

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM JULY 14, 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
Doug Ralston, Treasurer
Lynden Nelson, PR&I

Members absent: None.

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

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

AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Ralston, seconded by Rettinger, to approve the minutes of June 9, 2009. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of June, 2009 was reviewed and accepted by the board subject to auditor's review. Ralston gave an overview of the 6-month financial period and asked the personnel committee to consider salary figures for the 2010 budget. The budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Sells commented on the County's role in conservation easements. Johannsen stated that the County Board decided that Environmental Services would handle these easements. He also noted that budgets will be held at the previous year's amounts.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: (1) Sells noted the picture in the Enterprise of the Park Rapids team that participated in the State Envirothon. (2) He attended a state invasive species workshop and noted some of the species discussed. (3) Sells noted an article on Becker County where the National Fish and Wildlife Service is working to restore wetlands. (4) Sells will be attending a

workshop in Brainerd on geology sponsored by Crow Wing County offices. He asked the board for reimbursement for mileage. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ralston to pay mileage for Don Sells to attend this workshop in Brainerd. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Supervisors' Reports: Nelson reported on the Area 8 meeting held in June. He complimented the host district for their presentation. He also noted that all resolutions were discussed thoroughly and passed.

Berg attended the national RC&D convention in Albuquerque. She attended sessions on financial responsibilities and will be giving a full report at the summer RC&D meeting.

Rettinger attended the JPB meeting held in conjunction with the Area 8 meeting. A new technician has been hired, and the offices are working on aligning engineers for work in each respective area.

Manager's Report: Foley noted meetings and activities during the past month:

- Technical advice on lakeshore erosion (new LWP initiative)
- Monthly lake monitoring completed
- 2 SWAG samples taken
- Met with COLA representatives on possible HL&R grant
- Attended 2 BWSR trainings
- 2 WCA decisions, 1 application, 3 restorations, flight results
- Fair booth set up and manned
- Observation well monitoring

Upcoming events:

- Nitrate clinic July 22
- BWSR training on WCA rules changes
- SWAG monitoring
- Lake monitoring
- Observation well monitoring

OLD BUSINESS

Old policies were reviewed. Outdated or obsolete policies will be deleted and Berry will compile a list of current policies that are other than personnel policies.

Plans were finalized for the grazing tour to be held on July 23.

Foley reported that there will be no funding for the district to participate in TMDL studies this year. MPCA will be intensifying work in the Crow Wing Watershed.

NEW BUSINESS

Berry presented the need for a new business credit card as the current company, Advanta, has gone out of business. Citizens National Bank has the most uncomplicated application form but needs a statement from the Board that employees can hold these cards. Motion by Berg, seconded by Ralston that staff apply to Citizens National Bank for a business credit card with a

credit limit of \$4,000, to be issued to the District Manager and District Secretary and needing only their signatures, respectively, to borrow on this credit card. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The board reviewed an application from Jane Thompson in Henrietta Township to seal an unused well. This project will be through the Local Water Plan. Motion by Ralston, seconded by Berg to approve cost-share with local water plan funds for Jane Thompson at 50% not to exceed \$175 based on a cost estimate of \$350.00. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A contract for FY 2010 was received from the DNR-Division of Waters for observation well monitoring. One well has been discontinued, and payment would be a maximum of \$2550.00. Motion by Berg, seconded by Ralston to sign this agreement. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A DNR irrigation permit application was reviewed for Steven Johnson. The board discussed an application for a wetland project for the DNR Parks & Trails Division for a bridge replacement alternative on the Heartland State Trail. The board agreed that an alternative bike trail would be more cost effective and more environmentally beneficial than replacing the bridge. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Berg to submit the above-worded comment on this application. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Berry noted that an audit will be held on July 20 for the district.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Johnsrud attended these meetings during the last month:

- June 10—RC&D meeting in Park Rapids;
- June 15—met with DNR and Trout Unlimited on Pierce property to consider a project;
- June 18—Urban forestry meeting;
- June 30—Grazing tour dry run;
- July 8-12—Hubbard County fair was held
- July 13—met with U of MN, FSA and members of Iraqi Ag Ministries;

Upcoming meetings:

- July 16—Urban Forestry meeting
- July 23—Grazing tour
- July 28—Area meeting in TRF
- August 4—Plant materials tour in Kittson County;
- August 6—Wetland Plant ID training in TRF

There are two pending organic initiative applications for \$57,000+; one WHIP application was approved.

Two MPCA Public Notices were reviewed for the Northern Transfer Station and Minnesota rules amendments governing air and water permit fees.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, August 11, 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 10:25 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary