

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
June 27, 2024
8:15 am
County Conference Room
625 Jefferson Ave.**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Supervisors Present: Lynn Zabel, Chair, Chet Ross, Co-chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer.

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Ryan Hytry, NRCS and 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, 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. Lisa Klein AgBMP Loan Application in the amount of \$30,000.00 for a used Weed Zapper. It will help with water quality by not applying herbicide on crops reducing chemical contamination of surface and ground water.
- B. Lars Polson AgBMP Loan Application in the amount of \$9,200.00 for a Large Square Baler and Large Round Bale Trailer for bringing in hay, cover crop forage from field. Harvesting hay & cover crops protect soil from water erosion.

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. May 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes
***Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the Secretary's Report.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried***

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. May District Financial Statements
Included for your review
***Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Treasurer's Report to the best of our ability.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried***
- B. Program Record - May
The full spreadsheet will be sent to the board later.

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$31,061.51- Board Action
***Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$31,061.51.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried***

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
Joint Powers Board report later on agenda.
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Board of Equalization meeting on Property Tax Valuation and Classification. Situation where a resident wants to change from Rural Residential to Agricultural for cut flowers. USDA does recognize cut flowers as Ag but the Dept of Revenue does not, so couldn't change the classification.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
***Submitted Wabasha SWCD budget request to the County. Asked for a little more, as we have not had an increase lately. Bob replied that a presentation is not required. Bob also noted that they are bracing for a 30% increase in health insurance and looking at all options to contain cost. Next County Meeting is July 9th.
Flooding issue. Sue is compiling a list of calls for information on impact to crops, livestock and property damage. FSA will then do a loss assessment report. Shawn has job posting on the Wabasha County website. Have gotten a few good applications.
Planning Work Group***

State Manager Meeting -focused on HR work group, HR Training. Talked about health care and options like forming a regional group to possibly get a better rate.

Job Descriptions for Staff

Policy Committee meeting for Watershed group.

Public Meetings MDH – first one tonight (June 27) at Mazeppa.

Gorman Stream Walk

Closing out SDW and Gorman grants.

Worked with Katelyn to complete and submit a Pollinator Pathway grant.

Pollinator plantings for City of Wabasha, City of Lake City, Hok-Si-La Park, City of Kellogg and the National Eagle Center for education.

Contacted by Gary Wyatt from the U of M Extension, thinks Wabasha would be a good place to hold the Agri Forestry Institute Training Program. Eagle Center training room. Needs to be relevant for our staff to use. This will be 9/17, 9/18.

Jenna and Terri attended the Water Sci-con in St. Paul asked by U of WI-River Falls Professor who did a presentation and scientific board. Panel of Co-ops and Farmers talked about how to work together to get scientific info out.

- D. NRCS Report – Chrstina Taylor– (in the packet) Ryan Hytry, NRCS ***gave the report at the meeting.***
- 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 – (In the packet)
- H. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Report -Sue Cerwinske - (In the packet)
- I. BWSR Report –
- J. Other agencies –

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
Used the roller crimper on rye that was planted after November, not large enough to do the job. Had to use herbicide. Left a strip after corn silage. Timing is hard. Would like to roll and then plant in it.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve selection of auditor for 2023 audit – **Board Action**
 - i. Katie M. Jacobson. CPA (Range between \$4,500 to \$6,500.00 (pending travel costs, if necessary). Her firm has experience with auditing SWCD's - Noble and Murray County's
 - ii. Carlson SC CPA's and Advisors – Abby Williamson, CPA \$9,400.00. Have done similar organizations and are familiar with the requirements.

- iii. Joseph M. Mahoney, CPA- \$17,500.00 minimum audit nonprofit fee requirement.

Note: Sent out a number of other requests for bids, but no other CPA firm would be available for the audit this year or couldn't meet timeline of October 31 draft.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve Katie M. Jacobson, CPA for auditor of the 2023 financial statements. (Range between \$4,500.00 to \$6,500.00

(pending travel costs, if necessary)

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- B. MASWCD – SWCD Governance 101, July 16 & 17
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, MN – **Discuss interest in attending. Registration extended to July 2nd.**
Terri also invited board members to July 13 Breakfast on the Farm.

- C. Approve Alan Jostock Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-02 in the amount of \$6,170.00 for Practices - 340 cover Crops, 329 No-Till. Cover Crop 3-year Contract. Install by dates: 11/1/24, 11/1/25, 11/1/26 and No-Till 2-year rotational 11/1/24, 11/1/26 –
Board Action
(Funding source - FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ))
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Alan Jostock Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-02 in the amount of \$6,170.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops and Practice 329 No-Till.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- D. Approve Alan Jostock Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-03 in the amount of \$2,720.00 for Practices – 340 Cover Crops, 329 No-Till. Cover Crop 3-year Contract. Install by dates: 11/1/24, 11/1/25, 11/1/26, and No-Till 2-year rotational 11/1/24, 11/1/26 –
Board Action
(Funding source - FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ))
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Alan Jostock Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-03 in the amount of \$2,720.00 for Practice 340 Cover crops and Practice 329 No-Till.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- E. Approve George Tesmer Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-04 in the amount of 3,109.50 for Practice 340 Cover Crops. 1-year Contract. Install by date 11/1/24 – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ))
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve George Tesmer Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-04 in the amount of \$3,109.50 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Approve George Tesmer Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-05 in the amount of \$3,240.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops. 3-year Contract. Install by dates: 11/1/24, 11/1/25, 11/1/26 – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ))
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve George Tesmer Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-05 in the amount of \$3,240.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- G. Approve Donnie Dahl Contract# DWP-WS10 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice # 351 Well Decommissioning. Install by date is 12/31/2024– **Board Action**
(Funding source – Karst Drinking Water Protection - Fillmore SWCD)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Donnie Dahl Contract# DWP-WS10 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice# 351 Well Decommissioning.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- H. Upcoming Events:
i. Thursday, July 4th Independence Day – Office Closed
ii. Wed.-Sat., July 17-20 Wabasha County Fair. **Anyone can take a shift.**
iii. Thursday, July 25 – Regular Board Meeting
- I. Approve Hampe Properties LLC (John Hampe) Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-08 in the amount of \$5,431.00 for Practice 410 Grade Stabilization and 342 Critical Area Planting. Install by date 11/30/2024 – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24 Greater Zumbro Watershed Based Funding) (WAGZ)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Hampe Properties LLC Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-08 in the amount of \$5,431.00 for Practice 410 Grade Stabilization and 342 Critical Area Planting.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- J. MASWCD Annual Convention Dec. 2-4, 2024
Award Applications due August 30th.
Need nominations, suggestions for Outstanding Conservationist of the year, and Woodland Manager of the year. Others, Teacher of the year, Wildlife Habitat Steward or Community Conservationist. Staff will work on suggestions.
- K. Update on hiring process for Soil Health/Nutrient Management Specialist.
Applications are coming in slowly. Suggestion from Riley at Fillmore to post on Texas A&M. Got a couple from there. Shawn had a few from County website. Interview with Shawn & Terri. Personnel Committee is Lynn and Chet. They can sit in also if they want to. Will have a list of questions you can ask.
- L. Approve payment to Seth Tentis for Storage space rent for Wabasha SWCD's Truax No-Till Drill from September 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024 \$200.00 plus maintenance on the No-Till Drill \$180.00. Total of \$380.00 – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve payment to Seth Tentis for Storage space rent for Wabasha SWCD's Truax No-Till Drill from September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 \$200.00 plus maintenance of the No-Till Drill \$180.00 Total \$380.00.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
Lynn read report from meeting. Discussed Clean Water Act. Conservation Field Day Aug 1, 2024 at the Greden Family Farm 16764 County Rd. 114 Altura, MN 55910 10:00 am – 2:30 pm.
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag ***No report***
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn ***No Report***
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag ***No Report***
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen
Bob gave report earlier.

Note: If meeting is not finished by 10:00 am, we will need to recess and start the Local Work Group at 10:00 am.

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to recess the regular meeting at 9:35 am for Local Work Group meeting at 10:00 am.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

Agenda for Local Work Group

1. Welcome & Review: 10 minutes
2. Present SWCD Draft Priorities: 30 minutes
3. Discuss Proposed Practices Changes and Technical Practice Recommendations: 15 minutes
4. Decision/Action Items: 15 minutes
5. Next Steps: 5 minutes
6. Adjourn LWG Meeting – 11:14 am

Note: Ryan Hytry will be doing the minutes for the Local Work Group meeting.

Then reopen regular meeting, if necessary

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to reopen Regular meeting at 11:15 am

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to adjourn the Regular meeting.at 11:15 am

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively submitted by:

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

Dag Knudsen, Secretary

