

HUBBARD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM March 10, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors meeting held via Zoom.

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

Members absent: District 3 Supervisor - Vacant

Others present: Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager
Annette Olson, Administrative Assistant
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist
Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner

Chair Noyes opened the Zoom meeting at 8:32 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Items added to the agenda: #6 New Business: Non-Action item d. FSP Request for Gamehaven Sanctuary, Inc. **A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Goodrich moved to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Noyes seconded the motion. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Sells mentioned he had no comments on the report. Staff indicated the same. Treasurer Sells presented the treasurer's report to the board, subject to the auditor's review.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Report: Staff gave a brief report indicating the annual report was put on hold while other items needed attention. A draft will be sent out as soon as completed.
- Century Link Phone Service: Staff gave an update on the status of our phone and wireless contract and service. We can continue our phone service at about the same rate as before and was informed that we now could receive 60M speed service instead of 7M speed Wi-Fi if we upgrade our modem for a one time fee of \$60. The Board will allow Crystal to make the final decision with our new contract with Century Link/Lumen.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Spring Newsletter: Staff asked the board for ideas for articles they would like to see in the spring edition. (*ideas: introduce new technicians, tree sale update, info on IWIP's with forest stewardship information, aquarium moss balls containing zebra mussels, townships needing rain monitors*) <https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/zebra-mussel-disposal.html>
- Sunsetting Resolutions: Staff compiled a list of resolutions that are scheduled to retire in December 2021 and asked that everyone read through them prior to the April meeting.
- 2021 Tree Sale and Area Donations: Staff highlighted what trees remain and ideas for donations throughout Hubbard County schools. Possible areas to donate trees could be state and county parks in Hubbard County and our new technicians could do tree planting presentations with area schools. It was recommended that staff work on a tree planting module for our Virtual Lab as well.
- FSP Request for Gamehaven Sanctuary, Inc.: Staff received a request for possible cost-share help for a forest plan on their 160 acres. Staff wanted confirmation/approval from the board to use Local Capacity Forestry grant funds to help these private landowners. The Board approved Crystal to go ahead as needed after checking to see if there would be any restrictions/conflicts with DNR or BWSR.
- Hats with Logo: Staff is looking into getting hats with our logo for thank-you, prizes, and for staff and supervisor use. The Board is interested in having several styles available and requested staff to gather information and bring to our April meeting.
- New CD(s): Staff presented information to start new CD's with the recently received grant funds until needed. The Board directed staff to determine the best rate and length to get us back into our quarterly system and report back at our next meeting.
- Irrigation Scheduler: Crystal gave report on past participation and what we would like to do this year. The Board asked for more detail on the staff funded position through Wadena SWCD and agreed to pay the requested funds to cover software upkeep.
Supervisor Rettinger made a motion to approve payment for \$625.00 towards the software tool. Supervisor Goodrich seconded. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried. Crystal will notify Darren Newville with the decision and request more information about their staff position for the next meeting.

Supervisor Rettinger will share an article from Cenex Harvest States (CHS) magazine on aquifer levels diminishing in Minnesota, Iowa - all the way down to Texas. Staff will link to our media pages. <https://www.chsinc.com/about-chs/news/news/2021/03/01/water-challenges-prompt-new-strategies>

- Long Lake Monitoring for 2021: Staff brought the agreement to do 2021 dissolved oxygen and chemistry monitoring on Long Lake to the board for approval. The Board agreed that Crystal can sign off on this agreement and others like it if it is \$2,000 or under, and then notify the board of the action in the next month's reporting. Staff will follow through with needed signature and send a copy on to client.
- Brining Equipment for County Roads & Brining Solution: Crystal gave report on status of the project and explained the process. We are still waiting for the needed paperwork and will bring back to the board next month.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Commissioner Krueger reported that they recently filled their two open positions, Jamie Freeman for the County Assessor and Jeff Caldwell as the County Administrator. They will start their new positions soon. They discussed the Conservation Fund, former Potlatch lands, at their last work session and are looking at parcels of interest to buy after selling off less desirable/profitable county owned lands. They are waiting on the special state legislature drafting to allow funds received from parcels sold to be used directly for future purchase of parcels better suited for their needs. They plan to check on a parcel that might work well for a county campground area. Supervisor Sells asked for clarification on the county board policies on political issues. Commissioner Krueger responded with a 3-step process: to have a commissioner propose a topic at one meeting, discuss at another meeting and vote on it at a 3rd meeting. Crystal asked for clarification on how much time in advance the County Board would need if the SWCD District would want to bring a proposal to the County Board. Mr. Krueger's responded with: non-partisan issues should not need 3 months to approve but it would be a good idea to bring to their work session first so that they have time to discuss and think about before voting.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST:

Dan Pazdernik gave an update on projects coming up and project applications/renewals. Dan also reported that the Park Rapids service area can now allow up to four staff in the building on a daily basis and gave an update on staff changes.

Chair Noyes called for a break at 10:02 am.

Meeting reconvened at 10:12 am.

REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND MEETINGS:

Chair Noyes: Chair Noyes participated in the Mississippi Headwaters Board, Managers/Chair and Mississippi Headwaters River Watershed Zoom meetings. Attended the Henderson, Lakeport, and Hart Lake township meetings. Worked on finding matching funds for the Kabekona River project and did a site visit with staff to check out the area. Created an article to run in the area newspapers on the importance of nitrate testing for private well water and scheduled special drop off sites in Benedict, Laporte and the Peddler at Kabekona Corner for the morning of April 1st to be tested in the office on April 2nd. He also spoke with Beltrami Electric about their Roundup Program to submit grant requests by March 23rd. Later he added Lakeport Township indicated they stopped using all chloride on their township roads to help reduce runoff into ground water.

Supervisor Sells: Supervisor Sells plans to phone into the Soil and Water Conservation District Forestry Meeting on the 18th. He attended a U of M Webinar on Forestry and Climate Change through the Ramsey County Library.

Supervisor Goodrich: Supervisor Goodrich talked with MN legislators about promoting lakes and SWCD's. He attended the Webinar on Forestry and Climate Change and commented on how climate will impact the tree planting species recommendations and sales in the future.

Supervisor Rettinger: Supervisor Rettinger attended the Webinar on Forestry and Climate Change.

District Manager's Report: Crystal thanked Chair Noyes for all the work he has done including the Kabekona River Project. She highlighted possible summer internship options, cost-share projects on Kabekona River and Big Sand Lake, presented prep work for the Crow Wing watershed area covered through grants and a WCA project working on replacement credits. Crystal's notes are available upon request.

Administrative Assistant's Report: Staff will visit with DNR Colten about the wells that we could not reach due to the Enbridge Line 3 barricades. Annette's notes are available upon request.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you from Candy Malm's family
- MN SWCD Forestry Assn. meeting (FYI)
(March 18 @ 10:00 at Methodist Church in McGregor, MN)

WORKING LIST OF PRIORITIES:

- Leadership: Crystal visiting with former District 5A State Representative Persell, hiring of two technicians, involving townships and lake associations in current projects, continuing communication with partners/media outlets, several articles in local papers, articles in other publications, and staff sharing new ideas to help with our jobs.
- Financial Management: keep a close eye on the CD's and managing them.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular board meeting of the Hubbard County Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday April 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via ZOOM. Items on the agenda: awareness article, online Envirothon, Legislative Days, Spring Newsletter, look at Sunsetting Resolutions, set Budget Committee Meeting date, Tree Sale, County Fair, nitrate clinic schedule, review Annual Report and Financial Statements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Goodrich to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

APPROVED: 4/14/2021
Date

SECRETARY: 
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary