

Please call office at 651-560-2053 or email susan.cerwinske.wabashawcd@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
June 24, 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, Larry Theismann, Secretary, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Chet Ross, member.
Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager
Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner
On Phone: Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner, Whitewater Watershed Project Coordinator, John Benjamin, NRCS and Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Admin.Assistant

- II. **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

- III. **AGENDA**
Motioned by Zabel and seconded by Klennert to approve the agenda
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, 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. May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes-Board Action
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve the Secretary's Report
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- VII. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**
A. District Financial Statements-Board Action
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve the Treasurer's Report
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. **Monthly Bills in the amount of \$31,599.03 -Board Action**
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve payment of the monthly bills in the amount of \$31,599.03
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. **Chair Report – Terry Helbig**
*Board representative for the resolutions meeting on Tuesday, June 22nd.
3 resolutions all passed*
- B. **County Commissioner – Bob Walkes**
New 4-H Director starting July 6th
- C. **District Manager Report – Terri Peters**
Worked on MRBI (Mississippi River Basin Initiative) application submittal to have West Indian Watershed included in the MRBI. Working with NRCS and SWCD staff in doing outreach and get some projects ready. Special pot of money. Application needs to be submitted by 6-29-2021
WinLac 1W1P had interviews and selected consultant
Root River, the fiscal agent is getting contracts together for this project
Stream Monitoring while Matt and Henry were doing training
Resolution Meeting. People had consensus that we weren't getting enough for RIM inspections. Should be charged amount to reflect actual cost. BWSR is aware.
Planning Local Work Group meeting 7-27-21 at VFW in Wabasha 9:00 -11:00 am
Adding Partners meeting for W. Indian project to work on budget and work plan. 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Bring in partners to see what practices are important in Wabasha County.
Safe Water Drinking Grant. Target people with lower income, higher cost share rates. Some water testing. Short turn around. Different cost share rates.
Under sink treatment systems, water testing and reconstruction of wells, if needed
Whitewater Watershed Cover Crop Program. Get some contracts lined up. Contact people who may be interested. \$30/acre and in Elgin, Plainview area \$40/acre up to 30 acres
Budget to the County
Met with Michael Plante and Shawn about Water Resources Board. SWCD had paid the dues, but the County Commissioners attended the meetings. A Director was hired, she left and we paid unemployment at the beginning of the year.
The County did reimburse us for that.
- D. **NRCS Report – John Benjamin – Report in Packet**
- E. **District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – Report in Packet**
- 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 - Discussion**

Lynn waiting for MAWQCP appointment and he will go through with that.

Research on some data that is collected. On a patch of ground, have a spot that catches rainfall water. Know coverage of that land. Pan that weighs and samples it. Doing useful research for cover crops, practices to see what gets to the drinking water with whatever practice used.

Article in Farm Journal of carbon credits. 9 questions to ask before getting in to it. How long will land be tied up. 2-15 years at least or forever?

Terri commented that at resolution meeting, it came up from Fillmore that legislators need to be encouraged to reward people for doing good.

Should partner with Coop going forward to reach people that we aren't.

Carbon credits, a lot of development and considerations happening.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approve Amendment #4 for Steve McNallan Contract 17-CAP-WS-13 changing contract install date from 11/30/2019 to 11/30/2021 for practice 351 well decommissioning – **Board Action**

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve amendment #4 for Steve McNallan Contract# 17-CAP-WS-13 changing contract install date from 11/30/2019 to 11/30/2021 for practice 351 Well Decommissioning

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- B. Approve voucher payment for Rollie Schumacher Contract# 18-Capacity-6 in the amount of \$6,877.01 for 412 Grassed Waterway – **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve voucher payment for Rollie Schumacher Contract# 18-Capacity-6 in the amount of \$6,877.01 for 412 Grassed Waterway

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- C. Approve Amendment #1 for Frank Brand Contract# 19-319FL-1 changing contract install date from 6/30/21 to 6/30/22 for small feedlot fix – **Board Action**

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Klennert to approve Amendment #1 for Frank Brand Contract# 19-319FL-1 changing contract install date from 6/30/21 to 6/30/22 for small feedlot fix

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- D. Approve Amendment # 1 for Wade Nibbe Contract# 20-Capacity-6 changing amount from \$3,325.00 to \$4,612.81 for 412 Grassed Waterway-**Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve Amendment #1 for Wade Nibbe contract# 20-Capacity-6 changing amount from \$3,325.00 to \$4,612.81 for 412 Grassed Waterway
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Approve voucher payment for Wade Nibbe Contract# 20-Capacity-6 in the amount of \$3,325.00 for 412 Grassed Waterway Or Approve voucher payment for Contract# 20-Capacity-6 for Wade Nibbe in the amount of \$4,612.81 as amended on 6-24-2021 board meeting for 412 Grassed Waterway – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve voucher payment for Wade Nibbe Contract# 20-Capacity-6 in the amount of \$4,612.81 as amended at 6-24-2021 board meeting for 412 Grassed Waterway
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Approve Contract for White Barn Acres LLC. Contract# 21-Capacity-3 in the amount of 2,432.37 for practice 578 Stream Crossing – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve White Barn Acres LLC contract# 21-Capacity-3 in the amount of \$2,432.37 for practice 578 Stream Crossing
Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- G. **Whitewater JPB – MPCA 319 Grant Funds – Board Discussion**
Discussion: Terri: Somewhere else in state couldn't spend grant funds so Whitewater got it. Draft proposals. Sheila has gotten approved to sign the grant executed. Short time frame. Starting 6-17-20 and needs to be spent by 9-30-21. Winona County purchasing a manure spreader.
 Audio equipment to be used for rain drop simulators.
 Winona purchasing a roller-crimper, will pay up to \$5,000 though MPCA
 Sheila said It is in grant budget, but Winona is not totally committed. Terri stated that we could possibly buy it, we had a couple requests. White Barn Acres would use it. Where would we store it, maybe a farmer. Could rent it out. Lynn asked how big it would be and how to transport. How would we get it around from farm to farm. Terri stated we could share with Winona. Bob Walkes checked on website about transports. Lance put interseeder on list but \$25,000. but was taken off list, too costly. Lynn said It could possibly be used for waterway work. Larry noted that it would be good if we could stop spraying and would help the land.

Sheila will check with Lance to see what he was looking at and get more information and look at the budget for Winona SWCD

Terri stated that the highlighted areas of agreement is what Wabasha SWCD will be part of:

Drone software to get the drone survey print out. Staff time, work with Chris Nelson.

Video better for interviews with farmers out in the field. Soil Testing and education with soil health and rain simulator. Working with NRCS to do a cover crop event in August.

H. Upcoming Events:

- i. Local Work Group – July 27th

I. **W. Indian – Terri Peters**

To get work accomplished in the plan they are dividing up into committees.

Want to see if someone on the board would be interested in being on one of the committees. Forestry, Soil, Groundwater and an

Education Group started – Will help with W. Indian for a match.

Send out email for after local work group, to have a meeting with committee on W. Indian

XII. Board Reports

A. **Whitewater JPB – Lynn**

Bob Walkes, Grant funds discussion

Lynn discussion on Sheila's office space.

Nitrogen test plots, testing. Then discussion on more to process than just profit off the land. Using up water and soil is part of it. Need to think that way, not just profit.

B. **Zumbro 1W1P – Larry**

Zoom meeting. Public hearing in Rochester on 8/12. Will have meeting before that. Opinions on what is going on. Input from general public. Go to state for funding next year. Caitlin does a lot to setup, organized. In person local working group meeting 7/08/21

C. **WinLac 1W1P - Lynn – Discussed earlier**

D. **SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Larry**

7/1/29 Finance meeting

7/29/21 normal next meeting (may be option for in person in Oronoco)

E. **County Board Meeting – Larry alt. Terry and Sharleen**

Attended, no questions. No Report this time. Will have report for next meeting

F. **Hiawatha Valley RC&D – Terry**

No meeting

G. Potential State Shutdown – Discussion

We cannot report time for any BWSR grant and need to stop work on any of them. Able to work on WCA, DNR. MDA had governor sign some bills that were agriculture related. Can work on Ag Certainty. In office, how do we plan for that. Staff is largely paid by BWSR grants. If it does go on for a longer time, do we layoff or go to part-time. How would we handle medical insurance in the interim. Should do what we need to do to retain employees. Will watch what County does and Bob will let us know how they will be handling it.

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 AM

Affirmative: Helbig, Zabel, Theismann, Klennert, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Theismann', written over a horizontal line.

Larry Theismann, Secretary