

Due to the current CDC guidelines on social distancing, we are limiting the number in attendance to 8 people at the board meeting. We will also have limited call-in capabilities for up to 10 people. Phone# 651-560-1088 Access code # 0147478#

If you are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you please wear a mask.

Phone or physical attendance will be allowed on a first come first serve basis following Wabasha SWCD board members receiving priority for phone or physical attendance. Anyone who is in the at-risk category should consider not attending. If you would like to attend either by call-in or physically, you must notify Sue Cerwinske to hold your place in advance. susan.cerwinske.wabashawcd@gmail.com or 651-560-2053

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District
District Regular Board Meeting
April 22, 2021
8:15 a.m.
County Board Room
625 Jefferson Ave.**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER –

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Terry Helbig, Chair

Supervisors Present: Terry Helbig, Chair, Lynn Zabel, Co-Chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Chet Ross, Member

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Frank Klennert, citizen

Attending by Phone: Brian DeVetter, NRCS, Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Admin. Assistant and John Benjamin, NRCS

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

A. Meeting Statement – Terri Peters

Terri Peters made the decision to have call-in and limited number of attendees at the Board Meetings. Consulted with other SWCD's and BWSR on how they were handling meetings because of COVID-19 pandemic and State of Emergency Guidelines. Calling in is allowed under the open meeting law. Phone line set up for SWCD meetings by Wabasha County. Board was contacted about this suggested change and it was agreed that this was the best solution for the situation at this time.

Motioned by Zabel and seconded by Ross to approve the agenda.

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

V. CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes-Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

B. April 16, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes-Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the April 16, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT:

A. 2020 Closeout Program Record – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the program record

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

B. District Financial Statements-Board Action

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the District Financial Statements

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$81,105.61 -Board Action

Motioned by Zabel and seconded by Ross to approve payment of the monthly bills in the amount of \$81,105.61

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Terry Helbig

Local work group, Supervisor's Meeting 3-31-2021. Terry, Sharleen, Lynn attended online. Sharleen said well presented, she learned a lot. Lynn said very informative Terry reported the training was about how to have a better local work group session this month. Special trainers said there are four separate things to take up on at this meeting. Assessments of needs, Action Plan, Implementation of Plan and Evaluation & Results. Analogy: Think as a marble cake, not a layer cake. Work together with partners.

- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes – **No Report**
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
 - Both 1W1P are going. Notification list going out for WinLac.**
 - Greater Zumbro out for final comments. At end stages, hearing periods, public comments. Hopefully by fall it will get approved. No funding until end of 2022.**
 - Attended Zumbro Wastewater Discharge meeting. Presented it to the county board.**
 - Quarterly reporting.**
 - Meeting for smaller grants to talk about progress and extensions.**
 - Reapply for grant for NACD, which covers JPB staff. They bill us.**
 - Called people to discuss project Lynn is working on.**
 - Worked with staff to get contracts to board meeting. Making sure we have funding for the projects.**
 - West Indian 319. Working with NRCS putting things together to get added on the (MRBI) Mississippi River Basin Initiative which will give us priority funds. Pool of money for specific watersheds**
- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin **Report in packet**
- E. Ecological Technician Report – Henry Stelten **Report in packet**
- F. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger **Report in packet**
- G. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant -Sue Cerwinske **Report in packet**

X. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn Zabel
 - Discussion:**
 - Lynn and Terri had zoom meeting with Eric Schmechel of Dubuque Iowa SWCD and Matt Krueger of Land O’ Lakes. Lynn reported that Land O’ Lakes tracks the results from landowner’s practices on a spreadsheet, an assessment program called Truterra. Lynn noted that the only way to push conservation forward is to blend things that mean profit and change. MDA and Land O’ Lakes are enthused to bring on partners and collaboration.**
 - Terri reported that she had called Robert Harris from RC&D about this project. What they are looking for mainly is for something to administer funds for his time. He did mention that they are working on Forestry credit with TNC at state level. Ag carbon credits are taken up by big companies, like Land O’Lakes and their Truterra program. Terri called Matt Krueger with Land O’ Lakes and he told her that everything we have been talking about on a small scale, DC has people talking about it. Working on carbon credits. Microsoft gave Land O’Lakes money to use for Ag carbon credits. Land O’Lakes has a soil testing lab in Indiana. Truterra assesses the land and what practices are being done and assigns points. For more points, add no-till and then the landowner gets paid for carbon credits. Only way to get Truterra is to have an Agronomist or Coop on board. Land O’ Lakes are willing to partner with us, but they are working on bigger things. Matt connected Terri with Eric Schmechel from Dubuque IA SWCD. Dubuque County is**

contributing \$400,000.00 to this program. Truterra partners work with landowners on this project. They pay \$2.50 acres/point increase achieved through the Truterra plan. Cap up to \$5,000.00 if they need to do a project to get higher points. They are creating a program more like MAWQCP. Lynn noted that Matt was talking about MDA making ratings more uniform for Truterra and MAWQCP evaluations. Terri talked to Brian Redlin head of MAWQCP program. MAWQCP wanted property tax also, but haven't had it to go to legislative level. Brian said they would be willing to give \$30,000.00 to Wabasha County to do a pilot. How would partnering with the Truterra program work? MDA works on local level. They would like land certified, one for carbon, one for climate. Also, Dubuque is doing recognition of landowners going over & beyond extra land stewardship with payment of \$2,000.00. Ag Certainty amount is \$1,000.00. Need to work with an Agronomist. Work with Coops also. Talked to Dennis Stelling of Ag Partners and he was excited about the program and was going to talk to people there. Bob Walkes mentioned that agronomists are realizing that it's not all about crop sales, mood is changing. Terri sent summary to Brian Redlin, MDA. He was interested in digging into it. Already aligning their Ag certification with Truterra score.

- B. Casey Leonhardt AgBMP – Update signature approval dates – Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Zabel to approve Casey Leonhardt AgBMP update of signature
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. Amendment to Whitewater JPB Cover Crop Agreement which extends the date of the Sub-Agreement to December 31, 2023 from December 31, 2022 – Board Action
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the Amendment to Whitewater JPB Cover Crop Agreement which extends the date of the Sub-Agreement to December 31, 2023 from December 31, 2022
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- D. Amendment to Whitewater JPB Agreement for Services In support of Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) program. Changing contractor to SWCD and amounts to be paid for services rendered-Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Amendment to Whitewater JPB Agreement for Services in support of Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) program. Changing contractor to SWCD and amounts to be paid for services rendered.
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Greater Zumbro River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Joint Powers Agreement – Board Action
Motioned by and seconded by to approve the Greater Zumbro River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Joint Powers Agreement
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Amendment 1 FY2019 Drinking Water Protection in Southeast Minnesota Sub-Agreement between Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District – Board Action
Motioned by Zabel and seconded by Klennert to approve the Amendment 1 FY2019 Drinking Water Protection in Southeast Minnesota Sub-Agreement between Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion carried

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Memorandum of Agreement between The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Wabasha Soil & Water Conservation District for NACD TA Grant – Board Action
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Wabasha Soil & Water Conservation District for NACD TA Grant
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- B. Approve Stephen McNallan contract# 18-Capacity-7 in the amount of \$4,101.39 for NRCS practices 410-Grade Stabilization Structure and 412-Grassed Waterway – Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Stephen McNallan contract# 18-Capacity-7 in the amount of \$4,101.39 for NRCS practices 410-Grade Stabilization Structure and 412-Grassed Waterway
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. Approve George Meyer contract# 21-Capacity-2 in the amount of \$9,061.64 for NRCS practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin – Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve George Meyer contract# 21-Capacity-2 in the amount of \$9,061.64 for NRCS practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Approve Wade Nibbe contract# 20-Capacity-6 in the amount of \$3,325.00 for NRCS practice 412-Grassed Waterway – Board Action
Motioned by Zabel and seconded by Klennert to approve Wade Nibbe contract# 20-Capacity-6 in the amount of \$3,325.00 for NRCS practice 412-Grassed Waterway
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Approve Voucher payment to Megan Herbers for contract# 20-CWMA-5 in the amount of \$520.50 for practice 314 Brush Management – Board Action
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve voucher payment to Megan Herbers for contract# 20-CWMA-5 in the amount of \$520.50 for practice 314 Brush Management
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- F. Approve Eugene Schnell contract # 20-Capacity-5 in the amount of \$2,550.00 for NRCS practice 412 Grassed Waterway - Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Eugene Schnell contract# 20-Capacity-5 in the amount of \$2,550.00 for NRCS practice 412 Grassed Waterway
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- G. Zumbro River Wastewater Discharge Meeting/Training – Terri Report
MPCA posted Zumbro River Wastewater Discharge Meeting
Terri reported to County Board briefly. The purpose of the meeting was to get permittees up to speed on requirements. Focused on anything going through Lake Zumbro. Number of expired Wastewater permits. Justin Watkins of the MPCA talked about surface water. Explained phosphorus assessments and watershed delineation. Downstream discharge from 3rd largest city in the state, which is Rochester. Have a large discharge load, but low phosphorous because they have a good wastewater treatment system. They do a test called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) which shows how much pollution water can take before it exceeds water quality standards. Assess for aquatic life, consumption, recreation, drinking water. Lake Zumbro was more impaired, it has improved quite a lot. Monitor to maintain. How to manage chloride from water softeners. Solid by product has to go to landfill. Identify phosphorous limit for fishing, boating. Algae bloom, blue/green is bad. Harmful to dogs, kids, skin and health. Looking for potential solution for water softeners. What is coming from private septic systems? What of that is going into the water, not getting the solid to landfill?
- H. N. Fork Zumbro Mazeppa Change order for current project (Environmental Troubleshooters, Inc.)– Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the N. Fork Zumbro Mazeppa change order for current project (Environmental Troubleshooters, Inc.
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- I. N. Fork Zumbro River Channel Restoration – Lange Property Project Expansion (WSB) - Board Action
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Zabel to approve N. Fork Zumbro River Channel Restoration – Lange Property Project Expansion (WSB)
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- J. Approve Theodore Mehrkens contract# 19-DWP-CC-7 in the amount of \$2,700.00 for practice 340 cover crops – Board Action
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Theodore Mehrkens contract# 19-DWP-CC-7 in the amount of \$2,700.00 for practice 340 cover crops
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- K. Approve Adam Graner Amendment 1 for Contract# 19-DWP-CC-5 to adjust install dates to 11/1/2021, 11/01/2022 and 11/01/2023. No change to amount of contract \$2,700.00. – Board Action
Motioned by Zabel and seconded by Ross to approve Adam Graner Amendment 1 for contract# 19-DWP-CC-5 to adjust install dates to 11/1/2021, 11/01/2022, 11/01/2023. No change to amount of contract \$2,700.00
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- L. Upcoming Events:
i. Tree Pick Up Day April 29, 9 am – 3 pm

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB
Lynn reported that they approved amended sub-agreement for extensions. Left over money from cover crops, approved to spend on billboards to promote general cover crop program. Billboards would go by Plainview, Stockton and Winona along Hwy 61.
Discussion on putting people's names on contracts for cover crops.
Lynn stated people should not be ashamed of putting cover crops in with the program. One comment was they should do it on their own.
Bob and Sharleen stated it is public knowledge.
Section 319 N. Fork resubmit with smaller area to see if can get a grant.
- B. Zumbro 1W1P
Terri reported that the policy committee meeting went over where they are in the process. JP agreement coming to all boards. Went over implementation tables. Approved payments. Good plan action for implementation. BWSR will fund it. Work plan next year before can get started. Once BWSR approves the plan, it will be end of this year or beginning or next year before we would get funding.

C. WinLac 1W1P

Lynn reported that try to secure a Consultant by end of month, before fair season. Help to coordinate. Want to have a meeting at Winona County Fair to get some exposure. Emily Zanone from MPCA on water testing. She said to use data that is already there.

Terri added that the notification of our plan went out to cities and townships. Put together an advisory committee

D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - **No Report**

E. County Board Meeting -

Larry presented to the board and Dave Balcom did the write up In The Wabasha Herald.

F. Hiawatha Valley RC&D

Terry stated next meeting is in June. Would like them to come in before the Board.

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

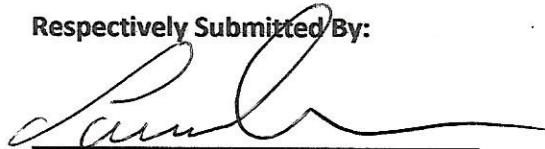
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 am

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Larry Theismann, Secretary