

**MINUTES FOR THE May 14, 2020, 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 14, 2020 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 Hildebrandt at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Joel Hildebrandt, Chairperson  
Paul Krabbenhoft, Vice Chairperson  
Carol Schoff, Treasurer  
Richard Menholt, Reporter

Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager  
Craig Halverson, District Technician/ CFO  
Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician  
Gabe Foltz, District Technician/ CAI  
Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator  
Tony Nelson, PF Biologist  
Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner  
Croix Mongeau, Jenny’s Son  
Robert Guetter, NRCS Team Lead

Absent: Randy Schellack, Secretary

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** A draft copy of the April 14, 2020 meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the April meeting.

**M/S/P, Menholt/Schoff, to approve the April 14, 2020 minutes.** Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Mandy sent out the financial report to the board ahead of the meeting today. There was a discussion held on the financials.

**M/S/P, Krabbenhoft/Menholt, to approve the monthly financials.** Motion carried.

**APPROVE 2019 AUDIT PROPOSAL:** There was a discussion held on the Audit Proposal from Johnson & Roggenbuck.

**M/S/P, Krabbenhoft/Schoff, to approve the proposal from Johnson & Roggenbuck for our 2019 audit.** Motion carried.

**APPROVE 2020/2021 COUNTY SPRAYING CONTRACTOR:**

Gabe stated that he met with Dave Overbow and Leo Splonskowski to discuss the contract for the County Spraying program. Leo Splonskowski, L& M Roadside Services submitted a bid for the contract.

**M/S/P, Schoff/Krabbenhoft, to approve the bid from L&M Roadside Services for the 2020/2021 Spraying Contract.** Motion carried.

**APPROVE STATE COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:**

C. Currie CS20-02 for a Critical Area Planting in the amount of \$958.00.

G. Boyle CS 20-01 for a Critical Area Planting in the amount of \$1027.00.

**M/S/P, Schoff/Menholt to approve the above- mentioned Cost-Share contracts for assistance.** Motion carried.

**APPROVE STATE COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING PAYMENT:**

O. Swenson CS 20-00 for a Well Decommissioning in the amount of \$501.00.

H. Pender CS 19-14 for a Field Windbreak in the amount of \$394.00

M. Perkins CS 19-15 for a Field Windbreak in the amount of \$4,017.00

B. Lien CS 19-13 for a Field Windbreak in the amount of \$703.00.

**M/S/P, Schoff/Menholt, to approve the above-mentioned Cost-Share contracts for payment.** Motion carried.

**APPROVE STATE COVER CROP COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:**

D. Iverson CS CC20-01 for a Cover Crop in the amount of \$3,750.00

R. Hough CS CC20-02 for a Cover Crop in the amount of \$6,750.00

J. Iverson CS CC20-03 for a Cover Crop in the amount of \$3,750.00

M. Askegaard CC20-04 for a Cover Crop in the amount of \$3,750.00

R. Olson CC20-05 for a Cover Crop in the amount of \$5,250.00

A. Jensen CC20-06 for a Cover Crop in the amount of \$5,250.00

**M/S/P, Krabbenhoft/Schoff, to approve the above-mentioned Cover Crop Cost-Share contracts requesting assistance.** Motion carried.

**APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID:** The list of vouchers from Elect #2025-2032 and #20509-20564 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date.

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

**2020 CLEAN WATER FUND PROJECT:**

Kevin discussed the project and a recommendation for the Cost-Share rate for the project. See Kevin's report.

**M/S/P, Schoff/Krabbenhoft, to approve the Cost-Share rate for the program at 90%.** Motion carried.

**EROSION PROJECTS:**

Kevin discussed the Turtle Lake, Moland Township Roadside, and Greg Johnson erosion sites. See Kevin's report.

**BWSR/MASWCD/NRCS Conference Call:** See Kevin's report.

**STATE OF MN UPDATED BUDGET PROJECTION:** See Kevin's report.

**2021 COUNTY BUDGET REQUEST**

There was a discussion held on the request. See Kevin's report.

**SUPERVISOR ELECTION YEAR REMINDER:** Kevin reminded the interested parties that the filing dates for the supervisors is May 19 – June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MASWCD CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS:** The deadline for Resolutions is July 21. Paul discussed the resolution process due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**AREA 1 MEETING:** Paul will have a conference call on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> with the Area 1 Committee to discuss the potential for a meeting. More to come.

**BRR 1W1P:** See Kevin's report.

**WR 1W1P:** See Kevin's report.

**BUFFER PROGRAM:** See Gabe's report.

**2020 COUNTY SPRAYING PROGRAM:** See Gabe's report.

**COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM:** See Gabe's report.

**UOFM TILLAGE TRANSECT SURVEY UPDATE:** See Gabe's report.

**CRESTWOOD POLLINATOR SITE:** See Mandy and Tony's report.

**PURCHASE OF A 10' MOWER:** There was a discussion held on the purchase of a mower.

**M/S/P, Krabbenhoft/Menholt, to approve the purchase of a mower not to exceed \$9,100.00.** Motion carried.

**2020 CONSERVATION CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** Croix Mongeau gave a presentation on why he would like to be nominated to attend the Forkhorn Camp.

**M/S/P, Schoff/Menholt, to approve Croix Mongeau's application for a camp scholarship.** Motion carried.

**CREP UPDATE:** See Tony's report.

**WIA AGREEMENT:** See Tony's report.

**2020 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST:** The outstanding conservationist will be from the Randy Schellack.

**75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION UPDATE:** There was a discussion held for our 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Due to COVID 19 we will postpone the event until 2021.

**NRCS:** See Report

Robert Guetter gave a short briefing on NRCS programs and a update on the COVID 19 pandemic.

**REPORTS:**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Jenny discussed the plan for the County offices to re-open. Meeting with Meat producers, Ag Commissioners, and the Health Department to discuss rendering of animals that need to be euthanized.

**MASWCD:** Paul discussed the legislative session and topics.

**PF UPDATE:** See Tony's report.

**CFO PROGRAM:** See Craig's report.

**TREE UPDATE:** See Craig's report.

**URBAN CONSERVATION:** See Mandy's Report

**COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** Cancelled due to COVID-19

**LWM/WCA:** See Lynn's report.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** No report.

**CAI UPDATE:** See Gabe's report.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** To be Determined.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** June 9, 2020 - - - 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** Supervisor Hildebrandt called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **M/S/P, Schoff/Menholt, to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m.** Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Lewis                      Randy Schellack                      \_\_\_\_\_ BY:  
District Coordinator                      Secretary                      Signature after approved                      Date

## Mandy's Report

Financial Reports – These reports should be more accurate for you through March. All our time through March has been added towards these now so you can see that the numbers might be starting to make sense.

Pollinator - I was out last week to look at the County Pollinator site, there is a lot of grass coming up with some flowers that I could pick out. We have some weed's, but they were just starting to grow so we will be watching this to make sure it is mowed, or spot treated so that they do not get out of hand. Tony has done some research on a 10' mower that we would like to purchase to help out with the mowing of the area. I plan to head down to our flower beds to clean them up this week. I cleaned the beds up around the office and ordered plants to augment the original plantings at both areas. We are getting a lot of phone calls on pollinator habitats in which we are hoping to work with landowners to get those in the ground, right now it is difficult with the stay in place order but hopefully will be able to meet with them soon and get the seed ordered that they need. Our pollinator workshop has been rescheduled for October there were 25 people that registered for the cancelled class.

Office – All quarter end reporting has been completed. I contacted Amy Roggenbuck from Johnson & Roggenbuck firm to submit a bid for our 2019 audit. Once approved I will send her the signed bid letter. I attended a meeting discussing the COVID-19 FMLA meeting which really didn't pertain to us as we don't have 50 employees, but the information was interesting. I have been talking with Trudy as my Quickbooks was asking to see if we would like to fill out a payroll protection application for our employees. After speaking with her I figured that at this time we would not need to do that and let those that need the assistance have it. There will be more help down the road if we feel we need to apply.

Trees- Holy smokes tree season is crazy when you are the only one taking orders and organizing the set up. I bet I received 10 calls a day on average. I will call on our waiting list tomorrow which has roughly 75 people on it. We had a special tree packager this year, Peggy who helped tremendously with packaging and didn't even kill Craig. LOL. I think this is the best the tree season has went. All trees have been either delivered or picked up and it is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May with almost all the planting jobs complete. I also got the privilege to help with matting last Tuesday. I stapled 10,000 feet of matting.... What a task but I had fun doing it and it was a beautiful day to complete it. Craig, Gabe, and Mr. K have been Rock stars with planting and matting. We will do our second round of sales next week.

Urban Conservation – Craig and Kevin moved barrels to Riverkeepers storage facility for our workshops that are scheduled for June and July. As you can imagine so far, all the workshops have been canceled including my workshops in Hawley. We are hoping to have our Compost Workshop next week, we are currently working on our social distancing regulations for the workshop. We are scheduled to clean barrels June 2<sup>nd</sup> with another Workshop June 3<sup>rd</sup> and our final one July 14<sup>th</sup>, I keep my fingers crossed that we can at least get these ones in for the year. Our pollinator Pint Night was cancelled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, but Allison Slavik and I worked together to still reach the general public about the importance of Pollinators. They will release a new and improved Money Honey today May 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 each can that's sold will go home with a seed packet to plant their very own pollinator garden. Tony and I will head over there this afternoon to receive a donation for our pollinator program and get our picture taken. We hope to come up with something this fall for an actual in person event.

## Kevin's Report – May 14, 2020

**COVID 19** – Since March 24<sup>th</sup>, we have heeded Gov. Walz's Stay-At-Home order as much as possible. We have been working remotely, as much as we can, except for Tony. Tony does not have a laptop so, working from home is not an option. Plus, with much of his work involving CRP, folders/files relating to CRP are not allowed out of the office. He did have a 3-week Stay-At-Home stint due to a COVID-19 scare with a family member. Since April 15<sup>th</sup> (when trees were delivered) we have been working in and out of the office to make that and our other outdoor programs work. With perishables, like trees, they must move and can't stay in cold storage forever. We've been keeping our distance from each other and I've asked to not have more than 2 or 3 of us in the office at any one time – we've been working around that as much as possible. Gov. Walz's last order is due to end on May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will wait to see what happens next.

**Approval Items** – 2019 Audit Proposal – Johnson & Roggenbuck – we will need an audit for the year ending December 31, 2019. A written proposal was received from Johnson& Roggenbuck Certified Public Accountants for \$2,400.00. (**Note** - We have had them perform our last 2 audits with good results and this year's quote is the same price as last year.)

- **2020 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Project** – since a landowner meeting is not going to happen for some time, we decided to mail out approximately 50 letters to landowners in the project area. Several landowners have contacted us wanting to know more about the program. Last Thursday I met with Erik Jones (Houston Engineering) onsite at the Greg Johnson (north of Glyndon) site. Erik will be assisting us with survey and design of some of these projects. Originally, our plan was to have landowners sign up for EQIP and piggyback with CWF dollars. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, and past history with EQIP funding, our recommendation is to use the CWF. I talked to Brett Arne and he understands. He suggested we set a cost share rate (%) for these projects (we can't go over 100%). Our recommendation is to set a cost rate of 90%, with the landowner contributing 10%. We feel the landowner should have some skin in these projects. Also, when visiting with Erik, he recommended we make application to the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) Board requesting technical assistance from Houston Engineering. I made the request last Thursday and the BRRWD board met Monday (May 11<sup>th</sup>) evening, and on Tuesday morning I was sent an email letting us know the BRRWD approved our request.
- **Erosion Projects** –
  - **Turtle Lake Shoreline Erosion** - since last board meeting, we have received calls from 3 landowners requesting assistance for erosion control along their shoreline on Turtle Lake. 2 of the applicants have signed cost share assistance contracts (on the board agenda today) for Critical Area Plantings and one needs a site visit before making application. The Becker SWCD has been working with the 2 landowners on the agenda and since the parcels are physically located in Clay County, we will be cost sharing with them. Both applications involve planting native vegetation to restore the shoreline. The third site will no doubt involve some rock rip rap and will need some follow-up.
  - **Moland Township Roadside Erosion** – we were contacted by Dave Overbo, County Highway Engineer, alerting us to an erosion site along 80<sup>th</sup> Street, in Section 29 Moland Township. Last Thursday we met with 3 Town Board members, one landowner, Dave Overbo & Justin Sorum Clay County Hwy. Dept, and Erik Jones (HEI) onsite to view the roadside erosion. A severe “slump” along the road is of concern. Jim Koester, Town Board member said the “slump” has been there for a while and is getting worse. A few options were discussed. One option (and may be the cheapest) is to move the road to the west.

The outcome of the meeting is that the Clay County Hwy. Dept. will survey the “slump” area and will install delineators (at the Township’s request) along the “slump” to ensure people don’t pull off this side of the road. The Township will monitor the “slump” for additional movement and the County Highway Department’s survey will provide a baseline to determine if the “slump” is moving more in the future.

- **Greg Johnson Streambank Erosion** – in 2012, NRCS designed a series of 4 streambarbs along the streambank in the Johnson’s yard and we cost shared with them using our 2009 MN Flood Recovers Funding. In between the 2 downstream barbs, active erosion is occurring. Last Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, we met onsite with Erik Jones, (HEI), to discuss a possible repair. Erik is looking at using a Toe-Wood Sod Mat practice as a repair. We are looking at possibly using our CWF project dollars as this is right on the Buffalo River.
- **BWSR/NRCS/MASWCD Conference Call** – on May 4<sup>th</sup> a conference call between BWSR’s John Jaschke, NRCS’s Troy Daniell, & MASWCD’s LeAnn Buck was held. They briefly discussed the Governor’s Executive Orders, pending changes, & potential budget impacts. John told us to be prepared to make adjustments in the next couple of years with up to possibly a 25% reduction in programs funded by the Clean Water Fund (i.e. District Capacity, 1W1P’s, TSA funding, Competitive Grants). Hopes were that our general fund accounts (i.e. State Cost-Share, General Services, Easement Services) would not be dipped into, but nothing was to be “taken off the table”. Forecast for FY 22-23, obviously no surplus, but we will know more as time goes on. There are lots of things going on in Washington, D.C. also. One item stressed was that the federal government can “deficit spend whereas state government cannot! Troy discussed the operations of their offices and that they work closely with FSA & RD. They are maintaining the “locked door” policy for the time being. His staff is meeting with landowners by appointment only (such as emails, phone calls, or out in the field). Up to 2 people are allowed in their field offices. Stressed keeping good distancing and not crowd offices especially in co-mingled offices. Work needs to get done, there are signup deadlines going on. He also discussed an *Animal Mortality Management* signup (for operations looking to depopulate livestock). One had ended on May 1<sup>st</sup>, but more signups are ongoing with batching periods held every 3-4 weeks.
- **State of MN Updated Budget Projection** – On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Walz and commissioners gave a brief update on the budget status of the state. In February, the state was looking at a \$1.5B surplus and now we are at a \$2.4B deficit, a \$4B change. State Economist Laura Kalambokidis (sp.) explained that consumer spending is just not there. The state has had a ¼ decline in GDP and it will take until mid-2021 to get back to pre COVID-19 GDP and that the state will never get back to the path we had been on. Gov. Walz stressed this is “going to be a shared sacrifice” and that this Legislative session ends in 15 days. “Legislators need to realize they will not be able to balance this deficit in this session”.
- **2021 County Budget Request** – Late May or early June is typically the month we receive a letter from the County Administrator asking us to submit our budget request for the upcoming year. In recent years we’ve been requesting on average between a 2-3% increase over the previous year. Any thoughts or ideas?
- **BRR 1W1P** – No meetings held since last board meeting.
- **WR 1W1P** – I’ve had 1 teleconference since last board meeting. We reviewed the timeline (we seem to be keeping on track). Discussed the issues and goals section for internal review & discussed when to schedule an Advisory and Policy Committee meetings. At the present time, Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM, has been set for those committees to meet.
- **Crestwood Pollinator Site** –
  - Discuss Purchasing a 10’ Mower – this is something we talked about a few times last year when we ventured into this project with the County. We knew the 7+ acre parcel was going

to need mechanical weed control to make the project a success. We found requesting the County Highway Department is an option, but the timeliness of mowing the site proved to be problematic. We did “borrow” a mower from a local farmer last year, but don’t want to rely on that. Someone will be needing to mow the area periodically until the native plants eventually choke out the weeds. Craig has gone out and received quotes on 4 different mowers (3 from Fargo Tractor and 1 from RDO in Moorhead). Prices range from \$7,900 - \$9,100.

**Fargo Tractor Mowers –**

- Woods DS 10.40 Rotary Cutter - \$7,900
- Land Pride RCR2510 Rotary Cutter - \$8,450
- Land Pride RCF3010 Rotary Cutter - \$9,100

**RDO Mower –**

- John Deere MX10 - \$8,500

**NOTE** – the Pheasants Forever grant that was approved for funding this project has over \$4,000 to be reimbursed to us for our time, labor, etc. This could be used, if you wish, for the mower.

- **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Nothing started. Question how much time to put into it?

## Lynn's Report

**Mhd Comm Resilience Task Force:** Zoom meeting Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Online Wetland Training:** Watched several online wetland training videos.

**Potential Violation:** Hagen Sec 10. Road ditch activity. No authorization from WCA, NRCS, Township or watershed. Site visit with landowner township officers, county hwy dept, Nature Conservancy and Conservation Officer (CO). Cease and Desist Order issued by CO. Under investigation. Waiting for NRCS review.

**Brantner/Mortenson Bank Site:** Plan to reduce cells from 6 to 4. Grazing plan from Jeff Duchene. BWSR State office staff drafting letter to ACOE. State office staff will lead communication with the ACOE. Verbal confirmation (waiting for email confirmation) grazing plan OK'd by BWSR and ACOE.

**Potential Violation:** Riverton 16. Culvert lowered 145<sup>th</sup> St S. Road ditch clean to north. Culvert and approach along 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S. No BRRWD permit, No Township approval. No downstream landowner approval. 569 filed with Feds. Duane Hanson.

**AI Pit 21 :** Contact by MPCA staff about sediment from haul road washing into wetland. Arranged site visit. Area already restored. Will hydro seed in the spring. Application emailed 5/7 2020 for expansion of Pit 21 site. Under review.

**BRRWD Bank Sites** Elkton 28 (Chuck Anderson). Proposal to burn wither this fall or next spring. OK'd buy BWSR and ACOE. Final Deposit submitted for remaining credits.

**Oakport:** Final delineation on all but one creation site (reseeded last year) to be done this summer. Monitoring of reseeded creation site will continue until performance standards met. Restoration Site 4 failed. Will replace with credit from Elkton bank after final delineation credit determination this summer.

**Cty of Mhd:** 50<sup>th</sup> Ave South Flood mitigation project. 0.22 ac impact. Propose to take from BRRWD bank (C. Anderson). Credits in bank. Was never deducted. Work with Steve and BWSR State office staff. Have document for final credit deposit. BWSR State Office staff will account for impact through their tracking software. Forms submitter to BWSR to close this project. Waiting for approval document via email.

**RFP Road Bank:** RFP March 9 – May 21<sup>st</sup> 2:30. Conversation with Kirk Watt (Kermis.site). Waiting for follow-up from Kirk and/or Kermis family. Howard/Jeff Pender proposal submitted this week.

**Wetland Bank - Pender:** Skree Sec 16. Howard working on easement docs. Electric Company Blanket easement corrected. 105.6 acre easement. 33.14 credits WCA, 25.2 Credit ACOE.

**Steve Opatril:** Cromwell Sec 7. Violation. NWI 1.75 acres. Photo estimate 2.3 acres. Replacement site finished. Site visit 10/16. Monitoring report received on April 15, 2020. Recommend removal of temporary culvert, management (mowing, spot spraying) and continued monitoring.

**AIS** Billboard in Glyndon (Buffalo River Sales). 15,000 coaster on order (50,000 total). 12-15 cents each. 100-300 per establishment. 240 restaurant 68 licensed for alcohol. (13,600 @ 200 each) River Keepers – First Aid Bags delayed.

**1W1P BRRWD/WRWD:** Meetings continue. BRRWD ongoing WRWD requesting “Resource Concerns and Issues”. BRRWD Tour Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 1:30-5:30.

**Potential Violation:** Call about potential violation in Tansem Sec 19. Investigation found NRCS approved ditch cleanout. Bruce Albright BRRWD visited site yesterday. Road, culvert, fill in wetland. Under investigation. Waiting for NRCS review.

**Amie Ramberg:** Tansem Sec 34 Wetland holding extra water do to previous project. Elevation data from USFWS. Adjacent landowner interested in approach. Definite high spot in ditch. Joint meeting to be set. USFW easements in area, but not this wetland.

**ACOE:** WEBEX meeting March 27<sup>th</sup>. Concentrated on mitigation site in ND.

**404 Assumption:** Update Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Lewis Brockett hired to manage. Regular discussion with EPA. Stakeholder meeting starting soon.

!

**AI pit 150:** Transaction to Deposit into bank completed, signed and returned to Matt Vollbrecht Dec 12<sup>th</sup> (4.9 acres). Accounts for Pit 21 mitigation from past. Conversation with Matt yesterday. AI may wait until after Jan to deposit. \$1000 max cost per year. Use for Pit 3 dragline move. Work around until credits in the bank. Monitoring Report

# Tony's Report

## Re- Invest In Minnesota Projects Ongoing

- Thompson, Robert – No Change Posted, need RIM signs
- Thompson, Steve – No Change Need posting
- Herbranson, Dave – No Change Construction complete, Contractor Paid, Need posting

## RIM

- 2020 Site visit inspection list received from BWSR; 26 Sites

## CREP III –

-Working on request for interest for FY 21/22 CREP Outreach and Implementation Grant (Due to BWSR 15 May); Pheasants Forever and SWCD

-CREP batching period ends 30 May, working with FSA to complete CCRP application to facilitate CREP applications

-Current batching period ends 1 June; Announcement next week for future batching periods

-Ongoing projects:

- G. Hess – Working w/ landowner to complete seed mix and coordinate seeding
- M. Halverson – Seed mix approved/working with WOT SWCD to coordinate site prep, seeding and C/S.
- J. Butenhoff – Seed mix approved/working with WOT SWCD to coordinate site prep, seeding and C/S.
- J. Wang – Seed on hand; plan to plant this spring pending weather
- Working through CREP proposal process w/ 8 landowners

## Conservation Reserve Program

• **General SU Completed** – ○ Waiting for FSA list of accepted General CRP applications

- Continue to work w/ landowners on CCRP and CREP
- Working on Monitoring/Status reviews
- CRP Grasslands – SU Mar 16 – May 15
- SHIPP – SU ongoing; 30 Mar - 31 Aug

## **WIA Program**

- • Coordinating w/ MN DNR to complete Joint Powers Authority to work on MN WIA re-enrollment for current year
- • Only re-enrollments for next fiscal year -??? More to follow

## **Pollinator**

- • Lawns to Legumes – Private landowner sign-up period, second round
- • Working w/ Craig to research mower purchase for SWCD projects
- • Coordinating w/ Pheasants Forever to close out Crestwood Project
- • All workshops, briefings and pint nights cancelled until further notice

## **Hunting season (Pheasant)**

- • Tentatively 10 October 2020; 152 days !!

## **1W1P**

- • No Change

## **CTA**

- • No Update

## **News/Meetings/Presentations (Completed)**

- • All meetings canceled until further notice

## **Upcoming events News/Meetings/Presentations**

- • TBD

## **Pheasants Forever**

- • Pheasants Forever/Purina Soil Health and Habitat Program SU ongoing until 30 June

## **Gabe's Report - May 2020 Board Meeting**

### **CAI:**

- Need to approve Leo for spraying for 2020 and 2021
- Met to plan roads last Thursday with Leo and Dave Overbo
- Both grants are ready – won't receive any money upfront, all reimbursement. Thinking about the possibility of doing some landowner cost-share for certain noxious weeds on private land using these funds. Some other counties have done it, and I got an example form from Matt Anderson at Meeker SWCD, who has done this the past couple of years.
- Plan to meet with other Counties involved in the Level 2 grant sometime after May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Since we were unable to have our annual training for the local weed inspectors, I sent letters with handouts, and emails to all of them with the new information they need.

### **Buffers:**

- Site visits for a few landowners done
- A few more to go yet this spring – last years corn is holding a few guys up, still some standing on certain fields
- Still haven't heard from the DNR on the PW petition in Ulen

### **Cover Crop:**

- 6 total applications
- Could take a few more on a first come first served basis if more guys are interested
- A couple of the applicants will be planting this spring, and the rest will be this fall after wheat, or inter-seeding into corn or beans.

### **U of M Residue Project:**

- Received the tablet in the mail. Dan will be checking imagery to make sure there is clear satellite imagery. We are waiting to hear from him on that. He also wants to have about 50% of the crop planted in the county before the work begins.

### **Trees:**

- Planting and matting is going good!

## **Craig's Report – May**

**No-Till Drills** – The 2 no-till drills have been out planting for the last 2 weeks – 325 acres as of 5/7/2020. I had to take one of the no-till drills to RDO to cleanup the depth control bearings. 7 units were bad, the bearings need to be pressed out. Gabe also helped get the drills ready.

**Tree Program** – Trees came in on 4/15/2020. Gabe, Tony, Kevin and I unloaded them. Peggy, Gabe, Kevin, and I have packaged all the hand plant orders. Peggy made all the labels up before we started packaging – Great help! She also stained the deck on the trailer – she's a team player! Gabe and I took the truck and trailer to get DOT inspected. Kevin and I brought it home. No issues with the truck or trailer. Gabe and I did our first tree plant job on 4/22/2020. We hauled all packaged trees to the office on 4/29/2020. Thank Gabe, Mandy, and Kevin for a great job on tree package pickup. Gabe and I needed to take the tractor to RDO to change out one of the hydraulic couplers that has been giving us fits.

\***Matt Perkins tree planting** – while I roto-tilled the site to get it ready for planting, Gabe was moving one of the no-till drills. Thanks to Gabe and Mandy for helping put matting down on the Perkins site.

**New Pickup** – Got the new Chevy on 4/28/2020 from Marthaler's in Glenwood. "Signs by Skunny" put our new SWCD logo on the on the side windows – looks good!

**County Feedlot Officer** – The Clay County Commissioners signed the Performance Credit for the MPCA. I also passed my year end review (Thanks Gabe!). Found 2 feedlots that have started up without filling out the proper paperwork – neither one is a problem.

# NRCS Report

May 14, 2020

For Clay County SWCD Board Meeting

## EQIP

The EQIP applications are now prioritized for possible funding. Nine applications are high, six are medium, and one is low. The high prioritized will be considered for funding first. There are 8 pending applications which I cannot process until engineering, grazing plan and other reasons are completed.

Worked on NEPA 052 forms, erosion calculations, conservation plans and conservation maps in Conservation Desktop. I am completed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) for applications with the practice for pollinator habitat. I have completed the assessments in CART for the eligible applications. I can start ranking the applications in CART. Ranking must be completed May 20<sup>th</sup>.

I have worked three more Cover Crop worksheets for a producer with the practice in his EQIP contract.

I have sent out an EQIP payment application form for a Conservation Activity Plan – CNMP to the producer. I am waiting for the form to be signed by producer and sent back to the office.

There are three new EQIP signups. The first two signups are not being advertised. The individuals with these operations are being personally contacted. The following two signups are:

## Emergency Swine Mortality Management Signup

Timeline for activities for this signup:

Batch Period	DATE	ACTION
	April 17, 2020	Signup period begins.
1	May 1, 2020	Application cutoff – Batching Period 1.
1	May 8, 2020	Workload Prioritization/Screening deadline (see details below) – Batching Period 1.
1	May 15, 2020	Assessment and Ranking deadline for applications received by May 1 – Batching Period 1.
1	May 22 2020	Obligation deadline – Batching Period 1.
2	May 22, 2020	Application cutoff – Batching Period 2.
2	May 29, 2020	Workload Prioritization/Screening deadline (see details below) – Batching Period 2.
2	June 5, 2020	Assessment and Ranking deadline for applications received by May 22 – Batching Period 2.
2	June 12, 2020	Obligation deadline – Batching Period 2.
3	June 12, 2020	Application cutoff – Batching Period 3.
3	June 19, 2020	Workload Prioritization/Screening deadline (see details below) – Batching Period 3.
3	June 26, 2020	Assessment and Ranking deadline for applications received by May 1 – Batching Period 3.
3	July 2, 2020	Obligation deadline – Batching Period 3.

## (Non-Swine) Emergency Mortality Management Signup

Timeline for activities for this signup:

Batch Period*	DATE	ACTION
	TBD	Signup period begins.
1	May 22, 2020	Application cutoff – Batching Period 1.
1	May 29, 2020	Workload prioritization/screening deadline (see details below) – Batching Period 1.
1	June 5, 2020	Assessment and ranking deadline for applications received by May 22 – Batching Period 1.
1	June 12, 2020	Obligation deadline – Batching Period 1.
2	June 12, 2020	Application cutoff – Batching Period 2.
2	June 19, 2020	Workload prioritization/screening deadline (see details below) – Batching Period 2.
2	June 26, 2020	Assessment and ranking deadline for applications received by June 12 – Batching Period 2.
2	July 2, 2020	Obligation deadline – Batching Period 2.

The third signup will be advertised. This signup is:

### **Prairie Pothole Water Quality and Wildlife Signup**

Timeline for activities for this signup:

DATE	ACTION
April 29, 2020	Sign up period begins.
May 29, 2020	Application cutoff.
June 2, 2020	Screening/workload prioritization deadline.
June 19, 2020	Assessment and ranking deadline.
July 10, 2020	Obligation deadline.

### **CSP**

Moorhead had 2 CSP-Renewal applications that were not funded. These renewal applications will go to the general signup and there is one application for the general signup. This is a total of three applications. These applications are prioritized as low. The application deadline to the General CSP signup is May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Water Bank Program**

NRCS is now taking applications for the Water Bank Program. This signup end at the close of business June 1, 2020. Applications for the signup must be sent to the State Office before June 29, 2020. Contracts must be obligated by September 1, 2020. State Office will make the rental payments by November 23, 2020

### **CRP**

I am mapping the approved General CRP offers into Conservation Desktop. This will speed up conservation planning after the grass covers are reviewed in the field. 73 CRP offers have existing cover that will be field review to ensure the covers meet requirements. During the field reviews,

any volunteer trees on site are to be reported and removed by the landowner. There are 6 new offers and the conservation plans can be written at this time.

I will be in the field helping Tony with a CCRP-CREP. I need to document the hydric soils and too identified the true size of the wetlands.

I completed four CRP modifications.

## **Other items**

-Sent out one email to 356 producers on Wet Soils and Cover Crops.

-Sent into the Fergus Falls Wetland team one request for a certified wetland determination.

-There are 16 Food and Security Act Compliance Review for 2020. I have put the information together and emailed the information to Mitch Neitge, Soil Conservationist, located in Perham. Mitch will be completing the reviews.

-I requested the form 569 Potential Wetland Violation to be filled out by FSA. I have not received

the form from FSA currently.

Sharon Lean  
Designated Conservationist  
USDA NRCS Moorhead







