

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM MAY 11, 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
Doug Ralston, Treasurer
Lynden Nelson, PR&I
Members absent: Carol Berg, Secretary
Others present: Shane Foley, District Manager
Marilyn Berry, District Secretary
Cal Johannsen, County Commissioner
Rick Berscheid, District Conservationist, NRCS

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

AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Rettinger, seconded by Nelson to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010. Affirmative: Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of April, 2010 was reviewed and accepted by the board subject to auditor's review. Ralston discussed budget items with the Board.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: Sells noted newspaper articles on the Envirothon and Freshwater Festival and passed them around.

Supervisors' Reports: Rettinger had attended the Strategic Planning Session of the Mississippi Headwaters Board on April 23. The board discussed the value of attending these meetings and decided to continue. The next MHB meeting will be May 21.

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

- 4 ob well sealings (2 SWCD, 2 USGS);
- Checked 4 properties for DNR shoreline grant;
- Coordination of Blue Lake project (dogwood collection, live staking, tree planting);
- Participated in 2 Healthy Lakes trainings;
- Meeting with MN Dept of Ag on available Legacy money;
- 7 WCA decisions, 2 site checks;

- Viewed Hay Creek site with spawning specialist (possible project to be addressed next spring);
- Worked through our first Rural Preserves request—SWCD will have to set a fee for these plans;
- Freshwater Festival and Envirothon held;
- Tree sale

Activities for the next month will include:

- Learn more about Marilyn's tasks;
- Crow Wing River Assessment meeting (MPCA) on May 27; decide how our SWCD can partner with them in their watershed assessment;
- Convention planning meeting;
- Well runs for May and June;
- Area 8 meeting on June 2;
- Finish tree planting and begin herbicide treatment on Blue Lake project;
- WCA checks

OLD BUSINESS

Ralston noted a correction needed in the personnel policy, page 18, section 21. It should read "The amount of payment will be \$250.00 per regular full-time employee per month..." Motion by Ralston, seconded by Rettinger to make this clarification to policy. Affirmative: Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The board had no resolutions to submit to Area 8.

Foley informed Johannsen that a new secretary will be hired part-time in late summer. There will be a decrease in state money to districts for the next year, and this seemed a way to make up for some of that. Foley will make a schedule of his hours for other office personnel and supervisors beginning in June.

The copier lease is effective through August. After that Foley would like to have an agreement with FSA for use of their copier rather than renewing the lease with Marco.

There have been changes in Beltrami County with the SWCD, and as a result the JPB administration is also changing. There are questions as to where they will be housed and who is making this decision. The Board asked Rettinger to check on the status of the JPB in Area 8 and request board minutes from the last year.

The Hubbard County Fair will be held July 7-11. The board agreed to have a literature table and display a notice that new plat books will be available through the SWCD in August.

Secretary's salary was discussed for a half-time position. The personnel committee was directed to write up a support position job description for the next board meeting. The county's pay schedule will also be reviewed.

Two unused Pineland monitoring wells were sealed as a continuation of the cost-share project last year to seal the remaining wells. One could not be found at that time, but was subsequently found along with a second nested well. Motion by Ralston, seconded by Nelson to recognize that the

wells previously approved for sealing were now found to be two wells, and the sealing approval is covered by our previous resolution. Cost-share is approved for an additional amount to cover the 50% cost of sealing the 2 wells. Affirmative: Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The agenda for the June 4 Area 8 meeting was distributed.

The board looked at photos for a plat book cover and selected one.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Berscheid announced that a new NRCS State Conservationist has begun his duties in Minnesota. Don Baloun is a former Assistant State Conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NRCS in Wisconsin.

NRCS is also marking 75 years of conservation and had a commemoration on April 28 at the state NRCS headquarters.

Updates on programs: EQIP—12 applications were funded for 7 tree planting contracts, 3 high tunnel contracts, 1 residue management contract, and 1 cover crop contract. Most contracts with tree plantings scheduled for 2010 have been completed. CSP—A new signup has started and will go until June 11. There are several changes to the enhancements. WHIP—1 contract for tree planting was funded.

The FAC Committee met to discuss lease options, copier agreement, fixes desired around the office area, etc.

There will be a seasonal high tunnel tour today at 1 pm in Bagley that Berscheid and Laternus will attend. Berscheid also participated in the Freshwater Festival on May 5 and attended the Mary Gibbs presentation in Bemidji about Itasca State Park.

POSTER JUDGING

The board judged posters received. Four winners were named: Alexandra Smith, Laporte; Olivia Fischer, Jake Bateman, and Drew Hilmanowski from Park Rapids. All are fifth grade students. They will each receive a \$10 cash prize.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ralston to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary