

# HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## MINUTES FROM June 13, 2020 SPECIAL/EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING

Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors meeting held via Zoom at 10:00am.

Members present: Marcel Noyes, Chair  
Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair  
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary  
Don Sells, Treasurer & PR&I

Members absent: District III Supervisor

Others present: Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager  
Annette Olson, Administrative Assistant  
Alicia Gohmann, WQR Technician

Chair Noyes opened the Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was called to discuss the pros and cons of our District becoming involved with the Coordinated Conservation Grazing in Minnesota grant. Items to discuss:

- ❖ Discussion on the potential position responsibility & related funding source
- ❖ Benefits for Hubbard SWCD to have the Grazing Technician on our team
- ❖ Potential downside/issues
- ❖ Resource to fill the Grazing Technician position

The Board discussion covered the following:

- **Summary:** What is the length of the grant (3 years/3-8 years?) and if we are awarded the grant what would the timeline expectations be for the completion of the process?
- **Introduction:** What other organizations will be involved with this grant? Hubbard SWCD and Ducks Unlimited will be the 2 sub-awardees and each will house a grazing specialist. Several letters of support were received from other organizations.
- **Program Objectives:** Concerns on the multi-ownership grazing – We would like more information/clarification on how this will be handled when adjoined state or federal land are next to privately owned land and how will they get access? Will there be grant money available to help with making these acres/parcels accessible?
- **Methods:** Would like more details/information on what skills/training will be necessary/required for the person filling this/these positions and if some parts of the job could be contracted out.
- **Budget:** Other items discussed included: more information wanted on a few items of the proposed budget, how the grant money would be received and processed, what benefit the landowner would have if they got involved, who would be eligible to participate. Verify if the county attorney would be available for us when needed.
- **Evaluation:** When is the evaluation to be done? Nothing is required at this time.

- **Budget Detail:** What are the guidelines for the vehicle lease, occupancy and how will the funding come? With the grant being over \$50,000, will funds come to us in a 50%/40%/10% amount or like the Local Capacity, a lump sum up front with good tracking for all costs?
- **Other:** What is the timeline for this grant? Timeline has expedited overnight and could happen by September 2020. What do the landowners get if involved? How does the private landowner get involved? Letter of support is needed by Monday's meeting.

The Board indicated that it would be a good opportunity for us, and that Crystal should put a letter of interest together. **Supervisor Goodrich moved to authorize the District Manager to write a letter of interest and intent to participate in the Coordinated Conservation Grazing in Minnesota grant proposal. Supervisor Rettinger seconded the motion. Approve: Goodrich, Rettinger, Sells and Noyes. Opposed: None. Motion passed.** Crystal will write the letter and send on to the Supervisors for feedback and/or changes for the meeting she will attend on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Noyes announced, meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.

APPROVED: 7-8-2020  
Date

SECRETARY   
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary