

Please call office at 651-560-2053 or email 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#.

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District
District Regular Board Meeting
August 25, 2022
8:15 a.m.
County Conference Room
625 Jefferson Ave.**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Lynn Zabel, Chair

Supervisors Present: Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Larry Theismann, Secretary, Dag Knudsen, member and Lynn Zabel, Chair

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, John Benjamin, NRCS, Frank Klennert, Citizen

On the Phone: Brian DeVetter, NRCS, Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner, Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve the agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

V. CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action

A. FY2022 Regional Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Phase 2 User
Sub-agreement between Wabasha SWCD and Rice SWCD

B. Jeremy Nelson voucher payment in the amount of \$1,160.00 for 327 Pollinator
Habitat (5.8 acres @ \$200.00/acre)

C. FY2022 Regional Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Phase 2 User
Sub-agreement between Wabasha SWCD and Goodhue SWCD

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Klennert to approve the Consent Agenda

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. July 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Secretary's Report as read and reviewed earlier in the month

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. District Financial Statements

B. July Program Record

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve the Treasurer's Report as read,

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Zabel

Abstained: Knudsen

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$27,982.91 - Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve the Payment of Monthly Bills in the amount of \$27,982.91

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel – report later on in meeting.

B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes

Whitewater JPA Meeting – Nov.

Approved application for Clean Water competitive grant

Quote for Well Sealing

Updated 319 Nitrogen Reduction Grant – focus on education

Discussed WinLaC planning process

Discussed local advisory team – to be headed by MDA

County – filling in pieces of the budget. working on the day to day operations.

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters

Reporting on Federal grants. NFWF closed out

319 reporting process for WinLaC chloride monitoring

Interviews for Americorp position – Will Jacobson starts Aug. 29th for 11 months.

Clean Water Fund Application Submitted

WIC meeting with MPCA and Jen Wahls. Discussed monitoring & how to move forward

Gorman Creek out for bids soon. Met with Pete Fryer/Engineer questions on doing the project.

N.Fork Zumbro – DNR meeting, released some funds back – under budget by \$200k

Accelerated Implementation Phase 2 SWD – sub-agreements out

WinLaC is in process of getting done. Plans out for comment/technical committee Working on projects with staff on getting bids on projects. Coming in 40 to 50% higher. Inflation Reduction Act. Look at other contractors.

Working through nominee applications for MASWCD awards.

- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin - Gave report at the meeting
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger (in packet)
- F. Natural Resources Conservation Technician Report – Henry Stelten (in packet)
- G. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant -Sue Cerwinske (in packet)

H. BWSR Report

I. Other agencies –Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner

319 Grant follow up – final reports

Connected with farmers in the cover crop program. 10 of the 12 are doing cover crops. One half of these are experimenting with multiple species and planting different times of the year.

Submitted grant application for Well Sealing

WinLaC under internal review until Sept. 12. Compile comments, adjust draft plan as needed.

Tour meeting for policy committee, October 3 Open up draft plan for 60-day review period. Hearing early Jan on that plan.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)

B. Wabasha Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Hoosier Ridge Ranch, Eric and Michelle Heins – Board Action

Discussion: Terri reported on the conservation practices that Eric and Michelle have implemented on their farm and why she has nominated them. If you want to visit the farm, let Terri know and she will set it up with Eric.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Hoosier Ridge Ranch, Eric and Michelle Heins as Wabasha Outstanding Conservationist of the Year

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Klennert brought up Charles Schmitt and because of COVID he was not recognized. At some point he should get public recognition. Terri said that Sharleen could go out and visit Chuck and start to interview him.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval to use MAWQCP funds in our area for scholarship funds for producers that are pursuing MAWQCP certification to attend the U of M 2022 Soil Management Summit December 15-16 in St. Cloud. Suggestion: Assessed or Certified full ride, \$125.00 and 50% to those who apply and have not gone through the process \$62.50 - **Board Action**

(Purpose is to help educate producers to implement soil health practices that will get them certified.)

Terri noted that we will be reimbursed through this program.

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Theismann to approve using MAWQCP promo funds in our area for scholarship funds for producers that are pursuing MAWQCP certification to attend the U of M 2022 Soil Management Summit December 15-16 in St. Cloud. Suggestion: Assessed or Certified full rid, \$125.00 and 50% to those who apply and have not gone through the process, \$62.50.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

B. Approve Klavetter Family Farm Contract# 22-Capacity-2 in the amount of \$12,835.96 for 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 342 Critical Planting, 484 Mulching – Board Action/Signature

(Funding sources FY22 Capacity \$12,514.70, FY21 Capacity \$321.26)

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Klennert to approve Klavetter Family Farm Contract# 22-Capacity-2 in the amount of \$12,835.96 for 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 342 Critical Planting and 484 Mulching.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

C. Conservationist/Awards program evaluation criteria – Board Discussion/Action

Discussion: Dag reported on how he came up with the criteria list. It is a guide to follow. Suggested to change program evaluation criteria as applicable.

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Klennert to approve the awards program evaluation guide as applicable. Choosing for County and write up for state.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

D. Letter of Support for Trout Unlimited RCPP – Board Action/Signature

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve the Letter of Support for Trout Unlimited RCPP.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

E. West Indian Creek Targeted Outreach Letters – Board Signature

i. Conservation Program Funding under the Mississippi River Basin Initiative – Informational on Outreach Effort

Discussion: One letter for cover crops and one for non-structural practices. All supervisors sign to make it personalized. Cover crop letter going out first to targeted area. Work on personalized information for each recipient.

- F. Approve Wildlife Habitat Steward Award and Forestry Steward Award nominee for MASWCD - Helen Myers – **Board Approval/Signature**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve Helen Myers for Wildlife Habitat Steward Award and Forestry Steward Award nomination for MASWCD.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- G. Teacher Award Nominee for MASWCD – Mike Besse – **Board Approval/Signature**

Terri nominating Mike Besse for the Teacher Award for MASWCD. Mike is a 5th grade teacher at Plainview/Elgin/Millville school. He is active in their unit on conservation. He uses our conservation cubes for 2 weeks. 1 week they work with DNR on invasive species. Students need to come up with an end report and create a poster.

Mike has taken students to the Science Museum and on an overnight trip to the Eagle Valley Learning Center but ran out of money for that trip. 5th graders enjoy our Soil & Conservation Day.

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to approve Mike Besse for the Teacher Award for MASWCD

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

***Terri asked for a board member to be on each of the award application for MASWCD. Sharleen volunteered sign for Eric Hein. Dag for Helen Myers.**

- H. MN BWSR Accepting Applications for Lawns to Legumes Grants

Cost-Share funding available to Minnesota residents to create residential pollinator habitat- **Informational**

- I. Local Forestry Team/Local Forestry Outreach Program Efforts -**DRAFT versions-do not sign**. Potentially there will be some other small related grants.

Delegate signature authority to Terri Peters to sign as they come in. – **Board Action**

- i. Minnesota State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation Hunting Heritage Super Fund Application – Due September 1, 2022

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve Terri Peters to have signature authority to sign smaller grants as they come in.

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- J. Approve Dan Johnson Voucher payment for Contract# 22-CS-1 in the amount of \$4,825.00 for 410 Grade Stabilization and 342 Critical Area Planting – **Board Action** (Funds sources FY21 State Cost Share \$1,537.50 and FY 22 State Cost Share \$3,287.50)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Dan Johnson voucher payment for Contract# 22-CS-1 in the amount of \$4,825.00 for 410 Grade Stabilization and 342 Critical Area Planting

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

K. Upcoming Events:

- i. Fall MASWCD / MACDE Employee and Supervisors Meeting Sept. 27th.
Registration at 9:00 am at the Hokah Fire Station – **RSVP by Sept. 15th**
- ii. Americorp employee for Urban Forestry, Will Jacobson starts August 29th
- iii. January 28, 2023 Application Deadline for Lawns to Legumes program
- iv. SE Landscape Meeting

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Larry (alternate Dag)
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn – **Listened in on meeting.**
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Larry – **Meeting late Fall/early Winter**
- E. County Board Meeting – Larry (alternate Sharleen) **No issues on report to County.**
- F. Hiawatha Valley RC&D – Lynn – **didn't hear back from doodle poll on meeting date.**

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

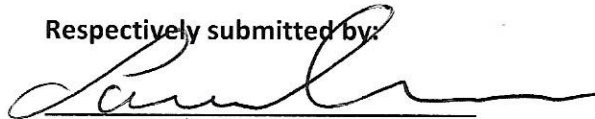
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 am

Affirmative: Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively submitted by:



Larry Theismann, Secretary