

MINUTES FOR THE May 13th, 2021, BOARD MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS FOR THE CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HELD ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH ZOOM. The Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held the May 13, 2021 meeting via “Zoom” according to Minnesota Statutes 13D.021, subdivision 1. The Clay SWCD will return to in-person meetings when allowable and safe. In the meantime, the Clay SWCD will continue to hold meetings via telephone or other electronic means if the conditions of this section are met.

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

ROLL CALL: Members present: Joel Hildebrandt, Chairperson
Paul Krabbenhoft, Vice Chairperson
Carol Schoff, Treasurer
Randy Schellack, Secretary
Robert Anderson, Reporter

Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
Craig Halverson, District Technician/CFO
Gabe Foltz, District Technician/ CAI
Tony Nelson, Natural Resources Management Technician
Robert Guetter, NRCS Team Lead

Absent: Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Joel arrived at the meeting at 4:05 and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

APPROVE AGENDA: M/S/P, Anderson/Schoff, to approve the May agenda. Motion carried.

MEETING AND MILEAGE FORMS COMPLETED BY SUPERVISORS.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: A draft copy of the April 8th, 2021, meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the May meeting. **M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the April 8th, 2021, minutes.** Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mandy discussed the financials. See Mandy’s report. **M/S/P, Anderson/Schellack, to approve the treasurer’s report.** Motion carried.

APPROVE STATE COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING PAYMENTS:

CS 21-00 T.Mozer for a field windbreak in the amount of \$1,137.00

CS 21-05 P. Nystuen for a field windbreak in the amount of \$1,528.70

CS 21-03 D. Nelson for a field windbreak in the amount of \$1,357.00

CS 21-04 M. Perkins for replacement trees in the amount of \$75.85

M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the above listed cost-share contracts for payment. Motion carried.

APPROVE STATE COVER CROP COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

CC21-01 J. Aakre for a Cover Crop practice in the amount of \$6,750.00

M/S/P, Anderson/Schoff, to approve the above listed Cover Crop Cost-Share contract requesting assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE CLEAN WATER FUND CONSERVATION PRACTICE CONTRACT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

CWF21-01 B. Thomas for a Grade Stabilization project in the amount of \$47,660.00.

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the above listed Clean Water Fund Conservation practice Contract requesting assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT ITEMS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

J. Mortenson's Grazing Plan on a wetland bank site.

M/S/P, Krabbenhoft/Anderson, to approve the above-mentioned Grazing plan. Motion carried.

West Central Ag's Railroad Track Expansion

M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the above-mentioned Railroad Track Expansion. Motion carried.

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID: The list of vouchers from Elect # 2130 - 2139 and #20864 - 20893 were reviewed, and credit given to have been paid by due date. **M/S/P, Krabbenhoft/Schellack, to approve the vouchers that had been paid as listed.** Motion carried.

MN CREP OUTREACH & IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REQUEST FOR INTEREST: See Kevin's report.

MN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: See Kevin's report. Paul gave a brief update.

BWSR BC, Darren Mayers invited to attend the Clay SWCD's June meeting to discuss the Legislative Session

2022 COUNTY BUDGET REQUEST: See Kevin's report.

SUPERVISOR ORIENTATION: See Kevin's report.

TSA EXECUTIVE MEETING: Carol gave a brief update on the executive meeting. Kevin stated that Bryan Malone, Becker SWCD District Manager, emailed budget proposals out and is asking which option the Clay SWCD would be interested in. The proposals consisted of continuing to work as is, Engineering staff becoming SWCD employees, or hiring a consultant for engineering services. There was a discussion held. The Board is in favor of the proposal consisting of having TSA staff become SWCD employees and working with contracting for engineering assistance.

LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS: Paul and Carol attended. Paul stated that there were approximately 90 in attendance. This training focused on how to involve SWCD Supervisors in the LWG process. There was a discussion held on the training.

CWF: See Craig's report.

BUFFER LAW: See Gabe's report.

U of M TILLAGE RESEARCH PROJECT: See Gabe's report. He has completed 75 points so far.

AREA 1 SPRING MEETING: Paul stated that the planning group met May 13th. There will be a meeting held in person at the Shooting Star Casino. It will be held as an in person or online meeting. Resolutions will be addressed. Guest speakers that are not able to attend in person will be able to present virtually instead. There was a discussion on the meeting.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS: There was a discussion held. Bring ideas to the next meeting. More to come. See Kevin's report.

BRR CWMP: See Kevin's report.

WRM CWMP: See Kevin's report.

CRESTWOOD POLLINATOR HABITAT PROJECT: See Mandy and Tony's reports. Our Pollinator workshop was held on site on Tuesday May 11th.

CREP: See Tony's report. There was a discussion held on the signing of CRP contracts. Robert Guetter would like to see the district continue to sign CRP contracts even though it is not a requirement. We will continue to sign CRP contracts as we have in the past.

PHEASANTS FOREVER BIOLOGIST POSITION: See Kevin's report.

COVID 19 – Update: See Kevin's report. Potential to hold the June Board Meeting in person.

SCANNING OFFICE DOCUMENTS: There was a discussion on the item that was addressed last year before the COVID 19 pandemic. The Board would like to move forward with hiring a part-time office staff member to scan documents. The personnel committee will meet to discuss the details for the position. More to come.

CLAY COUNTY FAIR: See Kevin's report.

LOCAL WORK GROUP PARTICIPATION: See Kevin's report.

NRCS – See Sharon's report

ROBERT GUETTER REPORT: Robert discussed EQIP funding. He stated that it sounded like more money is on the way for the Clay County EQIP projects. There was a discussion held on the Local Work Group details. Clay SWCD will potentially host the Local Work Group meeting for 2022. Discussion held on the EQIP CIC. Discussed employment opportunities.

REPORTS:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

No report.

MASWCD: Paul stated that they have a board meeting next week. They are planning on holding the June meeting in person.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Joel stated that the meeting was based mainly on mining gravel. Spring Prairie Hutterite Colony's application was denied. Storage building was approved in Hawley.

CFO PROGRAM UPDATE: See Craig's report.

TREE PROGRAM UPDATE: See Craig's report.

NO-TILL DRILL PROGRAM: See Craig's report.

URBAN CONSERVATION: See Mandy's report. Mandy discussed a site visit that she attended today with a landowner, Becker SWCD, and Karin Jokela, Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner & NRCS Partner Biologist. Discussed the Compost Tumbler Workshop and the cost for the added Tumbler supplies. She asked that we consume half of the cost for the Tumblers which would be \$185.00 for the first workshop Tumblers.

CAI UPDATE: See Gabe's report. Discussed Pesticide Applicator Testing and the future of using a computer for that purpose.

WCA/LWM/AIS: See Tony's report. Kevin stated that there was an article in the Forum Newspaper on Tony's hiring.

2045 CLAY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: See Kevin's report

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 18th – Compost Workshop – Trollwood Park Fargo
May 25th – Rain Barrel Workshop – Trollwood Park Fargo
May 31st – Memorial Day – Office Closed

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Joel asked that we move forward with the June meeting being held in person at the Highway Department. Kevin will set up the meeting. Joel stated that he has had some local landowners questioned the Supervisors districts and how it was decided which townships made up each district. More to come. There was a discussion held on the front door and when it could be opened to the public.

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 10, 2021 @ 4:00PM tentatively at the Clay County Highway Department.

ADJOURN: Supervisor Hildebrandt called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **M/S/P, Schoff/Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.** Motion carried.

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Randy Schellack
Secretary

Signature after approved Date