

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.

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
October 26, 2023
8:15 am
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, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Dag Knudsen, Secretary, and Seth Tentis, member

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Dave Copeland, BWSR and Frank Klennert, citizen

On the Phone: Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve The Agenda as presented with updates.

Affirmative: Klennert, 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. Hyde Park Holsteins AgBMP Loan Application in the amount of \$45,000.00 for a John Deere Skid Loader It will be used to clean alleys to keep manure from running off the site.
- B. Reiter Living Trust (Bill Reiter) Contract# 20-WWDWP-5 in the amount of \$1,835.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant)
- C. Larry Gates Contract# 23-SHCS-2 in the amount of \$6,300.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding sources 2023 Soil Health Cost Share \$4,200.00 and 2023 Capacity \$2,100.00)

- D. Silver Spirit Farm LLC (Craig Reiter) Contract# 20-WWDWP-6 in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops
(Funding Source Whitewater Drinking Waer Protection Grant)
- E. Ben Klein Contract# 20-WWDWP-7 in the amount of \$4,480.00 for Practice 340 cover Crops.
(Funding Source Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant)
- F. Oak Leaf Farms LLC (Scott Meyer) Contract# 23-SHCS-1 in the amount of \$7,380.00 for Practice 340 cover Crops.
(Funding Source 2023 Soil Health Cost Share \$4,920.00 and 2023 Capacity \$2,460.00)
- G. Jeffrey Heitmann Contract# 23WAGZ-WC-06 in the amount of \$835.00 for Practice 351 Well Decommissioning.
(Funding Source Water Alliance for the Greater Zumbro)
- H. Rachel Walkes Contract# 20-WWDWP-8 in the amount of \$5,364.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant)
- I. Tom Gerken Contract# 23-Capacity-1 in the amount of \$4,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source 2023 Capacity)
- J. Kurt Schnell Contract# 22-CS-3 in the amount of \$3,388.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source 2022 State Cost Share)
- K. Larry Gates Voucher Payment for Contract# 23-SHCS-2 in the amount of \$2,100.00 for 1st year of Practice 340 Cover Crops
(Funding sources 2023 Soil Health Cost Share \$4,200.00 and 2023 Capacity \$2,100.00)
- L. Alan Jostock Contract# 22-CS-4 om the amount of \$301.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source 2022 State Cost Share)
- M. Alan Jostock Contract# 22-CS-5 in the amount of \$1,564.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source 2022 State Cost Share)
- N. Cole and David Packer Contract# 22-CS-2 in the amount of \$528.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
(Funding Source 2022 Cost Share \$352.00 and 2023 Capacity \$176.00)
- O. Jeremiah Leonhardt Amendment #1 to increase amount \$2,700.00 to \$8,900.00 due to an increase of 70 acres (30+70=100) increasing rate to \$40.00/acre

Discussion on cover crops.

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

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- **Dag would like to see a spreadsheet of how many acres are in cover crops.**

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Secretary's Report as written.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. September District Financial Statements

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Treasurer's Report as read.

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Abstained: Knudsen

Oppose: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$65,161.84 - Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$65,161.84.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

Email from Hiawatha Valley RC&D that it has been resolved, where they will do the payout. Bob talked to Ron Peterson at District 9 meeting and checks should get cut. We should get back around \$2,354.00

B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes

New Recorder started on Monday, October 23

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters

NRBG Grant with County. A new way to sign, going to platform called DocuSign for documents. Grant funds should come to the County.

BALMM Meeting. Conversation follow up, State agencies and groundwater works.

Putting together a landowner survey for Lower Zumbro FEMA. Jen is working with DNR and Nature Conservancy

WIC Outreach, worked with Jen on more specific outreach, for a targeted area.

WinLaC – Planning work group. Ranking sheets and Implementation process. RAQ use for outreach targeting Forestry RIM

Staff IDP – important training needs for next year

White Barn Acres Field Day

WinLaC - Planning work group for next round of funding. Policy committee meeting November 9th

Area 7 – PRAP done. More funding, more work. Accessing staff for the next 10 years. Will need more staff or share staff or contractors.

MN Water Resource Conference. Conversations on groundwater. State agencies should work together. SWCD's can do cost share. Meeting coming up in Winona with some of these groups. Sheila was invited but cannot go. Riley Buley from Filmore may go.

Auditors 10/19 – 1 day

Cover Crops and Well Sealing contracts. Good response from newsletter. Jenna has been busy.

Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring – Katelyn sent out letters to fill nodes. Good response.

D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin – (in packet)

E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger

F. Conservation Planning and Outreach Technician Report– Jenna Rasmusson – In the Packet

G. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – In the packet

H. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Report -Sue Cerwinske

Quarterly invoicing. Quarter payroll reports. Audit 10/19 and Tree ordering from Schumacher's and MN DNR State Forestry Nursery.

I. **BWSR Report – Dave Copeland, BWSR Board Conservationist out of Rochester. Work boundary changes. Adam Beilke, temporary position as Clean Water Specialist.**

Dave filling in for Adam. Here every other month. Talked about BWSR Academy. Presentation next month from the staff who attended BWSR Academy.

New round of grants for Counties and SWCD's are going to platform called DocuSign, to sign and execute grants. Streamlines the process.

Zumbro Watershed – WAGZ talked to Beau Kennedy, fiscal agent and Caitlin Meyer day to day contact. Watershed based implementation funding. Have used 50% and are ready to request 40% funding. Dave will get that report and work on the funding.

PRAP Report. Encourage to share with Board. Funding coming. What will be the workload for the next 5-10 year? Identify potential new staff or share staff. Not enough staff to carry out the funding that is coming.

BWSR put in 2 large applications:

- 1. Soil Health - \$25 million for 5 years. To be used for soil health practices, cover crops, no-till, strip till. 50/50 match. Will know by end of the year if application is approved. Significant funding to SWCD's to help with staff.**
- 2. \$20 million Water Storage practices. Larger grade stabilizations. Match 50/50 with state funds.**

Soil Health RCPP option alternative funding arrangement. USDA funds to BWSR who in turn would work with partners to use.

Walkes asked how funds will be distributed.

Copeland replied that he couldn't answer about Water Storage

Soil Health theory is to use Federal money for cost share contracts.

State funding for outreach, promotion and marketing. Reimburse SWCD's for staff and to add additional staff. BWSR 4-year commitment to SWCD that is going to add staff for soil health work.

J. Other agencies –

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
- B. Resolution 10262023-1 – BWSR Grants Signature Authority for Terri Peters/**Board Action/Signature**
(Approved at September board meeting. Resolution for signature authority file.)
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve Resolution 10262023-1 for BWSR Grants Signature Authority for Terri Peters.
Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. Resolutions for discussion and voting on. Ballot online this year. – **Board Discussion**
Ballots will be submitted online. Go on site and answer questions. Lists each resolution to vote on. Yes, No or Discuss at MASWCD business meeting.
Terri went through a few resolutions that she would support. She will send Board her comments on resolutions.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. National Association of Conservation Districts dues for 2024 –Full Membership Contribution is \$775.00. Operational expense that can be included in our billing rate–**Board Action**
Wabasha funded this year to support TSA Staff which we use on our projects. Beau Kennedy, TSA Manager applied for grant for next year and he will administer the funds.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the National Association of Conservation Districts dues for 2024 -Full Membership Contribution \$775.00.
Operational Expense that can be included in our billing rate.
Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- B. MASWCD Convention - December 11-13, 2023
- i. Information on Resolutions – ballots online submittal
 - ii. Who plans on attending?
Lynn & Karen Zabel, Sharleen & Frank Klennert and Dag and his wife.
Dag will take care of his hotel reservations.
December 28th is Board meeting.
 - iii. Outstanding Forest Steward nomination is a winner – Larry Gates
2 -Lunch tickets are covered by Association.
 - iv. Outstanding Conservationist Winner for Wabasha County-Jake Meyer
Let Terri know what luncheons you would like to attend.
 - v. Approve family to attend luncheon. – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve luncheon tickets for the entire Jake Meyer family.
Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

C. Upcoming Events:

i.

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
November 9th Policy meeting.
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
Next meeting is in November.
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag
Working on PRAP Report with Consultant.
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

XIII. Motion to Recess Regular Board Meeting and go into Closed Session

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to Recess Regular Board Meeting and go into Closed Session at 10:30 am.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried:

XIV. Closed Session – Personnel Policy Review

- A. Insurance Policy Information - Discussion
- B. Personnel Handbook Changes.

XV. Motion to reopen the Regular Board Meeting

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to reopen the Regular Board Meeting.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XVI. A. Approve Recommendations for 2024 Insurance Policy- Board Action

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to Approve the Recommendations for 2024 Insurance Policy as presented.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

** Sharleen reminded that November meeting is the 16th, not the fourth Thursday.*

XVII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively submitted by:


Dag Knudsen, Secretary