

Beltrami Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Beltrami County Commissioners' Conference Room
701 Minnesota Ave. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

*OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SERVICES
IN BELTRAMI COUNTY*

Members Present: Shane Bowe - Chair
Ray Hendrickson - Vice Chair
Ruth Trask - Treasurer
Rachel Gray - Secretary
Sam Christenson - Public Relations

Others Present: Brent Rud - District Manager
Aly Bergstrom - ESD/SWCD
Megan FitzGerald - ESD/SWCD
Zach Gutknecht - ESD/SWCD
Jody Peek - NRCS

Board Chair Shane Bowe called the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting for July 15, 2021 officially to order at 9:30 a.m.

Addition to the agenda: Item 5.a.ii. Drought/County Fair Discussion. **Motion by Sam Christenson to approve the amended agenda. Motion seconded by Rachel Gray. Motion carried and approved.**

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Rachel Gray to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021 SWCD meeting. Motion seconded by Ray Hendrickson. Motion carried and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Ruth Trask reviewed the IFS statement for June 2021. **Motion by Ruth Trask to approve the June 2021 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Rachel Gray. Motion carried and approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

Reports:

NRCS – Jody Peek

- Staffing – Nate Brandt is now working out of Bagley as a District Conservationist, but is working at the Bemidji office a few days a week. There are two openings in the Bemidji office – one for a Soil Conservationist and one for a Soil Scientist.
- Local Work Group Meeting – To follow SWCD meeting today.
- EQIP – 7 approved applications.
- CSP – Classic applications were pre-approved June 23rd. There were 160 applications from the area and 13 were pre-approved, 5 in Beltrami.
- Drought Update – Beltrami County has been approved for emergency haying/grazing after nesting season (August 2nd). Interested landowners should be forwarded to FSA. NRCS has developed a tracker at the local level for assistance requests, mainly for wells. NRCS Bemidji staff will meet with Beltrami SWCD to discuss a potential

partnership on drought-related projects. The SWCD potentially has funding available for projects, but projects should have a water quality focus. Staff will do further research and bring ideas back to the Board at the next SWCD meeting.

District Manager – Brent Rud

- County Fair – The Beltrami County Fair will be held August 11-15. The cost for a double booth (with NRCS) is \$610. Staff will coordinate with NRCS on the display, which will focus on agriculture and drought resistance. To attract more agricultural producers, Blackduck Co-op is willing to pay for a livestock vaccination cooler for a prize drawing.
- County Contribution to SWCD – Beltrami County’s total contribution to the SWCD in 2020 amounted to \$190,000.
- Legislative Update – Continuation of Increased Local Capacity funding of \$12 million for Minnesota SWCDs. Each district will receive \$100,000 plus a formula-based additional sum.
- Supervisor Per Diem – The supervisor per diem cap has been raised to \$125 per day effective August 1, 2021. **Motion by Ruth Trask to raise the Beltrami SWCD Supervisor per diem to \$125. Motion seconded by Ray Hendrickson. Motion carried and approved.**

Staff

- Staff Updates – Recent staff activities include US Endowments HWC grant work plan changes, shoreline restoration/erosion plans, and discussion of the upcoming Red Lake/Beltrami Water Festival.
- Thief River 1W1P Soil Health Field Day – The Soil Health Field Day will be held on August 3rd from 8:30-4:30 in Grygla. The day will consist of a bus tour to two local farm operations followed by presentations on cover crops and grazing management and a landowner panel. A free lunch will also be provided.

Supervisors’ Report

- Mississippi River Headwaters One Watershed, One Plan – Ongoing planning work includes the implementation budget and work plan. Implementation funding is expected in January 2022.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Thief River 1W1P Soil Health Field Day – August 3rd, 8:30-4:30 in Grygla

Regular Board Meetings

- August 19, 2021
- September 16, 2021
- October 21, 2021

Motion by Sam Christenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ruth Trask. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned.

Recording Secretary

Date