomass Gasifier Pilot Project committee meeting in Williams; facilitated Soil tunnel/Kiosk committee meeting; met with Jerry Cole and Carol Berg to develop the 2009 Grazing Tour; private woodlands wildlife workshop in Beltrami.

Glen Kajewski gave a brief update on NRCS activities. He noted that there is a D.C. vacancy in the Warren field office; he also stressed getting applications in for EQIP. NRCS is still working on how and when to bill districts for computers and for rent, and hopefully this will be settled soon.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the office at 212 ½ Second Street W, Park Rapids.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary