

Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 8:30 am

Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the office with a Zoom option available.

Office Address: 603 Central Avenue North, Suite 100, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

Refreshments on your own!

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

Others present: Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager
Annette Olson, Administrative Assistant
Brandon Spain-Brist, Forestry Resource Technician
Jake Shaughnessy, Water Quality Resource Technician
Claire Hansen, Community Conservationist
Tom Krueger, County Commissioner
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist
Dan Steward, HCSWCD Contractor

Chair Noyes opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Staff requested to add the MRHW Comprehensive Plan to the agenda: New Business Action Item D. **A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to accept the agenda as modified. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**

MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Rettinger to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Staff noted that the audit information is loaded into their portal. Plat book sales are notably good for this time of the year. Supervisor Sells has reviewed the financials and submitted the treasurer's report to the Board for filing.

- **Dan Steward Presentation (Landowner Vision-Alignments, Goals & Benefits):** Private Forest Management is important and uncomplicated. Dan presented the change of land use and deforestation in Minnesota. A major note that at 25% of agriculture increases mean a total of phosphorus significantly. This is where the 75% land protection metric comes from. This impacts fisheries, forest products, as well as recreation, and drinking water. The landowner chooses the level of protection based on need and interest in forest stewardship, easements, and fee title purchase. RAQ (Riparian, Adjacency, and Quality) Scoring is used to score a parcel for protection. The Crow Wing watershed has many of the high-quality lakes to protect.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Sunsetting Resolutions Review:** District Manager Mathisrud mentioned that items 1 and 4 need to be reviewed. Items 5 and 6 may potentially need work. These will be sent electronically and reviewed by the Board for the next meeting.

Action:

- **Formal Motion for SWCD Redistricting:** A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich that upon review of the existing districting the board is in compliance as the districts are well allocated to the mission of the SWCD. Therefore, the board will retain the current districts as the existing districting is sufficient. Seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: Supervisors Noyes, Rettinger, Goodrich, Anderson-Thomas. Opposed: None. Abstained: Sells. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Supervisors File for Election (May 17 - May 31, 2022):** Supervisors' Goodrich, Sells, and Anderson-Thomas need to file.
- **Tree Sale Update:** Minnesota Native Landscape will be sending in seeds. The pavilion is open for setup. Badoura and Schumacher will have trees in by Thursday at the latest. HC COLA orders will be sorted on Friday morning with the help from Cheryl Hilgemann and Sharon Natzel. Supervisors will volunteer for distribution Friday and Saturday. Broken bundles of trees will be available at \$2 per tree. We may need trees for the FWF, waiting to hear back from the DNR. A bundle of Cottonwoods can also be used for the Tree Sale Seminar.
- **FWF Update:** Trees will need to be wrapped on Tuesday afternoon (May 17th) and tables set up for Wednesday. Supervisor Rettinger and Anderson-Thomas offered to assist as needed. Donations are secured and there are over 330 student participants.
- **Fair Booth Prep:** The fair display board was redone last year and is in good shape.

Action:

- **Credit Card for Claire:** Having a credit card available would be helpful for staff prior to Annette leaving. A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve a credit card with a limit of \$2,000 for HCSWCD business use. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.
- **New Resolutions:** Forest Practice Impact Projection Tool: The resolution is set to go. There needs to be signature lines approved for entities beyond HCSWCD. There should be a note about cost to the MASWCD and financial implications for the organization added prior to Hubbard County SWCD. This will be dependent on the state template. A motion was made by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas to accept the Hubbard County Forestry Tool for Restoration/Protection Resolution. Seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.
- **Legal Contract Review and Template Creation to Support:** BWSR is not equipped with the resources for SWCD's to manage contracts and legal operation. A resolution for funding to be put in place for resources for assistance will be helpful. Many SWCD's do not have access to a legal team. A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve the Resolution to Support BSWR with Legal Assistance to SWCD'S for One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Relationships be accepted. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

- **Four-Hour Early Dismissal:** Monday, May 9th was an USDA early release. There is some value to the social aspect, but it needs to be at a time offered when there is less workload, and not at the last minute when meetings are already scheduled. Options are available to not offer it, offer it at a selected time, or offer it as individual time off. This will be tabled for the next meeting. Supervisors agree a good option is to offer the four hours as an optional staff picnic with the Supervisors.
- **Comprehensive Agreement for Implementation of MRH Watershed Comprehensive Plan:** This is the revised contract by Supervisor Noyes, District Manager Mathisrud, and the attorney. This version has been agreed upon and awaiting the MCIT review. Once MCIT reviews with their risk reduction professionals, then signatures can be approved. They need the MOA and other documents. This will be shared with SWCD's who are interested. **A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to adopt the contract for participation in the MRHW 1W1P, subject to review by the MCIT. Seconded by Supervisor Sells. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC INPUT

Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner: Heritage living center is up to \$300,000 in losses each month with the first 6 months totaling \$1,139,000. Timber sales are going along well. In 2022, there has been \$794,000 in timber sales, 20% goes to parks and rec, up to 30% for forest restoration, and the rest can go to townships and school board. There are 4 commissioner districts up for election. Commissioner Christenson's district will be a 2yr election. The County Board supports the Crow Wing 1W1P planning and next step will be a MOA. The board conducted a tour of highway work for 2022. Supervisor Noyes mentioned that County 5 north of Laporte needs to be graded more often. Supervisor Rettinger noted that County 3 up to County 9 needs to be looked at. Staff can check with Jed (County Highway Department) for dates of public highway meetings for attendance. The next meeting will be June 6th in the Park Rapids Courthouse at 7pm.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

District Conservationist Pazdernik's report is available upon request.

REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND MEETINGS

Chair Noyes: Attended the Garfield Ice Racers meeting. Supervisor Noyes proposed a wetland pollinator planting in the wetland pollinator area and a picnic table in the flat area. A cement picnic table and a seeding would be done. It will have signage for HCSWCD. Supervisor Noyes received a check for the full amount projected for this project from the Ice Racers at the city council meeting. The bench could be delivered as soon as the week of June 8th. They are interested in seeking assistance in creating a private gated access to the lake for winter races to mitigate trash left behind. Chair Noyes met with Commissioner Dan Stacy several times and Commissioner Ted Van Kempen in a meeting with Beltrami County officials. He will volunteer at the tree sale and FWF. He needs dates for coordinating volunteers on the Kabekona project. Supervisor Rettinger offered a 2-man auger for fencing. Updates on the Laporte Days fireworks and nitrate clinic Chair Noyes invited HCCOLA and lake associations to set up tables at the event.

Chairman Noyes called for a break 10:43am, the meeting reconvened at 10:48am.

Supervisor Anderson-Thomas: Attended Lake Emma township meeting and sent out 4 mailings to other townships. She attended the Crow Wing Planning Meeting, 4 different Webinars including Fridays with the Forester, silvopasture and woodland grazing.

Supervisor Sells: Attended the Crow Wing Planning meeting in person. It was a good meeting and well put together. Forestry meeting upcoming in person next Thursday at McGregor, MN.

Supervisor Goodrich: Conducted interviews for the intern and reported they found a good candidate that will be joining us this summer starting Monday, May 23rd.

Supervisor Rettinger: Attended the personal Committee and TSA 8 and reported supervisors will be receiving a survey regarding the TSA8.

District Manager's Report: District Manager needed to leave for a meeting. Her report is available upon request. Questions regarding her report can be emailed to her. She would like to see supervisors attend the TSA 8 review meeting.

District Staff's Report: Reports available upon request. Annette reported that there are 17 - 2019 plat books left to distribute to local fire departments. Staff also commented on the wild rice easement outreach being done.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2022 Calendar of Events Working Copy 3.14.2022
- 2021 Accomplishments List (with new QR codes)
- CRP Booklet (per request)
- New DNR Fisheries Supervisor
- Twin Lakes Lake Association Newsletter

WORKING LIST OF PRIORITIES

Leadership – Resolutions, Garfield Ice Racers, hiring of an intern, consistent active outreach programs, personal growth initiatives with learning opportunities, freshwater festival, tree sale, tree seminar, and Cass Lake school education.

Financial Management – Annette moved savings to checking for bills, credit card for newest technician, donation from Garfield Ice Racers.

NEXT MEETING

June 8, 2022, Items to include: Annual Reporting, Tree Sales Review, FWF Review, Area 8 Meeting Review 2023 Budget, RIM inspections due by September, Submit New Resolutions, Nitrate Schedule, Fair Booth and Fair Activity, Forest Stewardship Application/Contract

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goodrich made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

APPROVED: 6/8/2022
Date

SECRETARY 
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary