

## Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tuesday, November 26th, 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, Dist. 3  
Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair, Dist. 1  
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary, Dist. 5  
Don Sells, Treasurer, Dist. 4

Others present: Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager  
Rachel Rudquist, Administrative Assistant  
Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist  
Darren Mayers, Board Conservationist  
Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner

Interactive Technology: Marcel Noyes, PR&I, Dist. 2 - out of the country

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

### AGENDA

**A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Supervisor Sells. Roll call vote: Dist. 1 - Y, Dist. 2 - Y, Dist. 3 - Y, Dist. 4 - Y, Dist. 5- Y. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

### MINUTES

**A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich to approve October Board minutes as submitted. Seconded by Supervisor Anderson-Thomas. . Roll call vote: Dist. 1 - Y, Dist. 2 - Y, Dist. 3 - Y, Dist. 4 - Y, Dist. 5- Y. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

### TREASURER'S REPORT

**Bill Consensus** - There were no objections. The consent agenda was adopted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report** - Crystal presented the Profit and Loss for Jan 1 through October 31 and the Balance Sheet for the month of October 2024. She printed these reports from our QuickBooks Online.

### PUBLIC INPUT

**Tom Krueger, Hubbard County Commissioner:** mentioned that the county just had their last timber auction sale and the sales from that were \$276,335.00. The total for the combined four timber sales was 1.47 million. Approved Christmas tree permits for \$25.00. People can purchase a Christmas tree on county land. There are two restrictions, the tree must be less than 15 feet tall and not taken out of a plantation. The County will be accepting bids for the jail government center work that is going to be done in December. The second-floor work will begin in March. The first-floor work is expected to be started in June and the jail in May. Discussion at last week's work session regarding the 3% lodging tax that would bring in potential revenue of \$350,000 revenue in this area for marketing. Hubbard County Attorney Jonathan Frieden passed away this month. John Olson is the acting interim County Attorney. Job applications are being accepted for the County Attorney position. County Commissioners will be attending AMC annual conference December 8-11. There was a public meeting in Walker for the Walker Ambulance district. There were many in attendance and most were in favor of the changes discussed. Cass County and Hubbard County will have a public meeting about the proposed ambulance service changes in January and depending upon the public's response, will be move forward with the changes

## **DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST**

**District Conservationist Dan Pazdernik's report is available upon request.**

## **BOARD CONSERVATIONIST**

**Board Conservationist Darren Mayers** would like to remind Hubbard SWCD that the grant amendment deadline is December 15th. If we need any extensions, we will need to get on that. February 1, 2025, is the upcoming annual grants deadline. A new grant: The Clean Waters Legacy Partners Grant is open now. If anyone calls or we get any responses about this, we can direct them to Darren Mayers. U S Forest Service funding is probable in 2025 for NOFO 3 and NOFO4 programs. Darren should hear around January if they are going to get that money or not. If they are funded, we will then get a better idea of what the ask is of the SWCD's. Darren wants to create a SWCD Technician Teams Network for those new technicians that have questions on various topics and need mentoring. He would like to organize it for all SWCD employees in his district.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Office space update** - Bernie is drafting a rental agreement for the space we requested. We can start the agreement whenever we would like in 2025. Crystal is slowly moving her office into this area. Bernie mentioned various options where he can create additional indoor and outdoor access for these offices for SWCD staff to use. Indoor access from existing offices will require USDA leasing staff Approval.

## **OLD BUSINESS ACTION**

At Crystal's request: Education Assistance Contracts for the EPA EE project tabled to the December Board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2025 plat book edition printing** – Megan presented a sample of a plat book with historical Township maps added. This trifold insert can be added to the new 2025 plat books. Mapping Solutions has found individual township maps for Hubbard County dated back to 1916. In addition to aerial photography, they will also add trails and parks as well. The 2025 price would be increased by \$2.00. They will be printed in March for April distribution. The Board discussed what we should do with the remaining 2023 plat books and agreed to use them for educational outreach and to local Fire/EMS departments.

**New seasonal outreach/informational brochures** – The Autumn brochure was presented and is available to supervisors and staff. We have 500 copies. Dain is creating one for each of the 4 seasons and will be printing a box of each for us to distribute and be used at many events.

**Belle Taine** – An anonymous phone call came in that there was an active excavation happening adjacent to Lake Belle Taine. Staff responded and notified DNR , Hubbard County ES, MPCA, Sheriff. According to the responding DNR Conservation officer, the landowners are just “prepping the area”. The conservation officer did not issue a “cease and desist” order. Further investigation is taking place. Hubbard SWCD is investigating if there are any wetland impacts.

**Q4 Strategic Planning** – Date was set for Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 9 am at the office.

## **NEW BUSINESS ACTION**

**Personnel Committee search and recommendation for hiring Conservation Projects Technician.** Lynn, Don and Crystal informed the Board about the Candidate search and interviews for the position.

A motion was made by Supervisor Goodrich recommending that Hubbard SWCD hire Jack Slipy as the new Conservation Project Technician effective the first pay period in January at a rate of \$27.00 an hour. Seconded by Supervisor Noyes. Roll call vote: Dist. 1 - Y, Dist. 2 - Y, Dist. 3 - Y, Dist. 4 – Y , Dist. 5- Y. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried

**Cost Share contract approval request for Hart Lake Township on Steamboat Lake**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve the project in Hart Lake Township on Steamboat Lake for \$13,773.75. Seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Roll call vote: Dist. 1 - Y, Dist. 2 - Y, Dist. 3 - Y, Dist. 4 - Y, Dist. 5- Y. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

**Grazing Workshop Date** – It was agreed by all partners that February 12, 2025, is the date and it will take Place in Helga Township at the Nary School Community Center.

**CW1W1P Resolution to support and adopt**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Sells to approve the resolution to support the adoption of the Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Resolution No. 2024-01). Seconded by Supervisor Goodrich. Roll call vote: Dist. 1 - Y, Dist. 2 - Y, Dist. 3 - Y, Dist. 4 - Y, Dist. 5- Y. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion carried**

**REPORTS ON MEETINGS AND PROJECTS**

**Board Chair’s Report: Supervisor Anderson-Thomas** worked with Crystal on getting contracts signed. Heidi wanted to recognize Sharron Natzel’s article in Enterprise.

**Supervisor Rettinger:** TSA 8, Hubbard SWCD Technician Interviews, LaSalle Landowner outreach

**Supervisor Goodrich:** Hubbard SWCD Technician interviews, attended township meetings

**Supervisor Sells:** Came to Hubbard SWCD office to sign checks and open bank statements, attended a forestry association meeting

**Supervisor Noyes:** Attended the LaSalle landowner outreach

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

SWCD Education article – P R Enterprise

New Employee article – P R Enterprise

SWCD Supervisors Election Results – P R Enterprise

MCIT dividend payment

**NEXT MEETING**

December 17, 2024, Agenda Items: Education Assistance Contracts for the EPA EE Project

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:30 pm

APPROVED: December 17, 2024  
Date

SECRETARY

  
Lynn Goodrich, Secretary