

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.

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**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District
District Regular Board Meeting
October 27, 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 Chair, Lynn Zabel

Supervisors Present: Lynn Zabel, Chair, Chet Ross, Co-Chair, Larry Theismann, Secretary, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Dag Knudsen, member

Staff Present: Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

Staff Present by Phone: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present, John Benjamin, NRCS, Frank Klennert, citizen and Shawn Huth, Wabasha County HR

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motion by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

V. CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board and may be enacted through one motion. Any item on the Consent Agenda may be removed by any of the Board members for separate consideration.

- A. Patrick Judge Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-10 in the amount of \$3,840.00 for 340 Cover Crops. 32 acres for 3 years @ \$40.00/acre/year
(Funding source WAGZ Watershed Based)
- B. Eugene Betcher Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-12 in the amount of \$6,000.00 for 340 Cover Crops. 50 acres for 3 years @ \$40.00/acre/year
(Funding source WAGZ Watershed Based)
- C. Huneke Dairy, Inc. Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-9 in the amount of \$4,800.00 for 340 Cover Crops. 40 acres for 3 years @ \$40.00/acre/year
(Funding source WAGZ Watershed Based)
- D. Sharon Schumacher Voucher Payment for Contract# 21-SWD-2 in the amount of \$445.00 for Reverse Osmosis Point of Use Water Treatment System & Installation
(Funding source FY21 Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users)

- E. Jacob Meyer Voucher Payment for Contract# 22-319WIC-1 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for 340 Cover Crops, 1st year payment of 3 (Funding source FY22 319 West Indian Creek)
- F. Patrick Judge Voucher Payment for Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-10 in the amount of \$1,280.00 for 340 Cover Crops. 1st year payment of 3. (Funding source WAGZ Watershed Based)

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Theismann to approve the Consent Agenda.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes – Board Action

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

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. September District Financial Statements

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

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Zabel

Abstained: Knudsen

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$34,644.25 - Board Action

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$34,644.25.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
County staff elections and Budget is being finalized.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
Quarterly Reporting
Human Resources research
WAGZ policy meeting
WinLac out for 60-day review
Photo Contest for plat book cover
324 followers on Facebook

- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin
*John read the NRCS report that is in the packet
Talked about the Inflation Reduction Act and that there will be a large amount of money coming for projects in 2023 and 2024*
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger
- F. Natural Resources Conservation Technician Report – Henry Stelten (in packet)
- G. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant -Sue Cerwinske (in packet)
- H. BWSR Report – None
- I. Other agencies – None

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
- B. Meeting date for November is the 17th and December is the 15th – **Board Reminder**
Lynn suggested having Joint Power meeting after the November 17th meeting.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. MASWCD 2022 Annual Convention & Trade Show Dec. 12 – 14, 2022 at the The Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, MN. Registration deadline December 1. Go through the resolutions as a board, discuss. Resolution ballots due to Sue before November 1st.
Who will be attending? Pick which day or days to attend – **Board Discussion/Action**
Discussion: Resolution #9 Lynn had a question on WCA. Terri explained it and Sharleen read the descriptions of the resolutions. Dag asked about #1 Resolution – Terri explained the soil health program. Dag asked about resolution #12 Renewable Energy and there was a discussion.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve up to 5 attending the MASWCD 2022 Annual Convention and Trade Show on Dec 12-14, 2022 and that Terri use her discretion on employees attending.
Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- B. Approve Luncheon for Eric and Michelle Heins our Outstanding Conservationist nominee - **Board Action**
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Theismann to approve luncheon expenses for our area Outstanding Conservationist nominee Eric and Michelle Heins and their children.
Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. National Association of Conservation Districts dues for 2023 – Terri recommends Full Membership Contribution of \$775.00. Operational expense that can included in our billing rate– **Board Action**
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Theismann to approve the National Association of Conservation Districts dues for 2023 for full membership contribution of \$775.00.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- D. Approve Margaret Deming Amendment# 1 to Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-005 to change the Installation Date to 11/30/2023 from 11/30/2022 – **Board Action**
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Klennert to approve Margaret Deming Amendment #1 to Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-005 to change installation date to 11/30/2023 from 11/30/2022.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- E. Approve Sharon Melvin’s cancellation of Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-001 for 410 Grade Stabilization Structure. Cancellation statement from Sharon attached – cancelling because contractors of the cost and location of the project – **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Theismann to approve cancellation of Sharon Melvin’s Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-001 for 410 Grade Stabilization Structure.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- F. Approve Joe Reinhardt Contract# 22-SDWGPh2-1 in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment System – **Board Action**
(Funding source 2022-23 Safe Drinking Water Phase 2)
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Klennert to approve Joe Reinhardt Contract# 22-SDWGPh2-1 in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment System.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Dag statement in response to the grant provided for installation of water treatment equipment such as reverse osmosis:

“The need to install water treatment equipment because of polluted ground water represents a significant cost to taxpayers/society. This is because of equipment and installation costs; ongoing maintenance costs to replace filters and reverse osmosis membranes; the electric power used because reverse osmosis is a power intensive process; 75%+ of water treated become concentrated polluted wastewater, which is sent into the sewer system and eventually the groundwater; and potentially reduced property values because of the polluted groundwater. This is similar to the taxpayer costs of cleaning up silted ditches amounting to an estimated \$233,000 per year in Wabasha County alone. The latter number calculated based on staff time attributed to ditch cleaning. All these cost results from how we treat our land.”

- G. Wabasha County Human Resources can offer HR Services to Wabasha SWCD for \$3,000.00. This equates to \$600.00 per person. Covers up to 6 employees. Some of the services that could be provided are:
- Recruiting applicants
 - Onboarding employees
 - Develop and maintain policies and procedures
 - Conducting disciplinary actions
 - Process terminations and retiring employees
 - Training and Development
- (This is a professional service that would be added into the billing rate.) -

Board Action

Terri explained why it would be helpful to get the HR responsibilities off her plate. Shawn Huth went over what the Wabasha County HR can provide for Wabasha SWCD and answered questions that the board had. She would like to work onsite once a week. Needs to go to County Personnel Committee and the Board for approval.

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Theismann to approve Wabasha County Human Resources to offer HR Services to Wabasha SWCD for \$3,000.00 a year. This equates to \$600.00 per person.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- H. MN PEIP Health Insurance 21% increase. County Benefits renewal for Dental, Life and Long-term disability. Shawn Huth looking into getting us on County Health Insurance. – **Board Discussion/Action**
- Shawn will be talking to the Insurance Brokerage on 10-28. Check about possibly getting SWCD the County's Group plan. Terri has been looking around for other option. Terri would like a motion for her to work with the Personnel Committee to find a recommended Health insurance option and move forward with the best option by the Nov. 18 deadline. Terri recommends staying with the County for Dental, LTD and Life Insurances.*

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to have Terri work with the Personnel Committee to find a recommended health insurance option and move forward with the best option by the Nov. 15 deadline.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to continue with the County Benefits for Dental, LTD and Life insurances.

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- I. Resolution 10272022-1 Personnel Policy Amendments. Approve Personnel Policy as amended – **Board Action**
Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to approve Resolution 10272022-1 Personnel Policy Amendment and approve Personnel Policy as amended.
Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- J. Upcoming Events:
 - i. MASWCD 2022 Annual Convention & Trade Show Dec. 12 – 14, 2022

- K. MASWCD Annual Convention Attendance – **Board Action**
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Theismann to approve up to three more people to attend the convention. Nominees for Wildlife Habitat Steward and Forestry Steward, Conservation awards.
Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
Lynn reported that at the meeting it was stated that Olmsted County has so many cover crops – represented 49,000 acres. Bob added that not all of those acres are in cover crops. Program is 150 acres per producer for funding. 52 producers signed up. Lynn said that Sheila did a survey on the 319 Reduction Grant. 11 responses for cover crop feedback.
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Larry (alternate Dag)
Larry reported that they did have a meeting. Projects have started. Quarterly meetings will continue. Someone will need to replace him as he is done at the end of the year. Dag is the alternate. Next meeting no until 2023.
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
Lynn reported that they had the formal review on Oct. 5th. Next meeting Dec 12th. WinLaC draft minutes of Policy Committee meeting on 10-03 submitted by Sheila Harmes (attached)
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Larry
No meeting. If someone is interested to take Larry's place, let Terri know. Larry is done at the end of the year.
Sharleen mentioned that we fill these roles at the work session of the new year.
- E. County Board Meeting – Larry (alternate Sharleen)
Larry has been attending the meetings. No concerns from the County. Terri attended the last one and gave presentation. Bob said board appreciates update.
- F. Hiawatha Valley RC&D – Lynn **No Meeting**

** Report on meeting at Hokah for MASWCD and MACDE, supervisors and employees. Sharleen reported that we took boat rides to see the Swan Area Habitat. Introduction not the same as seeing from the highway. Lynn said the DNR presentation of the invasive carp was interesting. How the carp moved from a fishery in Arkansas up the Mississippi, where they are damaging our food supplies. Sharleen said it was also interesting how they could see where the fish were coming from by their DNA. Lynn said Sharleen got him on the Advisory Committee.*

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Theismann and seconded by Ross to adjourn at 9:45 am

Affirmative: Klennert, Ross, Theismann, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:

Larry Theismann, Secretary