

MINUTES FOR MARCH 14, 2024, BOARD MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS FOR THE CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN MOORHEAD MN.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hildebrandt at 3:00 p.m.

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

Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
 Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
 Gabe Foltz, District Technician/CFO
 Tony Nelson, Natural Resources Management Technician
 Alyssa Schill, District Technician/CAI
 Kyle Little, District Technician
 Travis Doeden, NRCS Acting District Conservationist
 Bob Guetter, NRCS
 Paul Krabbenhoft, County Commissioner

Absent: Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Meeting and mileage forms completed by Supervisors.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: A draft copy of the February meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the March meeting.
M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the above-listed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

APPROVE THE 2024 BUDGET:
Kevin discussed the budget.
M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the above-mentioned budget. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONSERVATION CONTRACT PROJECTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:
B. Petermann CS24-33Farmstead Windbreak \$1,157.40
P. Nystuen CS24-14Farmstead Windbreak \$1,074.37

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff to approve the above-mentioned contracts for assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE SOIL HEALTH STATE COST-SHARE PROJECT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:
B. Schmidt CS24-12Farmstead Windbreak \$ 85.96

M/S/P, Schoff/Menholt, to approve the above-mentioned contract for assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE LOCAL CAPACITY COST-SHARE PROJECT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

T. Schauer CSC24-01 Wildlife Tree Planting \$2,442.97

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the above-mentioned contract for assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE SWCD AID COST-SHARE PROJECT REQUESTING AMENDMENT:

K. Johnson CSA24-35 Wildlife Tree Planting \$5,000.00

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff to approve the above-mentioned contract for assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE SWCD AID COST-SHARE PROJECT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

That's The Dream LLC CSA24-51 Farmstead Windbreak \$3,789.37

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the above-mentioned contract for assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID:

The list of vouchers from 2449 - 2460 and QuickBooks #21871 and 21923 - 21954 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MASWCD LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL:

Randy, Carol, Kyle, and Kevin attended the session. Each person gave a short update on the session.

RCPP – SOIL HEALTH PROGRAMS:

Kevin gave an update on the partnership as well as the funding available through the program. Gabe stated that he has had a few landowners express interest in the program. He has started a list and is waiting to hear when the sign up will start. There was a discussion on the program.

FIELD DAY SPONSORSHIP LETTER:

Gabe stated that he and Kyle have been working on a donation letter that they will be sending out to area ag businesses asking for help sponsoring the event financially. There was a discussion held on the budget for the event as well as ideas for the event.

E.O.T. SWCD's 2nd ROUND OF RCPP IRRIGATION FUNDING PROPOSAL:

Bob Guetter, NRCS, came to discuss the proposal. He stated that currently Travis, NRCS, has 2 applicants in Clay County for irrigation. There was a discussion held on the commitment from us and what that would entail. Kevin will ask Darren Newville about administrative time for staff and what the scope of work would be from us. More to come.

PRIVATE WELL PROTECTION GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATE:

Kevin stated that the county board discussed and approved participating with the Norman County application for the Safe Drinking Water for Private Users Grant. Our role, with our landowner relationship, would be to provide outreach and well test kit distribution location.

WALSH COUNTY (N.D.) THREE RIVERS SCD – WORKING LANDS COVER CROPS INITIATIVE PROPOSAL:

Kevin stated that there was a grant application request (to partner with) to fund a cover crop/livestock initiative out of Park River, ND. They are asking for a letter of support for their proposal from SWCD's and SCD's. The correspondence was emailed out to Supervisors. The Supervisors would like a letter of support sent out.

MASWCD AREA 1 SPRING MEETING:

Kevin stated that the agenda has been sent out and that the meeting will be held in Mahanomen on March 19th. There was a discussion held on those attending the meeting and transportation to and from the meeting.

BRR 1W1P UPDATE:

Kevin gave an update on meetings that were held with HEI Engineer, Bennett Uhler over the past month. He also gave an update on the supplemental funding that was available from BWSR as well as the funding requests that were made from each entity. We were awarded roughly 1/3 of our group's original request. Gabe gave an update on current projects as well as potential future projects.

WR-M 1W1P UPDATE:

Kevin gave an update on the 3rd round of funding and Clay SWCD's request. There was a Planning Committee Meeting held on March 11th where they discussed everyone's request. After the March 11th meeting, we received our tentative funding amount. Gabe gave an update on current projects as well as potential future projects.

MDA SOIL HEALTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT:

Gabe gave an update on the grant.

TSA REPORT:

Carol stated that they completed elections and that there was a Supervisor from Pennington elected Vice Chair. They also approved the budget and had engineering reports from the north and south pods about projects that have been completed. There was a discussion held.

CCATO MEETING:

Kevin stated that staff will be attending the session at the Dilworth Community Center on March 18th. Staff will give an update to township officials on SWCD ongoings.

CAI WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL AG INSPECTORS: Alyssa stated that she would give a Noxious Weed presentation on March 18th at the Dilworth Community Center after the CCATO Meeting.

RRVFDRWG ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Kevin stated that the conference will be held on March 19th – 20th at the Mariott Hotel in Moorhead. Those interested must register. There was a discussion held on who might attend.

BWSR WATER STORAGE PROJECT:

Tony gave an update on the project.

CREP UPDATE:

Tony gave an update on current projects.

CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE FOR WORKING LANDS GRANT PROGRAM:

Tony stated that we were rewarded with the grant. He discussed the requirements for the grant.

MN OFFICE OF SOIL HEALTH (MOSH) GRANT PROGRAM:

Kyle stated that the grant application was only open for a couple of days before it closed due to funding already being gone.

AG BMP LOAN PROGRAM:

There was an application submitted and approved for conservation equipment.

2024 SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS:

Kevin stated that the supervisor elections will be held this year for Area 1 (Richard), 2 (Carol), and 5 (Joel). Filing dates are May 21st – June 4th.

2024 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS:

Kevin stated that the nominee will come from Supervisor Butenhoff's area for 2024. Jerry will decide with the SWCD's help by the deadline.

BUFFALO RIVER STREAMBANK EROSION UPDATE:

Kevin stated that currently NRCS is making available (potentially) some geotechnical assistance or financial assistance if it fits into one of their programs. More to come.

LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CAMP:

Mandy stated she received a phone call from a landowner in Clay County stating that she had heard about a camp scholarship from her parents in Pennington County who received the Pennington County Newsletter where it discussed the scholarship. I told her about our scholarship and her daughter wrote an essay to attend a fishing camp through the Deep Portage summer camps. Unfortunately, Mandy called the camp to inquire about the fishing camp and it was already full for the 2024 summer. The board stated that they would be willing to send the girl to the fishing camp for the 2025 summer. Mandy will contact the landowner to let her know the board's decision. There was a discussion held about opening the camp to any Clay County children instead of just those that are enrolled in 4-H. We will put the information on Facebook this year and will have an article in the newsletter next year on the topic.

SWCD SUPERVISOR TRAINING:

Carol and Jerry gave a brief update on the training that was held in Fergus Falls on February 15th that they attended.

BEGINNING FARMERS MEETING :

Tony and Gabe gave an update on the meeting that was held at RDO in Hawley, MN on March 6th.

LOCAL WORKGROUP MEETING:

Bob Guetter stopped into the meeting to discuss a grant opportunity with the board as well as give a brief update on the Local Workgroup Meeting. Kevin stated that he met with Bob this morning (3/14) to discuss the Local Workgroup Meeting.

NRCS ITEMS: See Travis's report.

Travis gave an update on EQIP, CRP, and CSP. He also gave updates on current employment through the NRCS. He discussed different trainings he attended throughout the Area.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

Paul discussed last week's Buffalo Red River Watershed meeting and the elections. He gave an update on the County Board elections process and who is currently running for commissioner. He stated that a new assessor was hired for the county.

MASWCD:

Randy gave a brief update on the Day at the Capitol which is what they discussed at the last MASWCD meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Joel gave an update on projects.

URBAN CONSERVATION:

Mandy stated that Kim Radebaugh, River Keepers, received an email from Coca Cola stating that they had 60 plus barrels available to be donated. Kyle and Alyssa worked with Kim (River Keepers) to get the barrels. We will clean these barrels at the end of the workshop season. I will be purchasing the supplies for the upcoming workshops soon. She gave an update on Pollinator projects she has been working on with Kyle, Alyssa, and Tony.

CFO/TREE/NO-TILL DRILL PROGRAMS:

Gabe stated that there are 21 planting jobs and 23 matting jobs so far with most of them being cost share plantings. There are 14,000 trees and 62,054 feet of matting sold so far. He stated that his annual meeting with MACFO went well. He will attend the MACFO conference that is being held at the end of March. He stated that the new drill is ready to go and that he will bring the old drill into RDO for trade as soon as possible so that we will receive the trade in funds for the old drill.

CAI UPDATE:

Alyssa stated that she attended a meeting that was held for new County Ag Inspectors. She also said that she is currently looking for new members to serve on the Noxious Weed Appeal Committee. She sent out letters requesting spraying bids. She received two bids back. There was a discussion held on the two bids. Due to the one entity being located by

Bemidji, MN and potential flexibility issues, the Board chose to remain with the local entity. There was a discussion held.

TECHNICIAN UPDATES:

Alyssa gave an update on trainings/meetings that she has attended as well as the DGF school pollinator project she is working on. Kyle gave an update on Tree plans, the new tablet purchase, and Trainings he has attended.

WCA/LWM/AIS UPDATE:

Tony gave an update on current projects in the Wetland Conservation Act, as well as CREP, WIA, and AIS.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 18 – CCATO Meeting – Dilworth Community Center
- March 18 – CAI Workshop for Local Ag Inspectors – Dilworth Community Center
- March 19 – MASWCD Area 1 Meeting – Mahnomen
- March 19 – Cover Crop Training – Brainerd
- March 19/20 – RRVFDRWG 25th Annual Conference – Marriott Hotel – Moorhead
- March 25 – WR-M 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting – Ada
- March 26-28 – MACFO Annual Conference – Prior Lake
- March 27 – Emerald Ash Borer Workshop – Dilworth
- April 4 – BWSR Water Storage Project - Barnesville

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Kevin stated that he received the Pay Equity Report today. We passed and will display the report in the office.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 11th, 2024 @ 3:00 pm.

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

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to adjourn the meeting at 5:37.

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Richard Menholt Signature after approved
Secretary

Date