

# Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 8:30 am

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

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

*Refreshments on your own!*

*USDA requires everyone in the office to mask up due to elevated COVID numbers in the community.*

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  
Claire Hansen, Community Conservationist  
Tom Krueger, County Commissioner  
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist  
Kim Valentine, PARO Bookkeeper  
Kevin Krantz, HCSWCD/NWLT Intern  
Chris Pence, BWSR Board Conservationist

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

## AGENDA

**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 Goodrich to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Annette will update the year on the CD. Leftover t-shirts can be given out or sold. Supervisor Sells presented the financials to the board for filing.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Tree Sale Review:** Brandon reported that the last few trees were given out. Every person who purchased trees was able to get their trees or their trees credited to the next year.
- **Freshwater Festival Review:** The freshwater festival went very well. Next year there may be two more schools in attendance. We will be looking into changing locations for several presentations.
- **Area 8 Meeting Reminder:** Two supervisors would like to attend by zoom, but there was not a zoom option available.

## **Action:**

- **Forest Stewardship Contract (meeting w/DNR 6/17/22 will present in July):** No action needed. Crystal has a meeting scheduled for June 17th for the contract. Crystal should have the final details by July. There needs to be more help communicating needs between consulting foresters and SWCDs. There

are increased needs for FSP the private foresters need to be upfront about the workload so the HCSWCD can continue to support clients as the foresters

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Kim Valentine Introduction, PARO & updates:** Kim has an accounting degree through Carson Newman University. She has 20+ years of experience. She will be working closely with Crystal, and Supervisor Sells.
- **Kevin Krantz Introduction:** Kevin will be working with the NWLT 50% of the time working on Carbon Sequestration. He will work with the Hubbard SWCD the other 50% of the time with Hubbard duties. Kevin has a science and information background. He is working on a major in environmental toxicology and a minor in indigenous studies.
- **RIM Inspections Due by September:** Crystal will attend the first inspection with Brandon and Claire. Then staff will complete the following inspections before September.
- **Submit New Resolutions - Itasca SWCD:** The two resolutions went through to those that needed it. The third resolution is not complete and will be brought forward in the future when it is complete.
- **Nitrate Schedule:** Becida Days, National Night Out, and Blueberry festival will not be attended unless the organizers show interest and invite HCSWCD to attend. Lake George coffee gathering would be a good way to reach locals. It was suggested to check with men's groups in Laporte or Akeley for nitrate clinics.

### **Action:**

- **Approve Annual Report and Work Plan:** We can go without the executive summary this year. It will be tabled for this year. None of the edits will change the contents. They are far enough along that it will be able to be approved. The 2022 Budget will need to be added along with the 2023 budget. Crystal's list of the priorities is in Crystal's excel and needs to be worked on before adding. Annette has edits the document including page numbers that need to be added. **A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve the annual report and work plan noting that there are minor edits to be completed. Seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**
- **Approve 2023 Budget:** We were awarded another \$25,000 in state funds from the CPL. This needs to be worked into the budget. Money is mostly with schools and school forests with little for admin overhead. The county will receive the budget will need to be in by July. Telephone and internet bills went up, they should be updated to \$3,800 for next year. A meeting will be scheduled for Supervisor Sells, Kim, Annette, Supervisor Goodrich, and Crystal to go through the budget. The budget needs to be approved by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Crystal will meet with Jeff to verify the dates and times to present. The board may need a special session to approve or reschedule the board meeting. **A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to authorize the ability to move the July Board Meeting to July 6<sup>th</sup> if needed to meet deadlines. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**
- **Approve our 3<sup>rd</sup> Resolution:** Tabled for now.
- **Approve MRH 1W1P No-Till Drill Agreement:** Beltrami and Hubbard County met and reviewed the contract. It is the same agreement and has been approved by the county attorney. **A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to accept the Agreement with Clearwater County regarding the MRH 1W1P No-Till Drill Agreement. Seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried.**

## PUBLIC INPUT

Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner: Highway 3 is going to be finished in 2026. Hired a new assistant veterans service officer. Kitchigami Regional Library Board voted to join a union. They are in labor negotiations. The planning commission has been busy. The Starlight Bay Resort would like to make an amendment to their conditional use permit for more dock mooring spaces. Preliminary Plat something in Farden Township to provide 34 acres into 7 lots and 81 acres and 14 lots in Farden Township and others. Heritage Living Center still taking losses. They would like to see nursing homes remain open in the area, but privately owned. County Commissioner Krueger also updated the Board that there is another applicant for County Commissioner.

## DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

District Conservationist Pazdernik's report is available upon request.

## **REPORTS ON PROJECTS AND MEETINGS**

**Chair Noyes:** Supervisor Noyes has been working on several projects including Garfield Lake Access Project for the ice racers. Garfield Ice Racer, the City of Laporte, and HCSWCD are working together on this project. Supervisor Noyes had discussions with Dan Stacy who may be able to help with the access. Supervisor Noyes has also been working on the Kabekona Project with the Laporte Lions Club. Supervisor Noyes and the trout unlimited will be helping with the next implementation project. Supervisor Noyes also assisted with the Free Sale and the Freshwater Festival.

**Supervisor Goodrich:** Supervisor Goodrich attended the forestry meeting. Supervisor Goodrich is hoping to devote more time to the SWCD in the months to come.

**Supervisor Rettinger:** Supervisor Rettinger assisted at the Tree Sale and assisted with packing trees for the Freshwater Festival.

**Supervisor Anderson-Thomas:** Supervisor Anderson-Thomas attended May 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting, Friday with the Forester Seminar, festival trees packing, clover township meeting, found new rain monitors, assisted with the Freshwater Festival, and talked to Andy with the Clay Township to give him a packet of information. She also attended the Forestry Meeting and the Tree Sale Seminar.

**Supervisor Sells:** Supervisor Sells helped with the Tree Sale and the Freshwater Festival, he attended the May HCCOLA meeting and participated via zoom. Supervisor Sells met with Dan, Brandon, and Supervisor Goodrich via zoom for the resolution next year, he attended the forestry seminar and the forestry meeting in McGregor. There were concerns about plan writers at SWCD and private consultant competition. We will need plenty of support from foresters with the amount of response from easements.

**District Managers' Report:** Crow Wing 1W1P proposal submitted, annual report and work plan, 319 interviews, coordinating for the meeting with partners. We should know by the end of June if we got the grant. HCSWCD also received the CPL grant. On June 16<sup>th</sup> there will be an all SWCD staff picnic at noon. Crystals notes are available upon request.

**District Staff's Report:** Staff clarified the MHB projects and the No Child Left Inside. Branon attended a Family Forest Carbon Program meeting. They are providing incentives for carbon sequestration. This may be an opportunity that pays for staff time as well. Tree stand types may need to be adjusted. Tree sale seminar discussion to do more advertising and outreach.

**Chris Pence's Report:** Chris Pence was recently appointed to the BWSR Board Conservationist for Hubbard County. He has experience with SWCDs, environmental services, and various counties. He has experience working with city government LGUs. Chris grew up in Walker and is familiar with the area. Chris will be the BC for Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, and Morrison. Chris is supporting watershed-based work. He is looking to attend as many meetings in person as he can to work with and become familiar with HCSWCD. The resolution for SWCD has moved forward and they are in the process of hiring a Senior Legal and Program Advisor in St. Paul.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** 2022 Calendar of Events Working Copy 5.6.2022: Update contact information. Web address to the google drive will be added to the directory.

## **WORKING LIST OF PRIORITIES**

Leadership – Great leadership was shown by staff and board members. Staff and Board Members are showing up and being participatory at meetings. Board members have also been meeting with commissioners.

Financial Management – Welcoming Kim for financials, responding to changes in the budget, the new grant opportunities, and may need to adjust the budget for the freshwater festival.

## **NEXT MEETING**

**July 13, 2022, Agenda Items to Include:** Forest Stewardship Contract, Update Contact Information, Work Plan and Annual Report, Directory Updates, CPL Budget Changes, 319 Grand Award.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Goodrich made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:05.

APPROVED: July 13, 2022  
Date

SECRETARY

  
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary