

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM December 14, 2016 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes from the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting at 603 Central Avenue North, Park Rapids, MN.

Members present: Bob Iles, Chair/Acting Secretary
 Lynn Goodrich, Vice-Chair
 Don Rettinger, PR&I
 Don Sells, Treasurer

Others absent: District 2 Supervisor – vacancy
 Ed Smith, Hubbard County Commissioner

Others present: Julie Kingsley, District Manager
 Annette Olson, Administrative Assistant
 Jamin Carlson, Water Quality/Resource Specialist
 Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist
 Marcel Noyes, Interested in District 2 Supervisor position

Supervisor Iles opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Julie Kingsley asked to remove from the agenda under Public Input – (a) Julie Blackburn-schedule conflict, she will attend January meeting; move Supervisor Replacement from New Business to January agenda. Other January agenda items added – Leech Lake 1W1P MOA, Administrative Assistant 6 month review.

A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Supervisor Sells requested to correct spelling errors as follows: on bottom of page 1 (Treasurer's to ~~Treasurer~~ Treasurer's), page 3 - 3rd bullet from bottom on Water Quality Specialist's Report (Oct 24-16 to Oct 24-26), page 4 - 4th bullet from top (preping to prepping).

Supervisor Sells moved to approve the corrected minutes. Supervisor Rettinger seconded the motion. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sells and Supervisor Goodrich asked for clarification on a couple of items. Treasurer Sells presented the Treasurer's Report to the board, subject to the auditor's review.

PUBLIC INPUT

Marcel Noyes came to the meeting as an interested party for the District 2 Supervisor opening.

Marcel handed out copies of his latest resume and gave us an overview of his past experiences and interests. The board will address the District 2 vacancy at the January meeting.

REPORTS

Supervisor's Reports:

Supervisor Iles: Attended the planning meeting for our January 17th "Meet Your Local SWCD". Ideas for the event include short presentations on topics like the Buffer Initiative, LWP, 1W1P, "What is a SWCD", WCA, Ditch Inventory and promote the Grazing Workshop, and Fresh Water Festival. We will have plat books, wall maps and Plantskydd available for sale. Free nitrate testing will be available. It was suggested to reduce the price of our Plat Books to \$25 for the evening. There will be refreshments and various door prizes. Julie Kingsley added that she was interviewed by the Northwoods Press and DeLaHunt Broadcasting and has contacted the Enterprise papers to put an article in the December papers and then place an add ad before the event. COLA will have a table to promote 20 years of water quality monitoring. Supervisor Iles also passed a letter to the editor on watercraft inspection and an article on how road salt affects our lakes and rivers.

Supervisor Goodrich: Attended the initial organizational 1W1P meeting that was very well attended. He also mentioned that MN COLA will be having a webinar on building relationships with the new legislature on 12/15/16 at 10:00 am and interested parties can register online today.

Supervisor Sells: Reported that the MN SWCD Forestry sent out a request for a new annual donation of \$2,400/year from each of the SWCD's in Area 3 and Area 8 (19 counties) to assist with supporting the forestry personnel, Mitchell Lundeen. Julie Kingsley mentioned that this is Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) and that this three-year grant should cover this. We may be better covered by 'renting time' from our local forester's – Darren Mayers from Crow Wing County and Anne Oldakowski in Wadena County. Continued membership in this program would be good, but will we benefit from this? Julie will continue to check into this. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

Supervisor Rettinger: No Report.

District Manager's Report – Julie Kingsley reported meetings attended:

- January 17th event planning session.
- Conference call for North Central Area Envirothon – May 3, 2017 at Lake Bemidji State Park, State Envirothon on May 15, 2017, National Envirothon July 23-29, 2017 in Maryland.
- Area 8 Forestry meeting at Itasca State Park on November 29, 2016 on needs of Northern Area 8 Counties.
- MAWQCP meeting on December 1st, money is available for publicity. Jim Lahn will present at our Grazing Workshop.
- Webinar on 319 Grants, December 8, 2016.
- Fresh Water Festival scheduled for May 17, 2017.

Other projects for the month:

- Pine Haven Camp has received their variance and building permits. They are ready to go in spring. With Eagle Bay backing out of their project, these dollars are now available for another possible project for Pine Heaven Camp.
- Leech Lake River 1W1P – attended several meetings. 1W1P hours put in before signing are not reimbursable.
- Mississippi Headwaters – we are fiscal agent through 2017.
- Nitrate Testing was Dec 2nd and we had two samples to test.
- Pineland Sands Aquifer- Pollinators/Trees – we have received two more applications and Anne is in the process of site visits.

Upcoming Events:

- Webinar on Dec 13 and 15th for those interested in Request for Qualifications for Consultants, ~~questions to ask~~, 1W1P.
- Next board meeting Jan 11, 2017 at 8:30 am.
- JPB meeting in Beltrami Court Administration Building on December 19, 2016 from 10:00-12:30.
- County Board Meeting December 20, 2016 for the MOA for Leech Lake but it wont be ready so will have to do this at the January meeting.
- WCA reports are due the end of January and all other BWSR reporting due February 1st.
- January 24, 2017 will be speaking at the career Day for Park Rapids School.
- February 14, 2017 will be speaking at the Life Long Learning Center “Hubbard Water Quality and You”
- February 23, 2017 will be speaking at the Nevis Career Day

Water Quality/Resource Specialist’s Report – Jamin Carlson reported on the following:

- AIS – meeting with Bill DonCarlos and phone call. No news information on TrafX equipment.
- WCA – maps and visit for Thole property, Anderson and Farden TWP, maps and site visit to Augeson property.
- Buffers – completed mapping required and created a letter template.
- Ditch Inventory – received one sample but waiting for final footage to finish before end of December.
- Conservation Delivery – Behrens property looking into getting conservation plans on north side of Fish Hook Lake (up to 190 acres).
- Community Partners – Meeting, phone conversations and emails with Pine Heaven; a possible second project for them with the dollars that are now available - road and rain gardens which could help with costs on their first project. Supervisor Sells mentioned a SWCD Board site visit would be great in spring when construction is in progress.
- Cost-Share – Meetings for Deer View Road and Edgewood Estates, contacting property owners on projects from 2015-2016, Fredman group for bids, Shively group for ice conditions, Junco Road sent memo to Lyle L, and updating older cost-share files from 2014, 2015, and 2016.
- Meetings/Trainings – Stormwater Webinar (11/17) and SWCD Board Meeting (11/9).
- Worked on website construction with Paul Bunyan getting items ready and sent on for creating the site. Draft site should be ready for review by December 22nd.
- Obwells – Input data from tablet on the 43 wells we monitor to the DNR website.

- Next month – will continue to work on Cost-Share, Conservation Delivery, Community Partners, Buffers, WCA annual reporting, Ditch Inventory (put together final report), Website, and grant meetings/webinars.

Julie Kingsley commented that Hubbard County will be granting us the original \$22,000 plus an additional \$8,000 with additional match of \$100.00 from BWSR for a total of \$30,100.00 for next year.

District Conservationist Report – Dan Pazdernik reported on the following:

- The Civil Rights & Equal Opportunity Partner Discussions was reviewed with the board and all 4 supervisors signed off for the review.
- CPS signup for FY2017 deadline is set for February 3, 2017.
- EQIP eligibility deadline was extended to December 30, 2016, and indicated that all contracts will be obligated by May12, 2017.
- Outreach – Alicia sent CSP public service announcements to the Northwoods Press and Park Rapids Enterprise on November 11, 2016, not seen in print yet.
- Current activities and other items include: Conservation planning for EQIP, FY2016 CSP Payments, FY2017 CSP renewal contracts, Dan is serving as the acting District Conservationist for the Baudette FO from November through January in addition to responsibilities in the Park Rapids FO, and planning for the Grazing Workshop on February 28, 2017 at the Guthrie Community Center.

Supervisors will turn in their vouchers at the January meeting like usual and the payroll schedule will be adjusted as needed.

Chair Iles called for a break at 10:44 am.
Meeting reconvened at ~~10:08~~ 11:10 am.

Jamin showed an aerial taping of ditches that he received last week.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Budget Committee will meet December 27, 2016 at 9:00 am to complete the 2017 budget now that we have the county dollar amount.
- The website update – covered earlier in the meeting, and should come back to review December 22nd.
- Century Link – Administrative Assistant reported that the Century Link hub is too old in our area to have voice mail capabilities when our line is busy. We have had many comments that our line is always busy and we should put in a second line. This would cost an additional \$40/month with a one-time \$50 fee to hook it up. There would be a prorated charge if we would sign up for the one, two, or three year contract to get a lower rate on our monthly bill if we would want to opt out early.

Supervisor Sells moved to update our service to a 3-year contract with Century Link and to add a second line to improve our telephone system. Supervisor Goodrich seconded the motion. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Jamin showed a past drone aerial taping of last years ditch inventory.

NEW BUSINESS

- The work plan will be updated for next months meeting for approval.
- The board reviewed the regular board meeting dates for 2017, they all look okay.
- The 2017 Calendar of Events was reviewed, additions/corrections were made and it will be updated for next months meeting approval.
- The board members were asked if they were interested in PERA (retirement) benefit. All agreed that they were not interested in PERA for the minimal dollars they earn.

CORRESPONDENCE

- We received a thank you card from Ruth.
- MASWCD sent an invitation for the board members to sign-up for state committees – the notice was sent around to review. No interest was shown.
- North Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board sent a report – passed around to review.
- Flyers are available to post around the area for the WRAP meeting coming up in January – How to Better Restore and Protect the Mississippi Headwaters to Lake Pokegama.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County SWCD Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the office at 603 Central Avenue North, Park Rapids, MN. Items for the agenda include: Julie Blackburn from RESPEC, Brandon DeFoe –NRCS Soil Scientist, Review Annual Work Plan, Review the By-Laws and Personnel Policy, Approve 2017 Calendar, our first “Meet Your Local SWCD” on January 17, 2017, Approve Data Policy, deciding/voting on the new District 2 Supervisor, Leech Lake 1W1P MOA and MN SWCD Forestry.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Supervisor Sells to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

APPROVED: 1/11/17
Date

SECRETARY 
Lynn Goodrich, acting Vice-Chair/Acting Secretary