

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 13, 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.

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

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ralston to approve the amended minutes of September 8, 2009. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of September, 2009 was reviewed and accepted by the board subject to auditor's review.

PUBLIC INPUT

Johannsen reported that the county budget for 2010 will be the same or lower than last year.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: Sells reported that the Area 8 tour in Clearwater County was very well organized and the stops were very interesting.

Supervisors' Reports: Berg will attend the Giziibii RC&D meeting in Bemidji on October 14. Ralston will attend the Local Water Plan meeting on October 20.

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

- Area 8 tour and meeting;
- Local Water Plan planning meeting was held September 14;
- Met with Luke Stuewe and Johnsrud on grant possibilities;
- Lake monitoring for LWP;

- Technical Evaluation Panel met and visited 3 sites; there were 2 replacement plans;
- Checked out 3 wetland restorations;
- SWAG monitoring is done for the year;
- Well run

Activities for the next month will include Local Water Plan meeting on October 20; well run; BWSR training November 2-4 in Brainerd; submit new SWAG grant application; 3 WCA restorations due.

OLD BUSINESS

The mission statement was reviewed. Motion by Ralston, seconded by Nelson to state that the mission statement accurately reflects activities and goals of the district. Discussion. Rettinger mentioned that forestry was not included in this statement. Others thought it may be implied. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Foley informed the board of possible funding through MDA for wellhead protection areas. He and Johnsrud had discussed a project for Park Rapids with Luke Steuwe, MDA, who is trying to secure funding for a groundwater protection project.

BWSR is trying to get a forestry element included in RIM. The board discussed the advantages for landowners—could harvest timber, protection as forest land, may change status of land for lower taxes.

A cost-share well sealing contract (#09-3) for Ginger DeGrie has been completed; Mike Becker has completed his lakeshore erosion project, #09-1; Hubbard County SWCD (#09-2) has completed sealing of 9 observation wells. One well could not be found, so it will be sealed if and when it is located. Motion by Ralston, seconded by Rettinger to approve payment for the following: \$125 for contract #09-3, Ginger DeGrie, at 50% of actual cost of \$250; \$3,150 for contract #09-1, Mike Becker, at 63% of actual cost of \$5,000; \$1,103 for contract #09-2, Hubbard County SWCD, at 50% of actual cost of \$2,205. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Health insurance for district employees was discussed. Foley presented a request that the board consider another option other than a group plan and stated reasons for the change. Motion by Ralston, seconded by Nelson that the personnel committee meet and come up with a recommendation for a health insurance amount for employees by the next board meeting. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Supervisors discussed and voted on the resolutions sent by MASWCD.

A letter was read from the state resolutions committee stating that the Hubbard County resolution was deemed to need further clarification and was not included in the resolutions packet. Sells said there was also another resolution that was passed in Area 8 that was not included. The board questioned the legality of this action as both were passed at the Area 8 meeting. Sells and Ralston will draft and send a letter to the committee and MASWCD.

Reservations for the state convention will be made for Berg, Nelson and Sells.

The annual work plan was reviewed and changes for 2010 suggested.

Foley explained that the Conservation Legacy Grant requires a 10% match. Local Water Plan funds could be used as a match on a project. He offered two possible projects: (1) Hay Creek Project—siltation is affecting the walleye spawning; also, a concrete embankment is cracking. (2) Several trout streams in northern Hubbard County could use assistance. These will be discussed at the next Local Water Plan meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A JPB report was received. There are no projects in Hubbard County at this time.

The Mississippi Headwaters Board will meet in Walker on October 14. Rettinger or Nelson may attend.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Johnsrud reported on meetings and activities during the past month:

- September 9—CSP meeting at Guthrie;
- September 10—CSP net conference;
- September 14—Local Water Plan;
- September 16—School Forest Committee;
- September 30—CSP end of sign-up with 23 applicants.

Five MPCA public notices were received and reviewed: 1. Clearwater County Demolition Landfill; 2. Minnesota River Basin General Phosphorus Permit Phase I; 3. Enbridge Energy Pipeline, Clearbrook Terminal and pump stations; 4. Hackensack WWTF; 5. Renaissance Dairy, LLP.

Johnsrud reminded the board that they will be directly leasing office space beginning October 1. NRCS will continue paying rent for 135 sq. ft. for services rendered to NRCS.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the office at 212 ½ Second Street W, Park Rapids.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ralston to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary

