

,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
July 28, 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: Lynn Zabel, Chair, Chet Ross, Co-chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Larry Theismann, Secretary, Dag Knudsen, member
Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager
Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner
Attending on phone: Brian DeVetter, NRCS and Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

- II. **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

- III. **AGENDA**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the agenda as presented.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

- V. **CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action**
 - A. Approve Voucher payment for Joe Young for Contract# 21-SWD-1 in the amount of \$1,665.50 for Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment System (Funding from 2021 Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users)
 - B. Approve Voucher payment for Eugene Schnell for Contract# 20-Capacity-5 in the amount of \$1,996.28 for 412 Grassed Waterway (Funding from FY18 Capacity \$998.61, FY19 Capacity \$235.37, FY20 Capacity \$762.30)
 - C. Contract for Professional Services. Wabasha SWCD (Grant Administrator) is in need of professional services for private well water analysis for the 6-county regional Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users Grant Program and the County of Olmsted acting through the Division of Health, Housing and Human Services (Contractor) desires to provide such services. \$4,000.00 grant total.
 - i. Delegate signature authority to Terri Peters to sign the sub-agreements with Greater Zumbro Watershed partners who participate
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to approve the Consent Agenda.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

*Opposed: None
Motion Carried*

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VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes – Board Action

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Ross to approve the Secretary's Report

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. District Financial Statements

B. June Program Record

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$62,757.11 - Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve payment of the monthly bills in the amount of \$62,757.11

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

Attended by Area 7 Meeting. No resolutions ready to go. Someone brought up that we need to focus more on what is happening upstream that is causing soil erosion. Toured Faribault Woolen Mill rain garden project.

B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes

County is Amidst the budget cycle. Came in better than anticipated but more work to do. County costs for cleaning ditches total \$233,000.00 which includes labor. County staff spend 25% of their time in the summer cleaning ditches and culvert repairs. This does not include township roads.

Led to discussion on getting commissioners to understand what it is costing for clean up because of bad land conservation management, soil loss and capping animal units. Wabasha Cty does not have regulation of capping animal units. Groundwater cost shares are treating not solving the problem.

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters

Booth at the Wabasha Fair

NACD grant helps cover technical staff time, closed out 2021 grant it is done.

North Fork should be closed out soon. FEMA work being finalized by WSB, under budget release funds for another project.

Gorman Creek, bid request process.

WIC stream shocking event 7-7, Groundwater event at Theilman.

WinLaC planning process. Timeline for review & heading to BWSR board.

Dept of Health Grant, working on sub-agreements

Quarterly reports on multiple grants.

TSA Meeting

Final Interviews for Americorp that we are hosting, starting 8-29 - urban forestry. WinLaC watershed money left. Talked with Emily Zanon and Sheila Harmes on what to do with it. Program called "Smarter Together" Interview ag producers, and partner with crop advisors.

New carpeting coming 8-8

- D. NRCS Report – **Brian DeVetter gave the report, descriptions of programs.**
- 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 – **Adam Beilke**

Water fund grant going through 8-22-2022.

Within that 10 million available for projects on the ground, BMP protection or restoring. Sub program focuses on Drinking Water Protection.

Along with that \$800,000 long range management grant.

1.5 million available soil health practices, protecting water supplies. Shifting toward watershed funding, Zumbro, WinLaC.

Terri submitting new application for W. Indian for more funds.

Soil health practices application for Drinking water supply.

Adam any Ideas for applications, less competitive right now. Terri will try that application again for soil health practices. Input from Adam.

Adam said BWSR received \$3 million for developing new RIM program focused on 1W1P. New pot of money that could, also include RIM projects not funded earlier.

Available for watersheds that have a plan.

- I. Other agencies --

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn

Lynn noted anyone can present ideas here. Dag said good thought, we should brainstorm outside of regular meeting.

Side note: CA Solar panels end up in the land fill, diminished useful life. Impact of buying more instead of just doing with less.

Attended Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Day in Oronoco. The family had native pollinators, CRP and projects on native plants. Struggle with deer and flooding, they are on the Zumbro bottoms. They have 40 acres. Olmsted SWCD worked with Xerxes Society. Cooperative effort to help them out.

Also came across a fellow and his dad, interested in planting native plants and renting out the rest of his land. His siblings want to sell the land, but he wants to keep it. Lynn offered that once he had some ideas to contact Wabasha SWCD to see if we could help him. Brian DeVetter said that NRCS has a working relationship with the Xerxes Society. They provide technical services for habitats. John has worked with them and producers. Just need to seek assistance.

- B. Conservation Farmer of the Year – **Board Discussion/Board Action**
Nominees: Henry suggestions: Joe Zarling, Dan Young and Adam Graner.
The board picked Charles Schmitt on a COVID year and there was no write up or convention. Revisit his nomination.
Discussion: *Dag would do interview with Charles Schmitt after getting information about his land and what conservation practices he has done. After lengthy discussion, it was decided not to have a nominee this year. Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to table selecting Conservation Farmer of the Year for 2022.*
Affirmative: *Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel*
Opposed: *None*
Motion Carried

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Plat Books – Rockford Map Publishers quote for 2023 Wabasha plat book – **Board Discussion/Action**
i. Photo Contest for Cover of the new Plat Book
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve ordering 100 Wabasha County Plat Books for 2023 from Rockford Map Publishers per quoted amount and also having photo contests for front cover.
Affirmative: *Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel*
Opposed: *None*
Motion Carried
- B. IRS adjustment for standard mileage rate at midyear to better reflect the recent increase in fuel prices. July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 adjustment to \$.625 /mile Resolution 07012022-1 – **Board Action**
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve the IRS adjustment for standard mileage rate at midyear to better reflect the recent increase in fuel prices. July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 adjustment to \$625 /mile. Resolution 07012022-1
Affirmative: *Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel*
Opposed: *None*
Motion Carried
- C. Amendment for the North Fork Zumbro at Mazeppa project-Lynn has already signed – **Informational**
- D. Employee Clothing Allowance – New shirts, sweatshirts, etc. – **Board Discussion/Board Action**
Board can also get shirts if they want to.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve clothing allowance of \$130.00 - \$150.00 per SWCD employee
Affirmative: *Ross, Klennert, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel*
Opposed: *None*
Motion Carried

- E. Upcoming Events:
- i. Townsquare Media – Launching of new Website
Information missing, not ready for 7-18 launch. Terri sending them changes and additions before approving launching the new website.

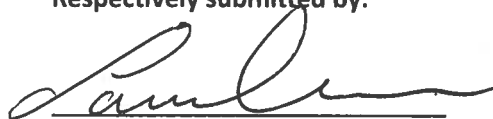
XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn *No Meeting*
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Larry (alternate Dag)
Dag and Terri attended meeting by remote. Changed by-laws to match study mode to action mode, action plans and the budget outlined for this year. Meet quarterly. Projects for \$175,000.00 or more needs to go to board for approval. Terri reported on AIG grant. YouTube video done for Well Testing and Soil Health will be complete in a couple of weeks. 3-month program.
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
Lynn reported that two speakers talked about whether structure should be Joint Powers Board or Joint Power Collaboration. No decisions made at this time.
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Larry
Larry reported that they had meeting and went over the budget and at this time the budget is stable. Limiting amount of cost share so that more projects can be done. Have different projects in different stages. Engineers help out with local SWCD's training. Budgeted for second truck and want to go through state vehicle program to purchase. May look into buying a leased truck.
- E. County Board Meeting – Larry (alternate Sharleen)
Sharleen attended the meeting, presented report from Terri's email.
- F. Hiawatha Valley RC&D – Lynn
Zabel reported that they didn't have a meeting. Sent out doodle poll, but no meeting setup yet.

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Zabel to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 am

Respectively submitted by:



Larry Theismann, Secretary

