

**Beltrami Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting**

Thursday, June 17, 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
Sam Christenson – Public Relations

Members Absent: Rachel Gray – Secretary

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 June 17, 2021 officially to order at 9:30 a.m.

Additions to agenda: Item 5.c.v. Livestock Producer Workshop and item 6.b. Area VIII Meeting. **Motion by Sam Christenson to approve the amended agenda. Motion seconded by Ray Hendrickson. Motion carried and approved.**

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Ray Hendrickson to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 SWCD meeting. Motion seconded by Ruth Trask. Motion carried and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Ruth Trask reviewed the IFS statement for May 2021. **Motion by Ruth Trask to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Sam Christenson. Motion carried and approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

Reports:

NRCS – Jody Peek

- Staffing – A vacancy was advertised for a GS-11 Soil Conservationist in Bagley. Nate Brandt will be filling that position and will start in Bagley on July 6th. Kody Karr, SC worked his last day in Bemidji on May 28th. Amber Williams was hired as the SINEW employee in Bemidji. She began working in the office on May 24th. Bemidji currently has two open direct hire jobs posted to <https://www.usajobs.gov/>, a Soil Conservationist and Soil Scientist both located in Bemidji. If you know of anyone interested in applying encourage them to reach out to Jody. Deadline to apply is July 15th, 2021.
- Local Work Group Meeting – Meeting is tentatively planned for July 15th (part of next month's board meeting).

- CSP Classic/General Signup Processing – A total of 25 applications were assessed and ranked. Currently waiting for a pre-approval list from the state office to proceed with approvals.
- RCPP Signup – The team received 7 applications by the June 4th deadline. A total of 3 were received in Beltrami County. Assessment of these applications will occur in July. It is expected that the pre-approval list will be out the end of July.
- EQIP (7 preapproved) – Beltrami has 4 first signup applications approved and are working on obtaining signatures. Beltrami took 3 apps for the second signup (Wildlife) that were recently pre-approved. Currently working with producers to get these to approved status.
- Drought Update – Due to dry conditions NRCS are starting to get several calls about seedings and how to proceed with plantings. New guidance as of 06/16/21 recommended NRCS encourage participants to wait to complete seeding in the fall. Field office staff will complete status reviews on contracts that get behind schedule due to dry conditions.

District Manager – Brent Rud

- New Office Specialist begins July 1st.
- High Banks Campsite – Mississippi Headwaters Board is contributing \$30,000 in unspent funds for bank erosion restoration and stairs at the Beltrami County Mississippi High Banks Campsite. The total estimated cost of the project is \$40,000; Beltrami County Natural Resource Management will pay the difference.

Staff

- Mississippi River Headwaters 1W1P Resolution – Zach presented a draft resolution to submit, adopt, and implement the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Comprehensive Plan. This resolution allows the submittal of the Plan to BWSR and approves Beltrami SWCD adopting of the Plan if no changes are made at the state level. **Motion by Sam Christenson to support the resolution. Motion seconded by Ray Hendrickson. Motion carried and approved.**
- Oak Hills Contract Amendment – Aly requested an amendment to the shoreline restoration cost share contract with Oak Hills to amend the end date year from 2020 to 2021. **Motion by Ruth Trask to approve the amendment. Motion seconded by Ray Hendrickson. Motion carried and approved.**
- HWC Grant Revised Work Plan – Zach presented a revised work plan for the US Endowments Healthy Watershed Consortium grant. The revisions will aim to spend the remaining \$80,000 in the grant by the end date this fall. New activities include the creation of a Local Forestry Technical Team Playbook, a Forestry Parcel Tracking System, HUC8 Stream-Based Watershed Metrics Analysis, and Conifer Small-Acre Forest Planning (<20 acres).
- Livestock Producer Workshop – Lake of the Woods SWCD is hosting a livestock producer workshop in Williams on Friday, July 30th. Attendees can receive free soil and manure tests at the event. They request that each SWCD cover the test costs for attendees from their county (approximately \$60 per farm/attendee). **Motion by Ruth Trask to approve cost of testing. Motion seconded by Sam Christenson. Motion carried and approved.**

Supervisors' Report

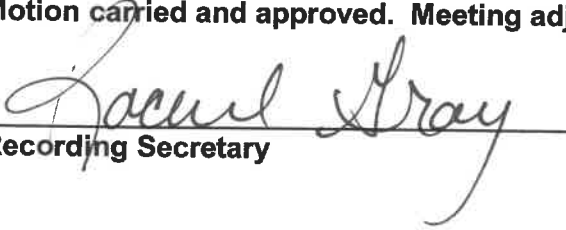
- Mississippi River Headwaters One Watershed, One Plan – Zach provided an overview of the public hearing. LGUs are working on passing resolutions to submit the Plan to BWSR.
- Area 8 meeting will be held Friday, June 25th.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

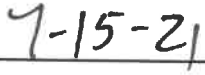
Regular Board Meetings

- July 15, 2021
- August 19, 2021
- September 16, 2021

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



Recording Secretary



Date