

MINUTES FOR THE August 11, 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 Schoff, at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present:

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

Others present:

Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
Craig Halverson, District Technician/CFO
Gabe Foltz, Seasonal Employee
Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner
Brandon DeFoe, NRCS Area Soil Scientist

Absent:

Paul Krabbenhoft, Chairperson
Tony Nelson, PF Biologist
Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician
Sharon Lean, District Conservationist

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Hildebrandt arrived at 4:02 pm and presided over the remainder of the meeting

APPROVE AGENDA: M/S/P Schellack/Schoff to approve the August Agenda. Motion Carried.

Meeting and mileage forms completed by Supervisors.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: A draft copy of the July 14, 2016 meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the August meeting. Discussion was held to add language to the Farm Bill Biologist Partnership portion of the meeting minutes. **M/S/P, Schoff/Dalen to approve the July 14, 2016 minutes with additional language to the Farmbill Biologist Partnership portion of the meeting.** Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL ITEMS:

APPROVE STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

CS 16-7 S. Scapple Well Decommissioning.....300.00

APPROVE STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACTS FOR CANCELLATION:

CS 14-23 J. Nodsle Well Decommissioning.....300.00

CS 14-22 R. Larson Well Decommissioning.....300.00

CS 14-29 B. Bang Well Decommissioning.....300.00

CS 14-20 R. Richardson Well Decommissioning.....300.00

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID: The list of vouchers from Elect #16-51 – 16-55, QuickBooks checks #19025-19038 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date.

M/S/P, Schoff/Dalen, to approve the vouchers that had been paid as listed. Motion carried.

NRCS ITEMS: New Area Soil Scientist – Brandon DeFoe

Brandon introduced himself as the New Soil Scientist for the Area. He graduated from NDSU and is originally from Swanville MN. He is happy to be back in the Moorhead area.

Brandon left the meeting at 4:10 pm

BWSR BC BRETT ARNE:

Brett discussed the new Cost-Share policies and contracts. There was a flat rate contract added to make the program work better with the Buffer Initiative. Discussed the amended work plan that the Clay SWCD has submitted for the Local District Capacity Grant. Brett discussed the 2nd year funds for the Local District Capacity Grant. The amount of funds given to the SWCD's will depend on the amount of money their County Board is currently allocating to them. The hope is that this will help build SWCD's capacity with their County by having the State match the amount the County is willing to allocate to the SWCD's over and above the previous year's allocation. Kevin suggested a meeting with Brett to discuss the work-plan for the 2017 Local District Capacity Grant.

Jenny Mongeau arrived to the meeting at 4:30pm.

ADVERTISE FOR DISTRICT TECHNICIAN POSITION:

Discussed the new position for the District Technician and one of the primary duties will be County Ag Inspector. Kevin met with the County staff to put the application on the County website. It will be an application/Cover letter/Resume process that will be submitted to Kevin. The board discussed advertising the position for 10 consecutive days with a stipulation the position read Full-time Grant funded position. **M/S/P, Schellack/Dalen, to approve the above mentioned ad. Motion carried.**

ROUNDTABLE BUFFER WORKSHOP: Kevin stated that four of the Clay SWCD supervisors attended along with Gabe, Tony, Lynn and himself. It was an informational meeting for the Watershed Districts and SWCD's. There was discussion held on the alternative practices for the Buffer Initiative, and the other waters the SWCD's will be reporting on. There was a recommendation made to build a Buffer team, Brett suggested having a County member along with a watershed member on that team. There were 2500 comments made to the DNR during the initial comment period. There were 1400 changes made to the current map. There will be a revised map coming in October, with another comment period after that, and then a final map will be produced in January 2017.

EXCESSIVE SOIL EROSION LAW: Brett discussed the law as it stands now. There needs to be a written complaint from a landowner that is directly affected by the soil being lost to their SWCD. The SWCD then sends the complaint on to BWSR. BWSR decides if it is a substantial soil loss and what to do. There has been no new information.

BWSR FARM-BILL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP GRANT UPDATE:

Kevin stated that there was an article written in the Twin Valley Times about the meeting with Paul Krabbenhoft, Tony Nelson, and the WRWD. Duane Erickson has sent an e-mail to the Ulen Land Preservation Group about the match portion of the grant. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the group on the match portion that Duanne would like to donate. Kevin sent out partnership request letters to The Clay County Pheasants Forever chapter and the Buffalo Red River Watershed District for the match portion of the grant.

LWM PLAN UPDATE PROCESS: Kevin stated that Lynn completed the Scoping Document and held a public meeting on Monday August 8. Brett Arne, BWSR, will review the plan and let Lynn know of any changes that will need to be made. This will be the 10 year plan update.

RAIN GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE: Mandy discussed that Brett Arne stated that the current Cost-Share contracts 10 year minimum operation and maintenance can be delegated to a different entity other than the Landowner. There have been a few landowners that have been hesitant to sign due to the 10 year minimum O&M. Further discussion to follow.

"FREE" WASTE PESTICIDE COLLECTION: Kevin stated that there will be a collection held for waste pesticides at the Rothsay Farmers Elevator in Barnesville MN on Aug 16.

HEARTLAND TRAIL MEETING: Kevin stated that Bruce Albright visited the office to discuss the Heartland Trail and the effects the Buffer Law may have on it. Bruce asked the Clay SWCD to attend the meeting being held on Aug. 17 at the Hawley City Hall to discuss the Buffer Initiative and how it might affect the trail.

BRRWD ANNUAL TOUR: Kevin stated that the BRRWD Tour will be held on Sept 8.

MCIT DIVIDEND NOTICE: Kevin stated that we will receive a dividend for the 2016 year in November for \$2065.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Jenny discussed the animal units discrepancy between the County & MPCA. There will be a meeting held tonight Aug. 11th to discuss the animal units differences between the county and the state. Discussion held on the new Clay County Jail.

CLAY COUNTY FAIR FOLLOW UP: Staff managed the booth. They discussed the Buffer Initiative, Rain Barrels, and Compost Tumblers with landowners that visited the booth.

CFO PROGRAM: Craig stated that Benedikt Baer was approved by the MPCA to build a barn

No-Till Drill Program – Craig stated that the Drill is being used again for fall. There has been 1,450 acres seeded so far this year.

URBAN CONSERVATION: Mandy stated that she has been in contact with Christine Holland, Riverkeepers and Ashley Fisk, Cass SCD about the Workshops for next spring. She stated that they're still hoping to have 3 workshops for both the Compost Tumblers and the Rain Barrels in West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead.

LWM/WCA-CLWM PLAN UPDATE: Kevin stated that the Restoration/Replacement order has been sent out to Steve Opatril.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Randy stated that there has been discussion held on a section of land on Highway 75 to change the zoning so that storage units can be built.

RRVCSA: No Meeting. No report.

CAI PROGRAM: Gabe stated that he and Craig have sprayed 92 miles of County ditches. Discussion was held on the types of weeds that are being sprayed and the type of spray and amount we are using.

PHEASANTS FOREVER: No report

INTERN REPORT: Gabe stated that he has been working on the Buffer inventory. Lynn and Tony figured out a way to separate each parcel of land on the map to figure out if they are compliant with the Buffer Law. Majority of the Public Waters in Clay County are compliant, however, there are roughly 200 that are not and roughly 200 that might not be. More discussion to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 15 – LCSC Annual Meeting
- August 16 – Waste Pesticide Collection – Barnesville, MN
- September 5 – Labor Day – Office will be closed
- September 13-15 – Big Iron

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 8, 2016 - - - 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Randy Schellack
Secretary

Signature after approved

Date

