

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
Regular District Regular Board Meeting
Canceled for February 23, 2023
Cancellation Notice Has Been Sent Out**

**Special Meeting
February 24, 2023
8:15 am
County Conference
Room
625 Jefferson Ave.**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Supervisors Present: Dag Knudsen, Secretary, Seth Tentis, member and Lynn Zabel, Chair

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner. Katelyn Abts, AmeriCorps

On the Phone: Brian DeVetter, NRCS, Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Admin. Assistant

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, 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. County of Olmsted – Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District – MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Building Lease Agreement for 2023
- B. Freeborn SWCD Amendment #1 to change date of agreement effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 for MAWQCP.

C. Rice SWCD – Additional funds of \$2,500.00 for MAWQCP agreement effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

D. Stacy Miller voucher payment for Contract# 20-Capacity-4 in the amount of \$900.00 for final year of practice 340 cover crops.
(Funding source FY20 Capacity)

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

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. January 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Board Action

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

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. January District Financial Statements

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Treasurer's Report as written.

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Note: Dag will like to sit down and go over Profit & Loss Statement. Sometime in the future have a better way to present the financials.

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$36,819.30 - Board Action

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$36,819.30.

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

***** **Entertain Motion to go directly to old/new business action items***

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to go directly to the old/new business action items.

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Meetings for watersheds. Good to see WAGZ & WinLaC moving forward.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
*Tie out 2022. Budget Planning. Newsletter - applied for Bulk mailing and Nonprofit1
Watershed meetings and planning.*
- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin – (in packet) – Updated
*Brian DeVetter presented the NRCS report.
Dag question - Does the report reflect on capacity? Brian answered that we are not maximizing available funding. Need to go through process of application and planning. Problems occur after engineers come up with a cost and it is not economically feasible for the producer to address the problem because of the expense. Brian stated that next year the Inflation Reduction Act will be putting a lot of money towards conservation in various farm bill programs.
Dag questioned if there will be enough staff to meet the need?
Brian answered that the National and State offices are working on filling positions. Lynn asked if some producers can't go forward with projects now, will new money next year help? Brian stated that the rate is decided at a regional scale. Not aware of changing the rates. Our staff is working on getting their JAA's so they can help out.*
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger (in packet)
*Gorman Creek Project is taking up most of Matt's time.
Dag asked about tiling. Terri noted that there is no practice or cost share funding for tiling. Matt is our WCA Administrator. Matt needs to review and see if it falls under the wetland rule. We have no regulatory authority.*
- F. Natural Resources Conservation Technician Report – Henry Stelten (in packet)
Working on newsletter. 20 acres, 1700 names. Nonprofit will be less for mailing, we could go to 10 acres, 2200 names. Also working on a Flyer for the Roller Crimper.
- G. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant -Sue Cerwinske (in packet)
- H. BWSR Report – None
- I. *AmeriCorps –Katelyn Abts - Working out of our office until the end of July.
Working with Urban Forestry projects in Lake City and also Wabasha and Plainview.
Katelyn reported that she will be working on pruning, planting and watering trees. Working with Lake City Streets & Parks for grant for ash trees and Lake City Foresters with burial mounds. Working on education options, 5th grade Conservation Day. Contact with schools.
Environmental Conservation cubes are out at schools right now.*

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

XI.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution to Submit, Adopt and Implement the WinLaC Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – **Board Action/Signature**
Terri noted that this is going to the BWSR Board and they are moving it up to March. When it is approved implementation can start.
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Resolution to Submit, Adopt and Implement the WinLaC Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- B. WinLac (Mississippi River Winona La Crescent) Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Joint Powers Agreement – **Board Action/Signature**
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the WinLac (Mississippi River Winona La Crescent) Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Joint Powers Agreement.
Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District Contract for Services between Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha SWCD for Zumbro Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) 2023/2024 – **Board Action/Signature**
i. Wabasha SWCD Cost Proposal for SWAG \$15,891.05
Terri noted that this is for second round of stream monitoring. 2023/2024 is for the Zumbro. Olmsted administering grant through the MPCA.
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District Contract for Services between Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha SWCD for Zumbro Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) 2023/2024.
Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Budget Approval – **Board Action**
Terri talked about how funding can only be collected if staff works on them and report time to the funds. \$0 budget as we are nonprofit.
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Budget as presented with corrections sent to board members on February 23rd.
Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried:

- E. Upcoming Events:
- i. LSP Training in Bellechester – Regenerative Systems Peer-to-Peer Workshop
Wednesday, March 1 from 9 am – 3 pm at the Bellechester Community Center
101 1st St.
 - ii. Legislative Briefing and Reception, March 7 and Day at the Capitol, March 8

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
Lynn reported that they had election of officers. Josh, Chair, Lynn, Vice-Chair, Bob, Secretary and Treasurer. Meeting on 3/14 at the fire hall. Producers and agronomist to work on nitrogen reduction.
- B. Zumbro 1W1P –Dag
Bob & Dag attended 2-9 meeting. Meeting quarterly. Dag reported that they had election of officers, stayed in place. The policy committee dealt with the request from Goodhue SWCD re: a waste storage facility. BWSR provided \$100,000 towards the \$462,121.45 project with a cost share of 60% (instead of the previous request for 75%) in the amount of \$177,272, and the owner covering the balance of \$184,848. The project was approved. Need to put efforts on management. Olmsted County voted against. 2 media programs last year. Monthly newsletter. They have a review of last year, presentation on website.
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
Lynn reported that they discussed a tracking tool to show what progress project is making. Consensus for JPB to have something consistent that goes over the plans. More uniform.
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB -Dag
Dag couldn't get on remote. Terri reported that they elected officers. Talked about the meeting with Leanne Buck and Sheila Vanney about Legislative efforts and direction going with lobbying. Pete Fryer talked about break down of the Counties % of time projects that staff worked on and training.
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen
Bob gave report earlier.

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Tentis and seconded by Knudsen to Adjourn the meeting at 9:14 am.

Affirmative: Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted by:



Dag Knudsen, Secretary

