

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 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

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 Rettinger, seconded by Ralston to approve the minutes of August 11, 2009. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the month of August, 2009 was reviewed and accepted by the board subject to auditor's review. The role of the treasurer in preparing the budget was clarified.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

REPORTS

Chair's Report: None.

Supervisors' Reports: None.

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

- He worked with 8th-9th Crow Wings, Big Mantrap and Blue lakes on financial reports and final reports due August 31;
- Fish Hook River clean-up was held August 16 with 4 participants;
- SWCD monthly lake monitoring completed;
- SWAG lake monitoring completed;
- Well run;

- Received applications for a new Healthy Lakes and Rivers round with 6 lakes applying— Long, Spider, Boulder, Palmer, Blue and Duck;
- Participated in a rain garden workshop and installation on Big Sand for HLR&P;
- Located remaining USGS wells for sealing;
- 6 WCA violation checks and three restoration checks;
- Two WCA exemption approvals.

Upcoming activities:

- Observation well monitoring;
- Last SWAG monitoring;
- LWP monitoring;
- WCA restorations;
- Area 8 tour and meeting Sept. 10-11;
- Soil loss training;
- MPCA grant application for infiltration on lake parcels.

There may be another opportunity for a Surface Water Assessment Grant; if so, Foley will apply.

Foley and Sells are working on drafting a letter regarding the old beach area in Park Rapids. The Local Water Plan could possibly fund a project. The LWP task force will be meeting September 14 and will discuss this then. Sells also suggested applying for Legacy grant funds (November deadline).

OLD BUSINESS

Foley read a draft statement regarding WCA determinations: “Due to potential liability (conflicts of interest between buyer and seller) and large workloads, the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District will only review Wetland Conservation Act project and determination applications submitted by the owner or authorized agent of the property where impacts will occur.” Motion by Ralston, seconded by Berg that this be WCA policy for Hubbard County. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Area 8 tour on September 10 will be attended by Sells and Foley.

NEW BUSINESS

The board reviewed the audit report sent by James Maiser, CPA. Motion by Ralston, seconded by Nelson to approve signing the compliance letter. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A cost-share application (#10-2) from Ginger DeGrie to seal a well was received with a cost estimate of \$250. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ralston to approve this high-priority application for \$125 or 50% of the actual cost, whichever is less. Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A cost-share application from Rockwood Township for erosion on Thistle Drive was tabled until April as there is no cost estimate.

The board discussed a DNR public waters project application for riprap on a shoreline for Sunny Shores. The board will submit the comment “The SWCD recommends this area be protected with vegetation along with minimal use of riprap.”

CORRESPONDENCE

HRDC sent a letter requesting recommendations for a representative to serve on their board. Don Sells name will be submitted.

There will be a biomass workshop in Grand Rapids on September 18.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Johnsrud showed the board the “And Justice for All” poster. He read the caption and discussed it with the board.

Johnsrud presented the lease agreement for FY09. The SWCD will have to negotiate a lease with the landlord for FY10 as they will not be contracting with NRCS anymore. Motion by Berg, seconded by Ralston to sign the lease agreement for FY09 for \$6,607.00 (rent, \$6,383, LAN/WAN \$224). Affirmative: Berg, Nelson, Ralston, Rettinger. Opposed: None. Motion carried. It was also noted that the SWCD will not have to pay for computers this year.

A request for comments from MPCA and MDH for possible amendment to rules governing water treatment certification was noted.

Meetings during the last month included August 18-20—Leadership meeting in St. Cloud and Sept. 3—CSP meeting in Hubbard. Johnsrud also picked up one WHIP contract.

Upcoming meetings include:

Sept. 9—CWP, 7 pm. in Guthrie;

Sept. 10—CSP net conference in Bemidji (Laternus and Johnsrud);

Sept. 14—Local Water Management task force meeting;

Sept. 30—FY ends, CSP sign-up ends.

Johnsrud gave a powerpoint presentation on the Conservation Stewardship Program followed by questions and discussion.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Tuesday, October 13, 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 10:50 a.m.

APPROVED: _____ SECRETARY _____
Date Carol Berg, Secretary

