

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM MARCH 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
Larry Voltz, NRCS District Conservationist, Bemidji
Cal Johannsen, County Commissioner
Casey Olson, Giziibii RC&D

Sells opened the meeting at 8:00 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 February 9, 2010. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Casey Olson, Giziibii RC&D Coordinator, presented the 2009 annual reports for Giziibii and the Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation and Development. She congratulated the board on a successful grazing tour and updated them on some current projects. She also offered to assist with projects as needed.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: Sells noted items in the legislative update including RIM and other items.

Supervisors' Reports: Berg attended the annual meeting of the Giziibii RC&D on February 10. There was election of officers for the executive board and committee memberships were decided.

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

- Set up tree storage building;
- Healthy Lakes and Rivers meeting in Walker; training meetings will be held at Northern Pines Assembly Grounds in Park Rapids;

- Worked with Wadena County on MPCA funding on intensive watershed monitoring; the goal will be to identify the impaired waters in each watershed;
- Worked on WCA violations; discussed a potential gravel pit with the board and commissioner;
- Met with USFWS to discuss funding options. Possible projects were discussed including Hay Creek restoration and trout streams in EQIP to help with funding for landowners;
- Aquatic Invasive Species meeting; discussed 3 applications for the Lake Emma grant that were received for (1) Additional work on the Blue Lake road restoration; (2) Little Sand education and vegetative mapping; (3) boat access monitors for invasive species (COLA).
- Met to approve Lake Emma Grant program.

Activities for the next month will include:

- Finish tree storage building;
- Area 8 meeting;
- Give a presentation on the SWCD role in the Rural Preserves program. The meeting will be in Bemidji for foresters, assessors and other interested persons;
- Well run;
- WCA mitigation meeting in Grand Rapids to identify sites that can be in the wetland bank.

OLD BUSINESS

The 2009 Annual Report and Annual Work Plan for 2010 were distributed.

An Area 8 meeting will be held on March 19 at the Eagles Club in Bemidji. Foley and Rettinger will be attending.

Encumbering remaining cost-share funds for 2009 was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy changes were discussed to reflect board action on medical insurance enacted in December. Wording will be added to state when the salary increase will be paid for step increase approvals. These changes will be reviewed at the April meeting for approval.

An invoice for Area 8 dues of \$250 was received. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to pay the 2010 dues to Area 8. Affirmative: Berg, Rettinger, Sells. Opposed: None. M/C.

There was lengthy discussion on the role of SWCDs in counties and the relationship between them and the county board.

Notice of changes to the Area 8 by-laws was reviewed.

CORRESPONDENCE

A brochure on bio-bailer demonstrations to be held in Duluth and Grand Rapids was reviewed by supervisors.

The League of Women Voters will be having a workshop about women running for public office on March 17 at the Northwoods Bank meeting room.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Larry Voltz, D.C. from Beltrami, reviewed current NRCS activities. The Conservation Security Program applications have become contracts. Landowners will be working on their enhancements. Staff is now working on EQIP cost-share program. Seven applications were received for high tunnel structures for gardening that would extend the growing season. Other cost-share applications received were 8 forestry, 3 cropland, 1 organic, and 1 grazing. There were a total of 20 applications for the CSP program. Ranking will be done first for the high tunnels.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, April 13, 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 11:10 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary