

# Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 9:00 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.

**Members present:** Heidi Anderson-Thomas, Chair  
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary  
Don Sells, Treasurer  
Marcel Noyes, PR&I - via Interactive Technology (Zoom)  
Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair

**Others present:** Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager  
Rachel Rudquist, Administrative and Bookkeeping Assistant  
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist  
Jodi Peek, Bemidji Team Lead, DC  
Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner  
Darren Mayers, Board Conservationist

**Due to remote attendance (Zoom) by Supervisor Noyes, all voting recorded by rollcall.**

## AGENDA

Chair Anderson-Thomas opened the meeting at 9 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVE AGENDA

**A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Supervisor Rettinger. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

## APPROVE LAST MONTH'S BOARD MINUTES

**A motion was made by Supervisor Rettinger to accept last month's board minutes as presented. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

## TREASURER'S REPORT / FINANCIAL SERVICES ACTION ITEMS

**Bill Consensus** pull off the amount for Clasen & Schiessl and PERA match amount corrected to \$1019.58. The consent agenda is adopted with the changes noted.

**Treasurer's Report** was explained by The District Manager. The QB Balance Sheet was printed for September 23, 2024; Don submitted to the board for filing

**2024 QBO Update** Hubbard SWCD is working with Gerry from Benton SWCD as well as Keith from Michael Peterson's office on cleaning up accounts and inactivating unused accounts.

Accept 2023 Audit Report

**A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to accept the 2023 Audit Report from Peterson and Company including adopting their recommendations. Seconded by Supervisor Sells. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

## PUBLIC INPUT

Tom Krueger- County Commissioner said Hubbard County voted on a preliminary levy which will be set at 7%. There was 14 tracts of county land approved for reclassification to be sold to the public. Four of the tracts in the northern part of the county could be used for EDA development. There will be 11 timber sales in the next auction which will be the last auction of the year. The local alcohol and tobacco ordinances were updated, and the cannabis ordinance was approved. There is a second forest management plan meeting coming up this week. We will be working on allowable reforestation. Tom Krueger would like to see the conversion of 10% of the current 72,000 acres of aspen to longer maturing species by 2035 such as white pine, red

pine. Balance the Aspen age classes with 50- or 60-year rotation to be more in line with the maturity level.

### **DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST**

District Conservationist Dan Pazdernik report is available upon request

### **BOARD CONSERVATIONIST**

Board Conservationist Darren Meyers – BWSR academy registration is open until October 4. Crow Wing SWCD will be having a bus tour next week. “We Are Water” is still at the Tribal college in Cass Lake if anyone is interested. FY 2025 grant agreements will be more detailed and there will be a lot more information going forward. There will be education and webinars coming soon on this to gain a better understanding. GAM will be getting updated as well.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Fall Newsletter Topics** - fall newsletter will be put together shortly. What information should we include in our Newsletter? Tree Sale, highlight new employee, add Grant information and opportunities, legislative bus tour, bill coming up for clean water funds, Help people understand where the funding comes from for our projects (ex: Lessard-Sams). Showcase projects from 1W1P that Hubbard SWCD has done. Partnership with Becker County SWCD soil health employee. Supervisors are running for re-election. Talk about new plat book and e-book coming up.

**Photo submissions for 2025 Plat Book update** – We will post to social media and the board supervisors can pass the word around and have people include pictures. The front cover photo winner will get a free plat book. Give submissions people recognition letter. Theme Nature/Outdoors

### **OLD BUSINESS ACTION**

**Update policies to standardize benefit language:** Healthcare Cash Reimbursement vs Healthcare Stipend – talk with MCIT and get advice and report back with the board at Q4 strategic planning in January or before.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Hay Creek/Island Lake Shoreline Erosion Cost Share (Pine Hollow - Jake)**

Jake came in and explained the project, with pictures of what is happening and what he feels needs to be done to take care of the issue. There is tension cracking along about 80 lineal feet of undercut shore that needs stabilization. The project cost estimate for contract no: 20240924-CWR-HCB is \$18,925.00. A 75% reimbursement works out to be \$14,193.75.

**Forestry Association budget** - They are needing someone to step up and do the administrative job. One option is to hire someone part time hourly(\$70/hr.) or option two is to have the 17 districts pay half and other half taken out of the reserves. Dues for 2024 will be \$265.00 per district. Hubbard SWCD would like to know why the hourly rate is so high. Could it be lowered? Decision will be made at the next Forestry Association meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS ACTION**

#### **Hay Creek/Island Lake Shoreline Erosion Cost Share Project Contract**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to approve the Hay Creek/Island Shoreline Erosion Cost Share of \$14,193.75. Seconded by Supervisor Noyes. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

#### **Irrigation Project Completed - Voucher for landowner reimbursement**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve the percent-based voucher for contract No: CSC- 20240313 for 74,400.00. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson -Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

#### **C&S Accounting Letter – Draft version**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Sells approve letter to Clausen and Schissel regarding their services – add wording “please contact us not later October 1”. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

**Position Announcement for Conservation Projects Technician**  
**A motion was made by Supervisor Noyes to go ahead and release the flyer. Seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

**Lake Belle Taine project pathway assessment** - AECOM max \$20,000 Hubbard SWCD role will be to help identify process and solution options only. It was decided by the Hubbard County SWCD to table this action and have a meeting with Lake Belle Taine Lake Association Officers to discuss what their role will be in the outcome and make sure they understand clearly what our intentions are in this project going forward.

**REPORTS ON MEETINGS AND PROJECTS**

**Board Chair's Report:** Area 8 tour and meeting, Supervisor Anderson-Thomas attended the Wadena Area 8 bus tour and Area 8 meeting, she also attended the Ground Water Atlas Meeting, Clover Township meeting

**Supervisor Rettinger:** nothing to report

**Supervisor Goodrich:** Attended MCEA webinar discussion about overturning of the Chevron Doctrine and how it will impact future environmental protection strategies.

**Supervisor Sells:** attended the Forestry Association Meeting

**Supervisor Noyes:** Wadena Area 8 bus tour and Area 8 meeting, Ground Water Atlas Meeting, Heart Lake Township discussions

**District Manager's Reports:** District Manager Mathisrud's report is available upon request.

**District Staff Reports:** District staff reports are available upon request.

MASWCD Annual Convention Dec 2-4th

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Enterprise - MPCA Article**

**Enterprise - Straight River Article**

**Senator Bill Weber - thank you**

**Straight River Nutrient Study**

**Next Meeting Tuesday October 22; Agenda Items:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.**

**APPROVED**

  
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary

10-22-2024

**Date**

***Mission Statement:***

The purpose of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District is to conserve, protect, and enhance the soil and water resources of Hubbard County by providing leadership, education, and assistance