

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes from the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting at 212 ½ Second Street West, Park Rapids, MN.

Members present: Don Rettinger, Chair
Lynn Goodrich, Vice-Chair
Bob Iles, Secretary
Don Sells, Treasurer
Ruth Grandy, PR&I
Kathy Grell, Hubbard County Commissioner

Members absent: None

Others present: Julie Kingsley, District Manager
Melissa Koebernick, District Administrative Assistant
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist
Chad Severts, BWSR Board Conservationist

Supervisor Rettinger opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to accept the agenda, as amended, with Chad Severts under new business in place of Tim Terrill since he could not make it, seconded by Supervisor Goodrich.
Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to approve the minutes of January 14, 2014, seconded by Supervisor Iles. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented, by the board, subject to auditor's review.

PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Grell mentioned that the AIS Task Force is looking for more stable funding. The task force rated each lake for risk and then will give that information to the townships to help figure out a suggested donation.

The county is looking at adding up to a ½% sales tax to help with maintenance of County roads. It would raise roughly one million dollars.

REPORTS

Supervisors' Reports: Supervisor Rettinger will not be attending the Giziibii meeting because it is at the same time as our board meeting this month.

Supervisor Sells made a motion to have Lynn Goodrich be an alternate representative for Giziibii, seconded by Supervisor Goodrich.

Supervisor Iles attended the MECA seminar in Walker. He thought it was geared more toward contractors. He found that the cement trucks are not supposed to wash out their trucks and dump the water on the ground.

He also discussed a study that showed there is 35 billion pounds of salt that is put on roads and it is raising the salinity of the rivers and lakes permanently.

Supervisor Sells discussed the conservation awards at the State Convention. East Polk County nominated the Sand Hill Watershed District. The district is doing a lot to address erosion issues and they were awarded two Clean Water Fund grants one for 281,000 and one for 251,000. They are doing water and sediment control basins because they have highly erodible land. They are focusing on a certain stretch on the Beach Ridge area where a study was conducted that showed this area was contributing the most sediment loading in the watershed.

Water Quality/Resource Specialist Report – Kingsley reported on the following for Sitz:

- Continued gathering data for the Mississippi Headwaters watershed
- Identifying Priority Management Zones in Crow Wing Watershed
- Started working on the WRAP document for Crow Wing Watershed
- Attended Leech Lake Watershed meeting
- Pollution reduction estimators for cost-share projects.
- Selected as alternate to attend Blandin Community Leadership Program
- Working with City of Park Rapids to have preliminary costs drawn up for storm sewer retention basins.
- Gave Spider Lake pollution reduction estimates for proposed shoreline protection project
- Created maps of land that has forest stewardship plans through the Tullibee Forest Stewardship Grant
- Attended MECA seminar
- Gave AIS presentation to Turtle River Watershed
- Applied for AIS DNR grant
- At Blandin Community Leadership Program all week
- AIS task force meeting

District Manager's Report – Kingsley reported on the following:

Last Month

- Groundwater management area meeting
- Received Joint Ditch Inventory & Inspection Grant with Cass County
- COLA education committee meeting for 4-H presentation
- Attended MECA seminar
- Webinar on MCIT coverage
- Mississippi Headwaters stakeholder meeting

- Community Partners grant application deadline March 31
- Wild Rice RIM - working on 2 additional easements for Phase 2
- Melissa has been working on the Geologic Survey
- We will be getting a conservation corp intern
- Truck will be here next week
- AIS task force, Lake George Twshp meeting, COLA meeting – AIS update
- WCA Joint Powers Agreement signed, Lake Alice Twshp wetland issue on Beauty Lake

Next Month

- Webinar on status of Minnesota Waters
- Leech Lake WRAP meeting
- Irrigation workshop - Ottertail
- Mississippi Headwaters WRAP meeting
- Crow Wing CE meeting
- Akeley City meeting for 2014 AIS
- Local Water Plan meeting
- Grazing Workshop will be on February 26 at Guthrie Community Center

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Civil Rights

- February is Black History Month
- "And Justice for All" Poster

Program Update

- 2014 EQIP timeline:
 - o 2/21/14 Application acceptance deadline
 - o 2/28/14 Ranking and eligibility deadline
 - o 3/14/14 Quality assurance reviews due for all applications
 - o 3/17/14 Preapproval list for contracts
- We currently have 17 EQIP applications.
- February 7 was last day to apply for the 2014 CSP signup.
 - o We have 2 CSP applications

Outreach/educational

- Dan went to the Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council Winter Workshop on February 11.
- Planning for the 2014 Grazing Workshop
 - o Guthrie Community Center on February 26, 2014
- Soil Health Webcast on February 18 at Erskine.

Current activities/other

- Area 1 meeting on February 20
- EQIP & CSP applications.
- Passage of new Farm Bill.

OLD BUSINESS

Unemployment/Staffing – will be on next month's agenda and have the staffing company come and make a presentation.

MASWCD Dues – Supervisor Goodrich made a motion to pay dues in protest and leave the date of the mailing to the office staff, seconded by Supervisor Grandy. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Chad Severts – BWSR changing areas due to Clean Water Funding. Discussed the Joint Powers grant for a GIS specialist and the One Watershed, One Plan.

Disposal of Records – Koebernick gave a list of the records that will be disposed of per the records retention schedule.

Strategic Planning – Supervisor Sells made a motion to set up a date for a strategic planning meeting to be held prior to April 15, 2014, seconded by Supervisor Iles. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost of Living Adjustment – Supervisor Goodrich made a motion to implement the Federal COLA increase to permanent staff, seconded by Supervisor Sells. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Personnel Policy – Supervisor Iles made a motion to table until next month, seconded by Supervisor Grandy. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bank statement, MCIT bulletin, JPB report, Enbridge letters

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on March 11, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the office at 212 ½ Second Street W, Park Rapids. We will be discussing the farm bill, personnel policy, annual report, and staffing company.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Supervisor Sells to adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

APPROVED: 3/11/14 SECRETARY Robert A. Iles
Date Robert Iles, Secretary