

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
February 22, 2024
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, Chet Ross, Co-Chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Dag Knudsen, Secretary, Seth Tentis, Member

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Frank Klennert, citizen

On the Phone: 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, Knudsen, Tentis

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. Huneke Dairy Inc. voucher payment for Contract# 2022-WAGZ-WC-9 in the amount of \$800.00 for 2nd year cover crops,
(Funding source: Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ))
- B. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB sub-agreement for MAWQCP funds in the amount of \$50,000.00. Contract dates of 1/01/2024 to 12/31/2025
- C. Freeborn County SWCD sub-agreement for MAWQCP funds in the amount of \$2,500.00.
Contract dates 1/01/2024 to 12/31/2025.

*Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent Agenda.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis
Opposed: None
Motion Carried*

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes – **Board Action**
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Secretary's Report as presented.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis
Opposed: None
Motion Carried*

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. January District Financial Statements
Included for your review
Program Record
*Terri tied out 2023 and had sent board the program records before board meeting to review. Explained to board how the program record is populated.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Treasurer's Report To the best of our ability.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis
Opposed: None
Motion Carried*

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$23,679.18 - **Board Action**
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount \$23,679.18.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis
Opposed: None
Motion Carried*

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
*Attended 2/21 Township Officers Meeting. Discussion – one bill MAWQCP proposing bill for tax credit of \$5.00/acre for acres enrolled in that program. This is in response to nitrate issue.
County – Labor issues, Union issues. Building Inspector approved CMF.
Walkes noted that the feedlot officer is struggling, it is not a full-time position.
Discussion on Feedlot Officer for County or through SWCD.*

- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
End of year reporting
Meetings – TSA and WAGZ
Working on Grants. Tap-In Grant. Olmsted SWCD implementation grant ending June, meant for staff to work on.
MDA called questioning if interested in \$100,000.00 for two years to hire a Nutrient Management Technician/Soil Health.
Met with other SWCD's and decided towards going forward with the BWSR staffing grant application and make the position full-time and based out of the Wabasha office. Proposal was sent in and came back with them saying they could work with it. BWSR approval of staffing grant, waiting for it to come through.
Groundwater Forum.
Attended Township meeting 2/21.
Matt Kruger works at Land O' Lakes with the Truterra carbon program. Reached out to Dennis Stelling for Agronomy person at Ag Partners. Connected with Ryan Ness. Want to connect with Ag Partners. Meetings set up in March at Goodhue, Elgin and La Suerr for Truterra program. Identifies if conservation practices need to be installed to qualify for the carbon credit program.
- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin – (in the packet)
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – (in the packet)
- F. Conservation Planning and Outreach Technician Report– Jenna Rasmusson – (In the packet)
- G. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts I (in the packet)
- H. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Report -Sue Cerwinske
Billing for West Indian, WinLaC and Gorman Creek. State financial statement report. Beginning of year, move 2023 files and setup new 2024 files. AgLearn videos, mandatory training. January minutes and February agenda and board packet. Helping with tree sales. Updated 2024 calendar of events and Supervisor Map of Districts.
- I. BWSR Report –
- J. Other agencies –

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
Conversation at dinner with a farmer who does custom combining for someone with 10,000 acres. Averaged 265 bushel across the board. Everybody is putting in irrigation systems, might make 30 bushels an acre.
Pioneer Agronomist at the farm looked back at 2005 records – avg 227 bushels. Current bushels 220, lost yield, did not gain. Some have 265 bushels are the normal. Back then used 180 lbs. anhydrous ammonia and 250 lbs. fertilizer. Now not much fertilizer used now, just manure. How does it affect nitrates in the water.
Discussion on yield versus profit per acre.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region
Sub-Agreement between Fillmore SWCD and Wabasha SWCD – **Board Action**
Nutrient management and well sealing funds to area partners.
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the Sub-Agreement
between Fillmore SWCD and Wabasha SWCD for the Drinking Water Protection in
the Karst Region
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- B. Office Move - Mitel Schule New 5-year lease amounts for 2024 — **Discussion/Board**
Action
Discussion: Office crowded, NRCS new person started. Terri checked on lease of
Hiawatha Mental Health Services office who are moving in July. Big space, can
have board meetings in the conference room there. New space \$19,800 year and
current space is going up to \$13,200 a year. Still close to FSA and NRCS, working to
see if we can stay on their computer and phone systems. Budget for technical
expense and office equipment. Would possibly would have to run wires. Biggest
expense we would have if we need to purchase CAD and GIS.
Board members discussed the office space and the need and availability of the
office space.
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Office move to the
available office space.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. Upcoming Events
i. 2024 SWCD Legislative Briefing- March 12 (Terri and Lynn)
ii. Day at the Capitol – March 13 (Meet Legislators on your own) (3 appointments
set up.)

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
Lynn conversation on water issues. What's happening, who is responsible?
Bob reported about MDA response upgrading Winona County SWCD. Currently
100% compliant with manure management plans, application and transfer records.
Now changing the regulations. Any time of the year they have to do Manure
Applications. Frustrations with producers. Good discussion.
Discussion followed.

- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
Lynn noted that Olmsted has 26 projects backlogged, not enough money. Dag's report of the meeting in the packet. Dag went over his report. Pointed out the projected need of staffing for the SE area. Terri said they have a story map link for the Water Alliance. Discussion followed.
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
Meeting coming up on Monday, March 11th.
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag
Dag's report of the meeting in the packet. Dag went over his report. Four engineers serving 11 counties, SWCD's. Chris Nelson left to go into private practice. Hiring new person to replace him. Area 7 has 53 employees. Analysis done by Houston Engineering for the whole state, for staffing needs based on projected demands. In the next 4-6 years, assuming full funding, we are going to need 30 more people. Discussion.
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to Adjourn the meeting at 9:51 am

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Dag Knudsen, Secretary

