

# Beltrami Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2021  
Beltrami County Board Room  
701 Minnesota Ave. NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

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

**Members Present:** Ray Hendrickson – Vice Chair  
Ruth Trask – Treasurer  
Rachel Gray – Secretary  
Sam Christenson – Public Relations

**Members Absent:** Shane Bowe – Chair

**Others Present:** Brent Rud – District Manager  
Aly Bergstrom – ESD/SWCD  
Megan FitzGerald – ESD/SWCD  
Jody Peek – NRCS

Vice Chair Ray Hendrickson called the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting for May 20, 2021 officially to order at 9:30 a.m.

Additions to agenda: Item 6.b. MASWCD Area 8 Meeting Report. **Motion by Sam Christenson to approve the amended agenda. Motion seconded by Ruth Trask. Motion carried and approved.**

#### **Secretary's Report:**

**Motion by Rachel Gray to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2021 SWCD meeting. Motion seconded by Sam Christenson. Motion carried and approved.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ruth Trask reviewed the IFS statements for March and April 2021. **Motion by Ruth Trask to approve the March and April 2021 Treasurer's Reports. Motion seconded by Rachel Gray. Motion carried and approved.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Reports:**

NRCS – Jody Peek

- Staff – District Conservationist vacancy in Bagley office: an individual has been selected and is expected to start in July. Kody Karr's last day will be May 28<sup>th</sup>. Two vacancies in the Bemidji office – a Soil Conservationist and a Soil Scientist – close July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Local Workgroup Meeting – Beltrami meeting will be held immediately following the Beltrami SWCD Board meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- CSP Classic/General Signup Processing – Ranking deadline is May 28<sup>th</sup>. 32 high-priority applications in the area; 18 in Beltrami.
- RCPP Signup – May 4<sup>th</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- EQIP Second Signup – Ranking deadline is May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Compliance Review – Random selections to spot-check HEL and wetland compliance; mailed out May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- EQIP Obligations – Five were pre-approved, one cancellation.
- Conservation Incentives Contract – New, 5-year program coming out soon; expected to be a mix of CSP and EQIP.

District Manager – Brent Rud

- Legislative Session – No agreement on where funding will be spent.
- 2021 MASWCD Resolution Process – Areas are currently looking for resolutions from local SWCDs. Deadline for Area resolutions to be received in the MASWCD office is July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Staff Resignation – Corey Campbell’s last day was April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Buffer Technician position will not be filled.
- PMA 25 – Construction is beginning this summer.
- Pollinator Planning – Staff is working with the Beltrami County Highway Department to develop a pollinator plan. Suggestion by Supervisors to review MNDOT-approved seed mixes for invasive/unwanted species.
- Beltrami County Fair – Staff are considering alternative ways to participate in the Fair including a potential kiosk and other opportunities for advertisement.

Staff

- Tree Distribution – Distribution was held April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. All trees were sold. Problems with a broken compressor in cooling unit in the tree shack; staff is working with Beltrami Natural Resource Management to come up with a solution.
- Tree Planting Training – Beltrami and Lake of the Woods SWCD hosted a tree planting training at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Attendees learned about species selection and got hands-on experience planting. This was part of a three-part training funded through the Technical Training Team grant.
- Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Work Plan Revision – The grant goal of 10,000 planning acres is almost met, with around \$80,000 left in the grant. The grant expires in late summer 2021. Staff described a number of activities to include in a revised work plan for the grant including creating public service announcements, trainings for landowners and foresters, and creating a GIS tracker for project management.
- Virtual Classroom – Headwaters Science Center has produced educational videos for local schools; materials for interactive projects were distributed to participating schools.

Supervisors' Report

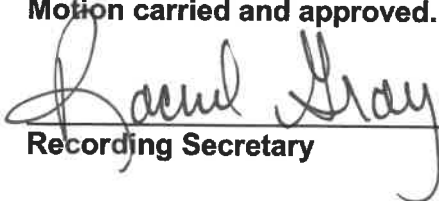
- Mississippi River Headwaters One Watershed, One Plan – Public hearing will be held in Grand Rapids on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Update on Kelliher School Cattle Company.
- Ruth Trask provided a review of the Area 8 meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

Regular Board Meetings

- June 17, 2021
- July 15, 2021
- August 19, 2021

**Motion by Ray Hendrickson to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Rachel Gray. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned.**

  
Recording Secretary

7-15-21  
Date