

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 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

Members absent: Doug Ralston, Treasurer
Lynden Nelson, PR&I

Others present: Shane Foley, District Manager
Marilyn Berry, District Secretary
Alicia Laturus, NRCS

Sells opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to approve the minutes of January 12, 2009. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: Sells attended a COLA meeting on February 4. COLA has submitted three grants to DNR for Aquatic Invasive Species projects for signs, watercraft inspection program, and public awareness efforts. These total \$15,290 with a 50/50 match.

Supervisors' Reports: Berg will be attending the Giziibii RC&D annual business meeting in Bemidji on February 10. She was unable to attend the state meeting in January.

Rettinger attended a JPB meeting on February 8 in Bemidji. He handed out copies of the agenda, minutes, and budget for 2010.

Manager's Report: During the last month, Foley's activities included the following:

- Worked with Tim James, MPCA, and Portage Lake Association members on HLRP project. The report for their sediment core project was received and discussed;

- Looked into the SWCD role in the DNR shoreline grant administered by Kelly Condiff;
- Wrote up a plat book proposal; books should be here by August 15;
- Elink reporting;
- Intensive Watershed Monitoring meeting with MPCA; this is a state-wide program focusing on rivers;
- Wrote a lease agreement with the city of Park Rapids to be paid biannually and renegotiated every 2 years;
- Wrote the final work plan for 2010 SWAG;
- Served as a judge along with NRCS at the Laporte Science Fair on February 5.

Activities for the next month will include:

- HLRP planning meeting; 10-11th Crow Wing Lakes have been added making a total of 9 lakes in this new program (1 in Beltrami, 1 in Clearwater and 7 in Hubbard);
- Prepare tree storage building;
- Well run;
- Review GIS information and layout for plat book;
- Receive final plat book quote;
- Planning meeting for MASWCD annual meeting.

In addition, Foley noted that (1) five lake associations have signed up to use the hydrolab this summer; (2) the City of Park Rapids tentatively approved restoration on the city beach; this will have to be approved through the city council; (3) the Clean Water Legacy grant proposal was not funded.

The board reviewed the proposed lease with the City. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to approve signing the 2-year lease with the city of Park Rapids for biannual payments of \$3,189.85. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. M/C.

OLD BUSINESS

The board reviewed the financial report for 2009 and it was discussed. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger, to submit the 2009 financial report to BWSR. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. M/C.

The budget for 2010 was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Berg to approve the 2010 budget. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. M/C.

It was noted that Legislative Days will be held February 17-18.

NEW BUSINESS

The plat book contract was discussed and will be signed when it arrives. Approval was given at the January board meeting.

The board considered cost-of-living raises for staff. Sells closed the meeting at 10:50 a.m. for discussion. The meeting was reopened at 11:00 a.m. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to give staff a 1.65% cost-of-living raise beginning with the March 5, 2010 pay period and also approve a step increase for Foley beginning with the February 19, 2010 pay period. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. M/C.

The Green Acres program was discussed. This SWCD will not be writing the stewardship plans but needs to set a fee for reviewing them. Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Berg to set a plan approval fee for the Green Acres program at \$100, subject to revision. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. M/C.

There will be meetings for state convention planning beginning March 3 in Bemidji. Foley and Don Rettinger will attend these meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

The next Area 8 meeting will be held March 19 in Bemidji. Reservations are due by March 11.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Alicia Laternus, NRCS, reported on activities for the month. The D.C. position has been filled, and Rick Berscheid will be on duty beginning March 29, 2010. He is originally from Minnesota and is currently working for NRCS in Hawaii.

April 1 is the final deadline to obligate money for the Conservation Security Program. Fifteen applications have been approved; there is also the possibility for another sign-up.

EQIP and WHIP ranking period is February 1-26. One new initiative has gained interest from a farmers' market perspective, Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops, or "hoop houses." This would allow a longer growing season for certain crops.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the office at 212 ½ Second Street W, Park Rapids.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary