

MINUTES FOR THE September 8, 2016, BOARD MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS FOR THE CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, MOORHEAD, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Krabbenhoft, at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present:

Paul Krabbenhoft, Chairperson
Joel Hildebrandt, Vice Chairperson
Carol Schoff, Treasurer
Randy Schellack, Secretary
Steve Dalen, Reporter

Others present:

Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
Gabe Foltz, District Technician/CAI
Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician
Tony Nelson, PF Biologist
Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner
Steve Opatril, Landowner
Bill Landmark, DNR Conservation Officer
Sharon Askelson, Wild Rice Watershed District Manager
Sharon Lean, District Conservationist

Absent:

Craig Halverson, District Technician/CFO

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA: M/S/P Schoff /Dalen to approve the September Agenda. Motion Carried.

Meeting and mileage forms completed by Supervisors.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A draft copy of the August 11, 2016 meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the September meeting. Discussion was held to add language to the Farm Bill Biologist Partnership portion of the meeting minutes. **M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schoff to approve the August 11, 2016 minutes.** Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mandy discussed the financials.
M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL ITEMS:

STEVE OPATRIL: Lynn stated that there was a wetland violation on Steve Opatril's land. There has been a replacement plan issued for the violation. Steve discussed the plans he made to build a pond on his farmstead. He discussed the wetland violation and the fact that he was unaware of the wetland as there had been material removed from the site in the past. The DNR had been made aware of the violation. Lynn Foss, Steve Hovstad, BWSR and Bill Landmark, DNR Conservation Officer have visited the area to inspect the violation. Lynn discussed the replacement plan criteria. Steve is asking the board to accept a 2:1 ratio instead of the 4:1. The board discussed the replacement plan language and ratios. **M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Dalen, to approve the 2:1 ratio.** Motion carried.

Bill Landmark, DNR Conservation Officer, will consider the Clay SWCD Board's Decision, confer with the DNR Biologist and contact the Clay SWCD Board with his decision referenced to the replacement requirement. Bill stated that he has been out to the site and recognizes Steve's willingness to work with the DNR to get the wetland violation corrected.

Sharon Lean arrived to the meeting at 4:20

NRCS ITEMS: See report

Sharon Lean left the meeting at 4:25 PM

APPROVE STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

CS 15-26 R. Larson Well Decommissioning.....300.00
CS 15-25 R. Richardson (2) Well Decommissioning.....600.00

APPROVE STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING PAYMENT:

CS 15-15 J.Vigesaa Well Decommissioning.....300.00

20% STATE COST SHARE FUNDS: There was a discussion held on the amount of the 2017 funds that could be set aside for the Cost Share T&A. **M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schoff, to approve 20% of the Cost-share funds to be set aside for T&A.** Motion carried.

FY 2017 PHEASANT FOREVER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: Kevin discussed the amendment. There was a discussion held on the Partnership Contributions. Clay SWCD has received Pelican River Pheasants Forever chapter and Buffalo Red River Watershed’s contributions. The Ulen Farmland Preservation Group has been discussing the contribution. In the past the Clay County Pheasants Forever Chapter has also contributed to the partnership. **M/S/P, Schoff/Hildebrandt, to approve the Amendment. Motion carried.**

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID: The list of vouchers from Elect #16-56 – 16-60, QuickBooks checks #19039-19045 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date. **M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the vouchers that had been paid as listed.** Motion carried.

WELCOME NEW DISTRICT TECHNICIAN: Kevin introduced our new employee Gabe Foltz. There was a discussion held on the effective date for benefits. Clay County’s benefits effective date is 30 days after the date of hire. Clay SWCD’s Health Insurance Benefits effective date is the day of hire. The board discussed adopting the county’s benefits effective date for Dental/Vision and Life Ins. **M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schellack, to approve adopting the County’s effective date for benefits.** Motion carried.

FY 2016 SWCD LOCAL CAPACITY SERVICES AMENDMENT ALLOCATION: Kevin discussed the amendment and \$25,337 allocation that we received. Kevin stated that the funds were distributed through the different categories in the existing work plan and entered into e-link.

PLANNING MEETING WITH BRETT ARNE- FY 2017 DISTRICT CAPACITY FUNDS: Kevin discussed holding a meeting with Brett Arne, BWSR, to discuss the 2017 funds and possible ways to spend the funds. September 19th is the tentative date for the meeting.

MEET WITH COUNTY BOARD, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND BRETT: Kevin suggested having a meeting to discuss the County’s match portion for the 2017 local capacity grant and the Clay SWCD 2017 budget. Jenny suggested having this meeting and the 2017 District Capacity Fund meeting on the same date. There is a tentative date set for September 19.

SWCD MANAGERS MEETING: Kevin stated that there is a managers meeting being held on September 20.

LCSC ANNUAL MEETING: Kevin stated that he and Mandy attended the meeting. There will be new group numbers given to members that will become effective Jan.1. There was discussion of new programs that are available for current members. Clay SWCD’s annual premium rate increase was 0%.

BUFFER INITIATIVE UPDATE: Gabe stated that he mailed a letter out to 350 people that may or may not be compliant with the law. Gabe said there have been a lot of people coming into the office after receiving the letter to ask questions about the law and their parcels of land. There will be a tracking tool released in September. There will also be a validation form sent to landowners that are in compliance with the law. The DNR is still accepting comments on the public waters. There will be an updated Public Waters map released in October and then again in January after reviewing the comments from landowners.

LWM PLAN UPDATE: Lynn stated that the LWM Plan Priority Concerns Scoping Document was sent to Brett. Brett forwarded it onto BWSR.

OFFICE LEASE: Kevin discussed the FAC meeting he had with NRCS and FSA. There was discussion and we were reminded that if we stay co-located there will need to be a wall added to separate the Clay SWCD from NRCS and the need to have own entrance.

SWCD & NRCS OPERATIONAL AGREEMENTS & CCE UPDATE: Kevin stated that the MASWCD leadership group is looking at operational agreements and computer seats. There will be a decline in the number of computer seats available to SWCD's.

RAIN GARDEN PROJECTS: Mandy stated that she met with Christine Holland, River Keepers, Heather Nesemeier, Ellen Hopkins PTAC, and Chris Triggs, Robert Asp Principal to discuss the Cost Share agreement. There was interest from Chris Triggs. Mandy stated that she sent out Cost Share Contracts to Chris Triggs and Ryan LaDage, Principal at Ellen Hopkins. She did not receive either contract back.

RIVER KEEPERS WATER FESTIVAL: Mandy stated that the Water Festival is planned to be held September 20-23 and September 26. She will be teaching the River Crime Lab station all of those days, except the day of the 21st.

HEARTLAND TRAIL MEETING FOLLOW UP: Kevin discussed the meeting held at the Hawley City Hall. There was discussion of the planned trail being within the 50ft buffer zone in some areas. There was discussion held to look for a different location due to the potential tree removal costs in some areas of the trail in the planned location.

NACD SURVEY REQUEST: Kevin discussed the survey. There was a discussion held on ways to improve the delivery of conservation to landowners and farmers.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Jenny stated that they are primarily working on the 2017 budget. The ground has been broken on the new jail site. There will be a ½ cent sales tax proposed to help pay for the facility on the November ballot. If the sales tax is not passed it may be added to property tax.

WRWD: Sharon Askelson, WRWD Manager, stated that they are primarily working on permits for Tiling.

CFO PROGRAM: Kevin stated that Craig has done 3 compliance checks. He has 5 more to complete.

No-Till Drill Program – Kevin stated that there has been 1800 acres seeded with the no-till drills.

URBAN CONSERVATION: No Meeting/ No report.

LWM/WCA: See report

PLANNING COMMISSION: Randy stated that last meeting's discussion centered around permitting of gravel pits.

RRVCSA: No Meeting. No report.

CAI PROGRAM: Gabe stated that he and Craig have sprayed 101 miles of ditches. Staff met with Leo Splonskowski, Dave Overbo and Eric Hove, Highway Dept, to discuss fall spraying plans.

PHEASANTS FOREVER: Tony stated he has been working on CRP that needs to be done by September 9 there are approximately 30 contracts for 650 acres. We anticipate interest in CRP filter strips for the MN Buffer Initiative with contracts involving minimal acreage. Soil rental rate prices range between \$109 and \$143 per acre plus associated incentives.

“NEW EMPLOYEE”: See above Buffer Initiative Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 13-15 – Big Iron
September 20-23 & 26 – Water Festival
September 22 – BRRWD Tour
September 22 – NACDE meeting – Detroit Lakes
October 5 – Junior Envirothon – Fergus Falls
October 24-26 – BWSR Academy – Cragun's Resort

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 13, 2016 - - - 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Randy Schellack
Secretary

Signature after approved Date