

Please call office at 651-560-2053 or email [susan.cerwinske.wabashaswcd@gmail.com](mailto: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  
July 25, 2024  
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, Dag Knudsen, Secretary, Seth Tentis, Member*

*Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager*

*Others Present: Bob Walkers, County Commissioner, Christina Taylor, NRCS and Frank Klennert, citizen.*

*On the Phone: Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant.*

**II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

**III. AGENDA**

*Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to approve The Agenda as presented.*

*Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel*

*Opposed: None*

*Motion Carried*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker*

*Dag introduced his neighbor, Kay Petersen, who wanted to observe and learn about SWCD Board to see what it is about. Kay is experienced with farm land. She also owns some farm land and propagates for prairies.*

**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. Ruth M. Pruter Revocable Intervivos Trust, Trissa Wallerich executor, Voucher for Contract# DWP-WS04 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice 351 Well Decommissioning.  
(Funding source; FY24 Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region-Fillmore SWCD))

- B. Tom Gerken Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-06 in the amount of \$9,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops for two years. Install by dates 11/1/24, 11/1/25.  
(Funding source - FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ))
- C. Anthony Wolf Voucher for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-01 in the amount of \$5,790.18 for Practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure and 412 Grassed Waterway  
(Funding source – FY24 Greater Zumbro Watershed Based Funding (WAGZ))
- D. Margaret Deming Voucher 2 for Contract# 2022WAGZ-WC-005 in the amount of \$2,029.30 for Practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure. Final payment.  
(Partial payment 11/16/2023 \$14,128.49)  
(Funding source – FY22-23 (WAGZ) Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro)  
***Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent Agenda as read.***

***Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel***

***Opposed: None***

***Motion Carried***

**VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Board Action**

- A. June 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
***Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Secretary's Report as presented.***  
***Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel***  
***Opposed: None***  
***Motion Carried***

**VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action**

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

**VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$62,068.68 - Board Action  
***Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$62,068.68.***  
***Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel***  
***Opposed: None***  
***Motion Carried***

**IX. DISTRICT REPORTS**

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes

*Working on budget.*

- *Dag asked question about if the County would be getting additional Inflation Reduction Act funds. Bob said he will check.*

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters

*New hire interview for Nutrient Management/Soil Health position. Deanna Pomije will be starting after Labor Day. She is currently the District Manager for Kennebec County and the Watershed Coordinator for the Snake River. She has 25 years of experience with NRSC and SWCD's. She was previously been a Certified Nutrient Management Specialist in Wisconsin. Experienced with soil health and is a certified crop advisor.*

*Nutrient Management planning meeting in Fillmore with the MDA partners for the Nutrient Management staffing.*

*Funds from MDA 45% & BWSR 75% soil health staffing funds to cover wages.*

*For MDA, Deanna will work with local advisory team in Elgin on nutrient management required Nitrogen Reduction Management Reduction Act and expanding in townships testing high in nitrates. In Wabasha & Goodhue Counties. Mid-year quarterly invoicing.*

*Close out Gorman and Safe Drinking Water grants.*

*Planning soil health event with Winona and Olmsted.*

*Working with U of M extension / MN Agroforestry Institute, training for SWCD and NRCS staff Sept.17-19 at the Wabasha National Eagle Center.*

*Rolling out Safe drinking water programs. Article released in the paper for water free test kits. Prioritizing tests for people that haven't tested for a long time, people with financial needs or homes with children or pregnant woman.*

*MDA notices to townships testing to prioritize and pursue water treatment systems.*

*Caitlin Meyer from Olmsted SWCD is managing, working with MDA.*

*RFC for one Contractor to put in a bid to install the water treatment systems.*

*MDH online testing for eligibility grants. Infants under the age of 1 and pregnant women in the house.*

*Advertising, campaign planning. Video not working. Interview with farmer in Goodhue County and Jack Warthesen from Wabasha County. KTTC contacted Beau and Cailin they saw other campaigns and they could do an advertising spot on us.*

*Family breakfast of the farm 7/13 Jenna did a soil health demonstration.*

*Wabasha County Fair 7/17- 7/20 Jenna did a soil health demo Thurs/Sat.*

D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (In the 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 - (In the packet)
- I. BWSR Report –
- J. Other agencies –

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

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

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approve Gary Timm Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-07 in the amount of \$500.00 for Woodland Stewardship Plan. Install by date 12/31/24 – **Board Action**  
(Funding source - FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ)  
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Gary Timm Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-07 in the amount of \$500.00 for Woodland Stewardship Plan. Install by date 12/31/2024.*  
*Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel*  
*Opposed: None*  
*Motion Carried*
- B. Amendment to add funds to Local Forestry Team grant from DNR-Discussion  
(List of participating foresters)  
*Added \$87,500.00 to current grant, combined with local foresters/contractor. The local forestry team will do the work and bill us. We get 10% for fiscal management.*  
*Jen Wahls will be working with them.*  
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Amendment to add funds to the Local Forestry Team Grant from DNR.*  
*Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel*  
*Opposed: None*  
*Motion Carried*
  - a. Signature authority for Terri to sign contracts with foresters when grant amendment is executed with DNR. – **Board Action**  
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Signature authority for Terri to sign contracts with foresters when the grant amendment is executed with the DNR.*  
*Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel*  
*Opposed: None*  
*Motion Carried*

- C. Approve Gerald Vandewalker Contract# 24-CC-3 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Practice 314 Brush Management. Install by date 12/31/2024 – **Board Action**  
(Funding source – FY24 Conservation Contracts)  
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Gerald Van De Walker Contract# 24-CC-3 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Practice 314 Brush Management. Install by date 12/31/2024**  
**Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel**  
**Opposed: None**  
**Motion Carried**
- D. Resolution - Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)  
2024 Guidelines on use of SWCD Aid Payments – **Board Action/Signature**  
**Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to approve Resolution – Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2024 Guidelines on use of SWCD Aid Payments.**  
**Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel**  
**Opposed: None**  
**Motion Carried**
- E. 2024 MASWCD Elections and Proposed Bylaws Change – **Discussion**  
**Proposed Bylaw change. Elections for MASWCD President or Vice-President 2-year position. Let Terri know if interested.**
- F. Upcoming Events:
- i. Submit farmer of the year and woodland manager of the year to MASWCD.  
**Dag suggested Tom Hunter for outstanding farmer of the year. Staff will check in with him.**
  - ii. Conservation Field Day: Creating a Soil Health Legacy at the  
Larry & Ross Greden Family Farm, 16764 County Rd 114, Altura. MN  
August 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am-2:30 pm (Not at the main dairy)
  - iii. Regular SWCD Board Meeting August 22, 2024
  - iv. Wells Creek Watershed Annual Picnic, Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 (today)  
If anyone is interested in going, Terri has more information.
  - v. Minnesota Agroforestry Institute, September 17, 18, 19, 2024 at the National  
Eagle Center in Wabasha. Staff training.
- G. WAGZ meetings – New board representative / backup needed – **Board discussion**  
**Terri Peters and Bob Walkes will attend this meeting, so we are covered.**

**XII. Board Reports**

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag *Upcoming WAGZ meeting*
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn *Sept 9<sup>th</sup> next meeting.*
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag

*Dag's summary from SE SWCD Support Joint Powers meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024:*

***Significant Actions:***

*Moved to calendar year budget. Current budget is from July 1, 2024 until December 31, 2025.*

*Budget based on 5 full time staff. Current 4 plus one new hire to replace recent employee who resigned.*

*New hire position was advertised this year but no applications received.*

*Raised member SWCD dues from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 per year.*

*NRCS and TSA7 signed a five-year cooperative agreement.*

*The TSA7 workload: Houston SWCD at 30%, Wabasha SWCD at 18%*

- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

**XIII. Adjourn – Board Action**

*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to Adjourn the meeting at 9:26 am.*

*Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel*

*Opposed: None*

*Motion Carried*

Respectively Submitted By:



Dag Knudsen, Secretary