

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 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 had been postponed from March 10 due to inclement weather.

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

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

OATH OF OFFICE

Sells welcomed new supervisor Lynden Nelson. The Oath of Office was signed by Nelson.

AGENDA

An item was added to the agenda. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to approve the minutes of February 17, 2008. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of February, 2008 was reviewed. The chair accepted the February financial report subject to auditor's review. Berry was asked to purchase another CD for \$20,000.

PUBLIC INPUT

Johannsen updated the board on budget concerns at the county level. Nothing is final yet, and they are still waiting to see what the state funding will be.

REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND MEETINGS

Chair's Report: Sells asked that the district directory be updated. He also verified that the office has a recorder that can be used to record closed sessions.

Sells passed around an article on proposed mining regulations in Minnesota for non-ferrous metals. It was noted that last week was National Groundwater Awareness Week, and Soil and Water Stewardship Week will be April 26-May 3.

Sells reported on attending Legislative Days in February. He thought it was a worthwhile briefing time with various legislators speaking. He believes that legislators are responding favorably to conservation needs in the state. Budget cuts are now the core issue. In meeting with the legislators he conveyed the message that our area's emphasis is on preserving our natural resources.

Supervisors' Reports: Berg attended the annual meeting on February 25 of the Giziibii R&D. Election of officers was held.

District Manager's Report: Foley was absent due to WCA training in Grand Rapids. His written report was presented. He noted these various activities in February:

- Meeting with Jon Hodgson on Helga Township cost-share;
- Reviewed district health care plan;
- Looked at possible forestry grants;
- Created a WCA base map to use in reporting WCA actions to the board;
- Reviewed and responded to new WCA applications;
- Well monitoring;
- Looked for funding possibilities for district operations;
- NRCS training in Bagley.

Upcoming events:

- Advanced WCA training in Grand Rapids;
- Area 8 meeting in Bemidji on March 20;
- Woody Biomass workshop in Ponsford March 26;
- April well run;
- NRCS Soils course in Thief River Falls;
- Will present 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Annual Work Plan to the County Board in April.

Foley requested, in writing, an alternate working schedule from May-October of 10-hour days from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with Fridays off. He cited several reasons for going on this schedule, which the board reviewed. Their consensus was to not allow a change in schedules at this time. They will address this request more fully when he is present at the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Berry noted two paragraphs in the District Policy that need updating: page 20, paragraph 2 and page 29, "Personal Automobile Mileage." The board discussed revisions. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to update these policies as follows: page 20, paragraph 2 to read "The District vehicle will have the District's legal name affixed on both sides of the vehicle."; page 29, paragraph 2, last sentence to read "Employees who elect to drive their personal vehicle when a District vehicle is available will be reimbursed according to federal guidelines." Also delete "IRS" from sentence 3 and insert "federal." Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. M/C.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual reports were given to supervisors.

An invoice for Area 8 dues of \$250.00 was presented. Motion by Berg, seconded by Rettinger to pay Area 8 dues. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Rettinger. Opposed: None. M/C.

Rettinger, Berg, Nelson, Sells and Foley will be attending the Area 8 meeting on March 20 in Bemidji.

The alternator was replaced on the district pick-up. More repairs were advised. The board reviewed estimates for the work needed and asked that Foley get 2 or 3 more bids.

CORRESPONDENCE

The annual report and letter from the State Climatology office was sent to rainfall reporters and Berry included a thank-you letter from the district.

Both county newspapers published a news article on trees and products available from the district.

Sells received a letter regarding the reinstatement of funds for the Mississippi Headwaters Board.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Johnsrud reviewed Memorandums of Understanding and Civil Rights agreements with the board. These are on file in the office for anyone wishing to read them in more detail. He also noted the working agreements with agencies such as leases. There is now a list of all memos on file.

Freedom of Information Act training was held March 21 in Bagley for NRCS and SWCD personnel. Johnsrud informed the board on future training to be given to the board and will present it when all members are in attendance.

Meetings attended included:

- Feb. 19—Urban Forestry meeting;
- Feb. 25—RC&D annual meeting; Hubbard will be the host for a grazing tour this summer;
- Feb. 26—Pasture and hayland training meeting in Thief River Falls;
- March 5—two 5th grade classes to the school forest;
- March 12—FOIA training in Bagley.

Upcoming meetings include:

- March 18—Hubbard County annual weed meeting;
- March 25—presenter at Career Day at PRHS
- March 26—Biomass workshop in Ponsford;
- March 27—Ag in the Classroom presenter (tentative);
- April 1—Wetland training in Thief River Falls
- April 2—Area meeting in Thief River Falls
- Will give soils presentation at PRHS for classes participating in Envirothon

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. (one week later than originally scheduled) in the office at 212 ½ Second Street W, Park Rapids.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary