

# **HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES FROM AUGUST 11, 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.

Members present: Don Sells, Chair  
Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair  
Lynden Nelson, PR&I  
Members absent: Carol Berg, Secretary  
Doug Ralston, Treasurer  
Others present: Shane Foley, District Manager  
Marilyn Berry, District Secretary  
Russell Johnsrud, NRCS District Conservationist

Sells opened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Rettinger to approve the agenda with an addition. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Rettinger, to approve the minutes of July 14, 2009. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

### **REPORTS**

Sells noted an article on discouraging geese on shorelines. Discussion followed, progressing to addressing the issue of geese in the public park in Park Rapids. Foley offered the idea that a shoreland restoration for the park could be a LWP initiative. Sells will draft a letter to the City of Park Rapids, attention to the Parks and Beautification Board, regarding issues discussed and then will confer with Foley before sending the final draft.

Sells also presented a fact sheet on curly leaf pondweed in area lakes and discussed efforts of controlling this on Portage and Fish Hook lakes.

Sells attended a geological workshop in Brainerd with the focus on groundwater. Age of water and critical habitat study were also addressed.

Nelson commended Foley for his presentation at the township supervisors' meeting.

Foley reported on meetings and activities during the last month:

- Met with Northwest MN Foundation and COLA officers on a new round for the Healthy Lakes & Rivers program. Eight lakes in the area will be accepted into the program with Blue, Long and Spider already having applied from Hubbard County;
- WCA meeting held on new rules;
- Lake monitoring for LWP and SWAG;
- Nitrate Clinic held with 188 samples tested and 21 greater than 10 ppm;
- Well run;
- Numerous WCA violation checks and site determinations made;
- Attended wetland plant training with NRCS in Thief River Falls.

The next month's activities will include well monitoring, river clean-up, NRBG audit on the match portion of the grant; and ordering trees.

Concern over policy on wetland determinations for non-landowners was discussed. Foley will write a statement regarding this and bring it to the board. This relates to a non-property owner wanting projected wetland implications if he did purchase the property.

The board asked that a shoreline packet be added to the tree order form.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

An old policy item was reviewed. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Rettinger to delete a sentence relating to half pay for meetings less than two hours long. All meetings will be paid at the full rate. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Sells stressed that the board should take note of calendar items and to add personnel evaluations for Foley in January and Berry in April.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A proposed budget for 2010 as reviewed by the board was given to the county on July 31, as required. Sells noted BWSR policy regarding preparing the budget. Motion by Sells, seconded by Nelson that the board reinforce the BWSR policy that the local treasurer has the responsibility to prepare the budget. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Berry presented a list for disposal of items with the approved retention time listed. Motion by Nelson to approve this list. Motion died for lack of a second. Foley would like an explanation of projects completed under cost-share on that list before disposal. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Rettinger to approve disposing of records listed for August, 2009 with the stipulation that an explanation of the projects done under cost-share will be added for each contract disposed. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A “SWCD Land Use Training” course is being offered by MCIT to be held in August.

Foley noted that the River Clean-up Project for 2009 will be held on August 16 from 2-4 p.m.

The FY 2010 SWCD base grant agreement for a total of \$28,998 was presented. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Rettinger to sign this agreement. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Foley presented a cost-share application for Rockwood Township road project on Thistle Drive for ditch improvements and to divert some water to prevent sediment into the river. This application was discussed but no action was taken. There is no cost estimate yet.

Foley recommended that the board set two meetings a year to review all structural cost-share applications unless a critical high priority situation arises on an individual basis. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Rettinger to set September and April as months for reviewing cost-share applications. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

There are still ten wells that were installed by USGS from the Pineland Study done in the 1990’s that need to be sealed. MDA will now be charging a yearly fee of \$50 fee for each well unless they are sealed. Foley recommended sealing them now under state cost-share. Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Nelson to seal the remaining 10 wells from the Pineland Study in Straight River and Todd Townships in Hubbard County and Osage Township in Becker County at 50% of the total cost. This will be done after 2010 cost-share funds are received. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The next Area 8 meeting will be held September 10-11, hosted by Clearwater County. Registrations are due by August 21.

A flyer from Wadena SWCD on their conservation and wildlife expo to be held August 15-16 was reviewed.

A total of \$350 was received in donations for the grazing tour. Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Nelson to give \$250 to RKS Remote Kitchen Solutions LLC for their service and the remainder, after expenses, to Giziibii RC&D to help with honorariums to tour-stop landowners. Affirmative: Nelson, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### **DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST**

Johnsrud noted that many positive comments were received about the grazing tour. One comment was noted that it would have been nice to have more time at each stop.

Johnsrud attended these meetings during the last month:

- July 16—Urban Forestry;
- July 23—Grazing Tour;
- July 28—Area meeting in Thief River Falls;
- August 4—Plant materials tour in Kittson County;

- August 5—Conservation Stewardship Training in Bemidji;
- August 6—Wetland Plant ID in Thief River Falls attended with Laternus and Foley;
- August 10—Conservation Stewardship Program signup starts;
- August 12—Giziibii RC&D meeting in Baudette;
- August 18-20—NRCS leadership meeting in St. Cloud.

Field work continues. Several field tests for irrigation uniformity are being done. There was one organic EQIP contract approved.

Two MPCA notices were noted: new air quality rules governing mercury emissions and rule amendments; and for reissuance of a SDS permit for Thumper Pond WWTF.

Johnsrud handed out a printed power point presentation on the Conservation Stewardship Program and gave an overview of the program. This is part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, September 8, 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 10:45 a.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Carol Berg, Secretary