

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 Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2023
8:15 am
County Conference
Room
625 Jefferson Ave.**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Lynn Zabel, Chair called meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Supervisors Present: Lynn Zabel Chair, Chet Ross Co-chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Seth Tentis, member

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: John Benjamin, NRCS, Adam Beilke, BWSR and Frank Klennert, citizen

Attending by Phone: Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner and Whitewater Watershed Coordinator, Brian DeVetter, NRCS and Sue Cerwinske, Admin. Asst.

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the agenda with the change of the amount of monthly bills payment to \$35,649.49.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, 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. Contract for Services – Jennifer Wahls, Landscape Connections LLC. Effective period March 23, 2023 to June 30, 2025 for the Landowner Survey of the Lower Zumbro.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent Agenda.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. April 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Board Action

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. April District Financial Statements

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$35,649.49 - Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve payment of the monthly bills in the amount of \$35,649.49.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

Hiawatha Valley dissolution. They will be cutting checks. Went over the last five years, active. They will split up the dues with the funds they have left.

B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters

Conservation Planning and Outreach Technician job opening posted on County website. Apply electronically. Have 2 applicants, 1 has an interview setup for June 7 with Terri and Shawn. No board member needed.

Envirothon

5th Grade Conservation Field Day

Meeting with WinLaC assessment came back– Stream assessment MPCA

Landowner visits – Japanese Barberry

Feedlots projects

Private Wells Forum for groundwater

Greater Zumbro policy committee meeting & Technical advisory meeting

Planning for next round of funding, feedback on what should be included.

Two lysimeters installed in WIC for landowner to start monitoring crop land. Four more coming.

Invited by Environmental Defense Fund to meet with group. Angie Craig's staff want feedback what's going in farm bill.

Federal Funding coming down and legislative updates.

Tom Miller contract

Request for bacteria kits for use after the flooding. Wells that were submerged, should be tested after flooding. Same day shipping, they pay for.

- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin – (in packet) ***Went through report at meeting.***
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger
Busy working on Gorman and other projects.
- F. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant -Sue Cerwinski (in packet)
- G. BWSR Report – Adam Beilke
***Highlights of legislature relating to SWCD's.
\$79 million available for watersheds with plans adopted. (Watershed Based Implementation Funding.) Next round of funds for Zumbro later this year.
WinLaC second grant next year.
From General Funds: NRBG – usually available through County. 1 time increase to \$9 million. \$9 million for new habitat programs, Lawns to Legumes is one of them. \$21 million for soil health, \$17 million for water storage practices and \$21 million for grassland easements, with \$4 million for enhancements.
Changes to state cost share: \$ amount won't change, it opens up to use for different types of practices.
Direct aid for SWCD's, wanted \$22 million, getting \$15 million a year for the next 2 years and then in the future it goes down. Replaces local capacity, no funding for local capacity.***
- H. Other agencies – Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner, Whitewater Watershed Coordinator
***Sub-agreement DWP Whitewater for Cover crops
Next meeting renewal for Local Advisory Team Groups. Grant extended to next year. Local Advisory Team Meeting, in Elgin on Tues. June 27. Meeting in the morning and afternoon MDA Field test plots.***

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bank Signatories -- **Board Action - Signatures**
WNB Bank – Account Agreements and Entity Authorization - All Sign
- B. Approve Steve Evers Contract# 23CWF-WIC-1 in the amount of \$13,999.62 for 410 Grade Stabilization Structure – **Board Action**
(Funding source 2023 West Indian Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection)
***Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Steve Evers Contract# 23CWF-WIC-1 in the amount of \$13,999.62 for 410 Grade Stabilization Structure.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried***

- C. Approve sub-agreement between SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board and Wabasha SWCD utilizing MN BWSR Funding for Feedlot Water Quality Improvements – **Board Action**
(SE SWCD Technical Support JPB is TSA7 which is the P22-8660 BWSR Grant Administrator. Sub-agreement not to exceed \$91,483.00 (Tom Miller)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve sub-agreement between SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board and Wabasha SWCD utilizing MN BWSR funding for Feedlot Water Quality Improvements.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Approve Tom Miller Contract# 23-BWSRFeedlot-01 in the amount of \$91,483.00 for 313 Waste Storage Facility – **Board Action**
(Funding FY22-24 BWSR Feedlot Grant (Area 7 TSA/JPB)
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve Tom Miller Contract\$ 23-BWSRFeedlot-01 in the amount of \$91,483.00 for 313 Waste Storage Facility.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Approve White Water JPB Cover Crop Amendment to Sub-agreement between Whitewater JPB and Wabasha County SWCD. This amendment extends the date of sub-agreement to December 31, 2024 and includes \$45,000.00 in funds for cover crop incentives. – **Board Action**
The sub-agreement for cover crops is a 1-year contract up to 50 acres and it is also for well sealing and septic systems.
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the White Water JPB Cover Crop Amendment to Sub-agreement between Whitewater JPB and Wabasha County SWCD. This amendment extends the date of sub-agreement to December 31, 2024 and includes \$45,000.00 in funds for cover crop incentives, well sealing and septic systems.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. MASWCD Area 7 Meeting Agenda for June 27– Need head count by Friday, May 26th.
Lynn and Sharleen expressed interest in attending.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPm4fz_pYFA&authuser=1
Link for Partnering for Progress – **Informational Only**

- G. Unfunded Cooperative Agreement between NRCS and Wabasha SWCD –
Discussion/Board Action
 Statement of Work
 Unfunded Cooperative Agreement Initial Estimate and Annual Usage Report
 Unfunded Cooperative Agreement Face Sheet
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Unfunded Cooperative Agreement between NRCS and Wabasha SWCD.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- H. Audit quote for 2022 financial statements from Smith Schafer & Associates LTD
 \$6,170.00. – No other quotes at this time -**Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the audit quote for 2022 financial statements from Smith Schafer & Associates LTD for \$6,170.00.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- I. Upcoming Events:
- i. Local Work Group meeting June 22 a.m.
 (Note: We will recess regular meeting)
 - ii. Area 7 Supervisors Meeting, June 27 at Stewartville Legion. Registration 9:00 am. Cody Fox would like head count of staff/supervisors attending.

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
Dag attended the 5-11 WAGZ meeting at People’s Energy Coop, Oronoco.
A backup person needs to be appointed as Dag will not be able to attend 8-10-23 meeting. Dag sent an email to supervisors with recap of the meeting.
Jeff Broberg representing MN Well Owners Organization presented the “Petition to EPA to use emergency authority to address the drinking water crisis in southeastern Minnesota” (See Summary Page of Petition)
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - Dag
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

XIII. Motion to recess regular session to go into closed session -Board Action

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to recess regular session and go into closed session at 9:05 am.
Affirmative:
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

XIV. Open Closed Session – Board Action

- A. Discuss job grade and posting for Conservation Planning and Outreach Technician position.

XV. Motion to reopen regular session -Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to reopen regular session

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XVI. Adjourn – Board Action

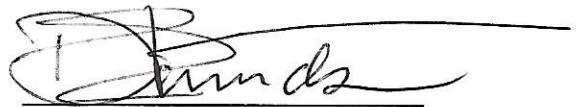
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to adjourn meeting at 9:15 am

Affirmative:

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dag Knudsen', is written over a horizontal line.

Dag Knudsen, Secretary