

MINUTES FOR THE June 14, 2018, 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 Hildebrandt at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Joel Hildebrandt, Vice Chairperson
Randy Schellack, Secretary
Carol Schoff, Treasurer
Richard Menholt, Reporter

Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician
Gabe Foltz, District Technician/ CAI
Craig Halverson, District Technician/ CFO
Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
Tony Nelson, PF Biologist
Ryan Hughes, BWSR Northern Region Manager

Absent: Paul Krabbenhoft, Chairperson
Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA:

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the June agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting and mileage forms completed by Supervisors.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A draft copy of the May 10, 2018, meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the June meeting.

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the May 10, 2018 minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report was discussed.

M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

APPROVE STATE COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING PAYMENT:

CS 1804 L. Stuhaug for a field windbreak in the amount of \$667.00.

CS 1803 T. Torkildson for a field windbreak in the amount of \$1977.00.

CS 1801 A. Jelinek for a field windbreak in the amount of \$3,485.50.

CS 1802 N. Stattelmann for a field windbreak in the amount of \$607.00.

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the above Cost-Share Contracts for payment. Motion carried.

CS 1807 J. Surma for a Well Decommissioning in the amount of \$578.00.

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

APPROVE STATE COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

CS B17-46 G. Hoffman for a Buffer Planting in the amount of \$300.00.

CS B17-45 T. Odegard for a Buffer Planting in the amount of \$300.00.

CS B17-44 T. Odegard for a Buffer Planting in the amount of \$300.00.

M/S/P, Menholt/Schoff, to approve the above Buffer Cost-Share Contracts for assistance. Motion carried.

FY 2019 FARM BILL ASSISTANCE GRANT:

Discussed the grant.

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the FY 2019 Farm Bill Assistance Grant. Motion carried.

FY 2019 LOCAL PARTNERS AGREEMENT:

Discussed the Local Partners agreement between Clay SWCD and Pheasants Forever.

M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the FY 2019 Local Partners Agreement. Motion carried.

FY 2019 GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING CONTRACT:

Discussed the contract.

M/S/P, Menholt/Schoff, to approve the FY 2019 Groundwater Level Monitoring Contract. Motion carried.

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID:

The list of vouchers from Elect #18-29 – 18-37 and Quick books checks #19731-19769 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date.

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

NRCS ITEMS: Kevin stated that Troy Daniell will be the new State Conservationist and will begin July 22nd.

SOIL HEALTH UPDATE:

Kevin stated that the first set of samplings has been completed. Brandon DeFoe will no longer be involved in the project as he will be moving later this month.

NRCS HIRING FREEZE:

Discussed the hiring freeze. Kevin stated that the freeze has been lifted.

UPDATE ON 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Ryan Hughes, BWSR Northern Regional Manager, discussed the Legislative session and gave a brief update.

FY 2019 GRANTS:

Ryan Hughes discussed the potential funding for the 2019 Grants as well as potential grants that will be available.

AREA 1 MEETING:

The Agenda for the meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held on June 19th at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Detroit Lakes.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS:

Discussed the Resolutions. The resolution that was discussed at the last meeting to increase the threshold that triggers an audit will be tabled as the current existing resolution does not sunset until 2020. We will move forward with the Resolution to work with MPCA to correct issues with their reporting software.

PHONE SYSTEM UPDATE:

Kevin stated that the phones are installed and working. We are waiting to get a roll over line installed, that should be sometime in the next couple weeks.

U OF M TILLAGE TRANSECT SURVEY PROJECT:

Kevin stated that we will not be participating in the project this year as there were not enough clear days in Clay County to collect satellite images before the crops were too established. Potential to participate in the project, spring of 2019.

BUFFER LAW UPDATE:

Gabe stated that he has not received any feedback from 15 landowners along the Public Ditches. Darren Mayers, Buffer & Soil Loss Specialist suggested we send out one more letter stating that if no contact is made the County will send out a letter of non-compliance after the Nov. 1, 2018 deadline. He also suggested we write an agreement with the county outlining the duties of each entity in the process especially for those that are non-compliant. There is \$7,500 of Buffer Cost Share still available. There are roughly 15 Public Waters landowners that he will flag for in the fall and 10 Public Ditch Landowners that he will flag for.

MN DEPARTMENT OF AG NOXIOUS WEED GRANT UPDATE:

Gabe stated that we have received \$7,500 of the \$10,000 grant funds to be spent towards Wild Parsnip control. We will submit a report that will be reviewed, once approved, MDA will send us the remaining funds for the grant. He sent out a letter to the Local Weed Inspectors for the 13 designated townships for a field meeting to learn how to identify Wild Parsnip and other Noxious Weeds in MN.

REQUEST FOR WEED FREE GRAVEL:

Gabe stated that he has been getting contacted by local gravel pit operators throughout Clay County stating that they need to have the gravel pits certified with a paper stating that they are in compliance with the Noxious Weed Law. This would be done on a case by case basis to certify the gravel pit for the day of the inspection. It will not certify that there were no weed seeds in the gravel. He will have a proposal for the Board at next month's meeting. More to come.

CLAY COUNTY POLLINATOR HABITAT PROJECT:

Tony stated that SWCD staff met with Dave Overbo, Brian Friedrichs, Highway Department, and Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner to discuss the land prep options and logistics at the site. Amanda is currently working on additional volunteer support for land prep.

1W1P

BUFFALO RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

Kevin stated that it is currently at a stand-still. He hasn't heard of any new meetings for the Policy Committee and the Steering Committee had a meeting in April but haven't had any since.

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT:

Kevin stated that he and Lynn attended a meeting at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office on June 13th. There was a discussion held on the process to complete the application for the grant, changes were made to the application, the application will be submitted by the deadline of July 2. There will be a BWSR Board Meeting held on Aug. 22, we will know which applications will be approved at that time.

2018 SUPERVISOR'S FILINGS:

Kevin thanked Paul Krabbenhoft and Randy Schellack for filing to run for SWCD supervisors.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) SIGN UP ANNOUNCED:

Tony stated that he and Kevin attended a meeting on April 26th to discuss what's working and what isn't with the CREP. Recommendations will be submitted to the BWSR Board to increase incentives, rates, and administrative changes to make the program more appealing to landowners.

PROPOSAL TO UPDATE LONG-TERM FLOOD SOLUTIONS:

Kevin stated that he attended a meeting at the County Courthouse to discuss updating the flood report. There is a \$7,500 match portion for the Grant funding with the potential for Clay County, BRRWD, and WRWD to contribute to the match.

TREE STORAGE FACILITY LEASE EXPIRES:

Kevin stated that the tree storage lease expires in October 2018. Steve Schroeder will work with us to develop a new lease.

LOCAL WORK GROUP WORKSHOP:

Kevin stated that he will attend the training session being held on June 27th in Fergus Falls.

REPORTS:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

No report

MASWCD:

No report

CFO PROGRAM: Craig stated that he has 8 compliance checks to do.

TREE UPDATE: Craig stated that the tree season is completed for 2018. We sold 16,335 trees. We completed 15 matting jobs in Clay County and 1 in Becker County.

NO TILL DRILL: Craig stated that there has been 13,000 acres seeded with the no-till drills.

URBAN CONSERVATION: Mandy stated that the Rain Barrel and Compost Tumbler workshops have been completed for the year. The number of attendees has been declining, possibly looking at holding a couple workshops in Barnesville and Hawley next year. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton School took 2nd place at the State Envirothon.

LWM/WCA:

See report

PLANNING COMMISSION:

No report

RRVCSA:

Carol stated that there was a meeting held on Tuesday June 12th. The Budget and Treasurer's report were approved for 2019. Kevin stated that there was a discussion held on getting a quorum and the issues with that. The committee will contact those offices that do not want employees as alternates to discuss a plan to get either more supervisors to attend or come up with a solution to this issue.

CAI UPDATE: Gabe stated that Leo Splonskowski, L&M Road Service has finished spraying all the roads in the original plan. He stated that he and Craig started spraying today.

PF UPDATE:

Tony stated that he has 3 CREP applications in the process. There are 4700 acres of CRP expiring. There is a sign up running from June 4 through Aug 17 with limited conservation practices and options for extensions. Mark Askegaard has received his pollinator seed and will have Cass SCD plant them as soon as the fields dry up. He has completed the WRP Monitoring in Clay County and he hopes to complete East Polk and Norman Counties by the end of the month.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING: Kevin attended the meeting held on June 7th. He stated that they discussed retirements taking place throughout the County. There were 5 interviews for Brian Berg's position, held Monday June 4th, three of those will return for a second interview. The new jail ribbon cutting ceremony will be held July 24th.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 19 – Area 1 Meeting D.L. Technical College

June 27 LWG Workshop – Fergus Falls

July 4 – Office Closed – Independence Day

July 11 - 7:30 AM Twins Game Departure

July 13-15 Clay County Fair

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 12, 2018 - - - 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Supervisor Hildebrandt called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M/S/P, Menholt/Schellack, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried.

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Randy Schellack
Secretary

Signature after approved Date