

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 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
Wade Salo, Irrigation Specialist
Aaron Salo, District Technician
Mike Stevens, Farm Services
Greg Tweed, Always There Staffing, Inc.

Supervisor Rettinger opened the meeting at 8:31 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 the addition of cost-share, seconded by Supervisor Iles. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve the minutes of February 12, 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 there will be another public hearing on Enbridge and the Sandpiper Pipeline. Rod Skoe is going into legislation to pass a bill to help fund AIS at the county level. The sales tax for maintenance of county roads will probably not be put in place for 2014.

REPORTS

Supervisors' Reports: Supervisor Rettinger brought in the minutes from last month's Giziibii meeting. He also attended the Grazing Workshop.

Supervisor Goodrich attended the Grazing Workshop and also brought Melissa to Pine River to pick up the new truck.

Supervisor Sells passed out information on the AIS bill that is being proposed and passed out an article regarding Texas fracking.

Supervisor Goodrich made a motion that the SWCD draft a resolution in support of S.F. 2342 and its companion bill, seconded by Supervisor Iles. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried. Supervisor Goodrich was appointed to write the draft.

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

- Continued gathering data for the Mississippi Headwaters watershed
- Identifying Priority Management Zones in Crow Wing Watershed
- Continued working on the WRAP document for Crow Wing Watershed
- Attended Blandin Community Leadership Program
- Checked on pricing for lettering, bed mats and liners
- Working with City of Park Rapids regarding possible Community Partners Grant for storm sewer retention basin off Riverside Ave below the dam.
- Tablets and accessories were ordered for inspection program
- COLA AIS task force meeting
- Looks like there will be 7,900 hours of inspections for 2014 on 25 lakes
- Waiting to see if we were approved for an AIS DNR grant
- Went through storage room – made a list of items no longer in use

Supervisor Sells made a motion to authorize spending \$680 to repair both Hydrolab sondes, seconded by Supervisor Grandy. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Supervisor Sells made a motion to dispose of the items listed that are no longer being used, seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Supervisor Iles made a motion to send Nate Sitz to the AIS Symposium on March 19, seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

Last Month

- Groundwater management area meeting
- Met with Wade Salo to promote irrigation scheduler program
- Attended Irrigation Workshop in East Ottertail
- Attended Grazing Workshop
- Webinar on Honey Bee/pollinators
- MACDE mtg in St Cloud
- Community Partners grant meeting
- 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 corps intern
- Truck will be here next week
- Akeley City Council & Park Rapids City Council meeting, COLA meeting
- WCA – Enbridge application BWSR will handle.

Next Month

- Area 8 meeting
- SWCD strategic planning
- Nevis Township meeting - AIS
- Community Partners grant application deadline – March 31
- Ground water management meeting
- Leech Lake WRAP meeting
- Local Water Plan meeting
- Mississippi Headwaters Board meeting

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Civil Rights

- March is Women's History Month
- Annual Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Discussion

Program Update

- No new information

Outreach/educational

- Grazing Workshop @ Guthrie Community Center
- Ag in the classroom

Current activities/other

- Area 1 meeting on February 20
- Working with new applications and current contracts
- Mid-year reviews

OLD BUSINESS

Unemployment/Staffing – Greg Tweed from Always There Staffing, Inc. gave a presentation regarding the services they provide.

Supervisor Sells made a motion that we enter into a one year contract with the staffing company to provide services for hired seasonal staff, seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Irrigation Scheduler Program – Wade Salo gave a presentation to the board on the Irrigation Scheduler Program. They are looking at placing a weather station somewhere in Hubbard.

Corn Stalk Testing – Aaron Salo gave a presentation on the Corn stalk testing program. It is a free program to producers to show the nitrate levels in the corn stalks.

Farm Bill – Mike Stevens gave the board an update on the programs and changes that are being made to the Farm Bill.

Resolution process – Supervisor Sells brought in a draft proposal for Resolution Process and will make minor editing changes and bring to the Area 8 meeting. Supervisor Goodrich made a motion to carry proposal to the Area 8 meeting on March 14, 2014, seconded by Supervisor Iles. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

