

Please call office at 651-560-2053 or email [susan.cerwinske.wabashaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:susan.cerwinske.wabashaswcd@gmail.com) if you have any questions on attending physically or by phone.

We have call-in capabilities for up to 10 people. Phone# 651-560-1088 Access code # 0147478#  
If you plan on attending in person and are not fully vaccinated, wearing a mask and social distancing will be required.

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District  
District Regular Board Meeting  
August 26, 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 Larry Theismann, Secretary (Note: Larry is filling in for Lynn Zabel who was filling in for Terry Helbig)*  
*Board members present: Larry Theismann, Secretary, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer Chet Ross, Member*  
*Staff present: Terri Peters, District Manager, Matt Kempinger, District Technician*  
*Attending by phone: John Benjamin, NRCS, Brian DeVetter, NRCS, Bob Walkers, County Commissioner, Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Admin. Asst.*  
*Citizen: Frank Klennert*
  
- II. **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**
  
- III. **AGENDA**  
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Agenda.*  
*Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross*  
*Opposed: None*  
*Motion Carried*
  
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker
  
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action**  
Roger Walkes AgBMP loan application in the amount of \$15,000.00 for precision planting equipment to enhance planting for no-till setup to reduce runoff  
*Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the Consent Agenda*  
*Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross*  
*Opposed: None*  
*Motion Carried*
  
- VI. **SECRETARY’S REPORT**
  - A. July 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes-Board Action  
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the July 22,2021 Meeting Minutes*  
*Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross*  
*Opposed: None*  
*Motion Carried*

- B. August 9, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes – **Board Action**  
**Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the August 9, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**  
**Opposed: None**  
**Motion Carried**

**VII. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- A. District Financial Statements-**Board Action**  
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the District Financial Statements**  
**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**  
**Opposed: None**  
**Motion Carried**

**VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$28,824.22 -**Board Action**  
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve payment of the monthly bills except for Environmental Troubleshooter, Inc. \$7,487.80 which will talk about later under old business.**  
**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**  
**Opposed: None**  
**Motion Carried**

**IX. DISTRICT REPORTS**

- A. Chair Report – Terry Helbig – **No Report**
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes  
**Bob reported: Whitewater JPB meeting, decided Sheila office beginning 1-1-22 will be at Winona County Building**  
**Discussion on different farming practices, types**  
**County working on the budget. Will be tougher budget cycle.**  
**Policy meeting Rochester, 60-day review, public comments**
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters  
**Terri reported: Submitted W. Indian Creek clean water program. State fund match. Sheila submitted N.Fork Whitewater for Soil Erosion.**  
**Looking for feedback from people at the W. Indian meeting about match.**  
**WinLac public meeting**  
**Greater Zumbro – Final process. Public hearing/90-day review, BWSR board approval.**  
**AgBMP program - not much funding available. Have 3 applications waiting to be funded. MDA has some other funding that may come through.**  
**JPB Technical Service Area meeting. After talked to Beau, Kristen about Mississippi River/Lake Pepin TMDL (total maximum daily load) studies for MPCA**  
**LWG Meeting – Well attended**  
**319 Nonpoint source funds. Used for Roller Crimper. It has been delivered and will need to pay transporter. Had to rewrite check driver was ready to leave.**  
**Auditors here 8/23/21 – answered questions**

**Postcard for State Drinking Water Program. Administered by Olmsted. 100 postcards sent out. Have gotten 13 back that want water tested. Nitrates over 10 option for cost share for water treatment system.**

**Talked to Michael Plante. COVID funds has language that funds are suppose to be used for Clean Water. Engineering list of projects waiting to be funded.**

**Met with Jen Wahls. She is interested in contracting to do outreach for W. Indian Creek.**

**Jeff Weiss, DNR putting together FEMA planning grant for Lower Zumbro.**

**Potentially may need outreach. Jen would be interested in that.**

**Discussion: Larry asked if there was anyone else showing interest in outreach.**

**Terri answered that no one has shown interest in that kind of work. Jen has. We can post for it if we need to. Put together preliminary description of what could that person do that Matt and Henry don't cover. May request an office position for those responsibilities.**

D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin – Report in packet – **Gave report at meeting**

E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – Report in packet

**Matt at the meeting added to his report that was in packet. Lot of work being done for Gorman Creek project. Permits and draft design. Wetland issues this month, concerns with one in West Albany. Not a full application yet, waiting for delineation from project manager. 60 days to come up with plan.**

**Discussion: Sharleen noted that this one was brought up at the county meeting.**

**Didn't have correct information. Wondering since it is tail end of season, if this would get done. Terri noted that there is a timeline for submitting applications for wetland. Matt will get notice of application, time to get back from us.**

**Bob replied that the applicants will have the opportunity to request an extension on the applications. Won't end in September, they will request extra time.**

**Larry asked Matt about the drone survey. Got into conversation about Matt being trained and certified to fly the drone. Terri replied that we have been thinking about it when he has time. Training online, pilot certification, airport test. Larry noted that this would diversify the staff and that we should seriously consider it. Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve Matt Kempinger to take the drone class to get certified and be able to operate the drone we have.**

**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion Carried**

F. Ecological Technician Report – Henry Stelten – Report in packet

G. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant -Sue Cerwinske – Report in packet

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Conservation Project – Lynn Zabel – **No Report**

B. Amendment # 2 to Sub-agreement between The SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Wabasha SWCD. MN BWSR funding within the RCPP:

Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota. Changing sub-agreement amount to \$109,973.16 (Polson) and \$2,424.51 for Technical Assistance is valid for the remainder of the P17-4048 and P20-1006 grant agreement ending December 31, 2022 – **Board Action/Signature**

**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Amendment #2 to Sub-agreement between The SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Wabasha SWCD. MN BWSR funding within the RCPP: Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota. Changing sub-agreement amount to \$109,973.16 (Polson) and \$2,424.51 for Technical Assistance is valid for the remainder of the P17-4048 and P20-1006 grant agreement ending December 31, 2022**

**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion Carried**

- C. Lars Polson amendment #2 to Contract# LMFR-17RCPP-5WAB. Changing amount to \$109,973.16 and changing install date to December 31, 2022. Funding from Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in MN -RCPP– **Board Action/Signature**

**Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve Lars Polson amendment #2 to Contract# LMFR-17RCPP-5WAB. Changing amount to \$109,973.16 and**

**changing install date to December 31,2022. Funding from Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in MN – RCPP**

**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion Carried**

- D. Environmental Troubleshooters Inc. Pay Voucher #6 in the amount of \$7,487.80 for partial payment of the 5% retainage – **Board Action/Signature**

**Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve payment of Environmental Troubleshooters Inc. Pay Voucher #6 in the amount of \$7,487.80 for partial payment of the 5% retainage**

**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion Carried**

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approve Tony Burke Contract# 18-Capacity-8 in the amount of \$6,446.00 for NRCS practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure – **Board Action**

Funding sources for contract# 18-Capacity-8:

2018 Capacity \$3,554.67

2020 Capacity \$26.68

2020 State Cost Share \$2,864.65

**Matt commented that the Grade Stabilization structure was designed by Bill and NRCS staff. Funded through EQIP and cost share available. Terri added that Tony is in the original target area of W. Indian Creek. He has been waiting for project to get funded. Total project \$29,000.00. New form missing funding box. Piggyback EQIP, Ag Certainty \$5,000.00 and cost share.**

**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Tony Burke Contract# 18-Capacity-8 in the amount of \$6,446.00 for NRCS practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure**

**Funding sources for contract# 18-Capacity-8:**

**2018 Capacity \$3,554.67**

**2020 Capacity \$26.68**

**2020 State Cost Share \$2,864.65**

**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion Carried**

- B. Approve FY 2022 & FY 2023 State of MN Board of Water and Soil Resources SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement, Total Grant \$70,040.00 – **Board Action**
- P22-5561 - 2022 Conservation Delivery (Wabasha SWCD) \$19,619.00
  - P23-5651 - 2023 Conservation Delivery (Wabasha SWCD) \$19,619.00
  - P22-5741 - 2022 State Cost Share Fund (Wabasha SWCD) \$15,401.00
  - P23-5831 - 2023 State Cost Share Fund (Wabasha SWCD) \$15,401.00

**Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve FY 2022 & FY 2023 State of MN Board of Water and Soil Resources SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement, Total Grant \$70,040.00**

**Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion Carried**

**Terri noted that she will have to do workplan before we get the funding.**

**Larry asked how long it takes to write a workplan, Terri replied about 1 ½ hours.**

- C. Upcoming Events:
- i. **MCIT Human Resources training was full, on waiting list. SWCD will not have one ready this year.**

## **XII. Board Reports**

- A. Whitewater JPB

**Lynn reported the highlights from the meeting include: Approving spending \$8,066.00 of 319 Whitewater Non-Point Source grant money before the fact due to our tight timeline and our next meeting not being for two months.**

**No longer having office space for Sheila Harmes at Winona SWCD in Lewiston and instead only having one office in Winona itself. This should save money. We decided to make Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> the date of change to allow transition time and simplify the rental period calculations.**

*We went on a few conversation tangents involving Lake Winona phosphorus, roller crimping and cover crops and agronomic practices in general. Terri added that a roller crimper was purchased, a camera for interviews and a transmitter. Sheila did some billboards. Waiting for soil testing equipment.*

**B. Zumbro 1W1P**

*Larry reported that there was a public meeting & hearing in Rochester.*

**C. WinLac 1W1P**

*Terri reported that they are having local planning work group meeting next week Tuesday. Aggregation of materials, mission statement. Planning kickoff around 9-20 – 9-22-2021. Waiting for finals.*

**D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB**

*Larry reported that had a meeting in Mazeppa. Went over budget situations. Everyone optimistic about funding. Not assured of actual money coming in for projects. Terri added NACD grant money for JPB. \$128,000.00 to help engineers and recoup some Admin. time for us and other districts.*

**E. County Board Meeting**

*Larry reported that he gave a brief update. No questions from board. There are dates that Larry can't go to a couple of meetings because of work commitments. Terri puts together a brief report. Sharleen volunteered to attend meetings in Larry's absence.*

**F. Hiawatha Valley RC&D**

*Lynn reported that the two most interesting things from the meeting in his view: We approved pursuing a proposal that Driftless Grown will operate as a program of Hiawatha Valley RC&D under the Community Services Program. Driftless Grown is a group of many producers of a wide variety of products ranging from honey to grass fed beef and several other more exotic offerings. They cover SE Minnesota, western Wisconsin and northern Iowa. Another thing Richard Harris III mentioned was that he had enrolled in a \$2,700.00 course to study carbon markets, including the business end of things. It seems he is trying hard to expand the role of the RC&D and learn new things. I see the carbon markets training as an off shoot from our seed planted with our work on conservation plan options. If we keep steering in the right direction we might get there yet.*

**XIII. Adjourn – Board Action**

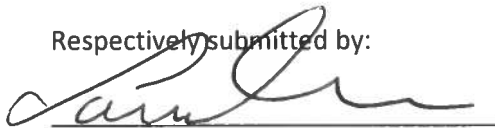
***Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 am***

***Affirmative: Theismann, Klennert, Ross***

***Opposed: None***

***Motion Carried***

Respectively submitted by:



Larry Theismann, Secretary