

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District Regular Board Meeting
June 26, 2025
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, Seth Tentis, Secretary, Dag Knudsen, Member

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager, Matt Kempinger, District Technician

Others Present: Christina Taylor, NRCS, Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner, Whitewater Watershed Coordinator, Pete Fryer, SE SWCD Technical Support JPB and Frank Klennert, Citizen

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Add Letter G under New Business. Approve Hiring Ella Jurgerson for Conservation Outreach & Planning Technician.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve The Agenda with the addition of Letter G under New Business.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, 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

i. Contracts

A.

ii. Contract Amendments

A. Hunter Farms LLC Amendment# 1 for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-13 to change the installation date to 10/31/2025.

(Woodland Stewardship Plan)

(Funding source – FY24 Watershed Based Funding (WAGZ))

B. Greg Speedling Amendment# 1 for Contract# 25-CC-2 to change the installation date to 8/31/2025.

(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)

- C. Benjamin Klein Amendment# 1 for Contract# 25-CC-3 to change the Installation date to 6/30/2025.

(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

iii. Vouchers

- A. Warren Craig Beighley Voucher in the amount of \$105.50 for Contract# 25-SHD-1 for NRCS (FOTG) Practice 612 Tree and Shrub Establishment.
(Funding source – FY25 Soil Health Delivery)
- B. Warren Craig Beighley Voucher in the amount of \$105.50 for Contract# 24-CC-13 for NRCS (FOTG) Practice 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation.
(Funding source – FY24 Conservation Contracts)
- C. Mike Rahman Voucher payment in the amount of \$1,670.00 for Contract# 23-CS-3. NRCS (FOTG) Practice 340 Cover Crops. 33.4 acres at \$50.00/acre.
(Funding source -FY23 State Cost Share)
- D. Allen John & Melody Revocable Living Trust in the amount of \$1,260.00 for Contract# 23-CS-1. NRCS (FOTG) Practice 314 Brush Management.
(Funding source – FY24 Conservation Contracts)
- E. Benjamin Klein Voucher payment in the amount of \$712.36 for Contract# 25-CC-3. NRCS (FOTG) Practice 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation.
(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)
- F. Valyn Adler Voucher payment in the amount of \$53,599.50 for Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-02. NRCS (FOTG) Practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure.
(Funding source FY24-FY25 Greater Zumbro Watershed-WAGZ)

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

iv. Grant Amendment

- A. Amendment # 3 for Grant Contract Agreement # 229585 between the State of MN through its Commissioner of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wabasha SWCD. Adding \$10,000.00 to SE Landscape funding. Grant Agreement Expiration Date 6-30-2026

***Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Grant Amendment#3 for the Grant Contract Agreement #229585 between the State of MN through its Commissioner of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wabasha SWCD. Adding \$10,000.00 to SE Landscape funding. Grant Agreement Expiration Date 6-30-2026.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried***

v. AgBMP Loan Applications

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. May 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Board Action

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Ross to approve the Secretary's Report with the spelling correction for Dag Knudsen under Supervisors present.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. May District Financial Statements

Included for your review

B. May Program Record

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Treasure's Report to the best of our ability.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$107,643.37 - Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$107,643.37.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
***Area 7 meeting. Lynn, Terri, Sharleen, and Frank attended.
Talked about how to work around managing funds, get done what we can.
Terri added that there aren't any resolutions in our area this year.
SWCD Aid was 15 million from state for the year. Cut back to \$12 million.***
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
2026 Budget. The State session is over. Getting clarity on Federal funds.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
***Projects, construction going on.
Hiring process. Interviews along with Lynn, Chet and Shawn.
Watershed Group planning report
BALMM Group meeting
Resolution meeting
Legislative session – funding.***
- D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (In the packet)
***Christina was at the meeting and gave her report.
2026 EQIP Deadline is 8/1/2025.***
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – (In the packet)
***Matt was at the meeting and went over the Valyn Adler project.
Construction was all done this spring.***
- F. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – (In the packet)
- G. Soil Health/Nutrient Management Tech Report – Deanna Pomije – (In the packet)
- H. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Report -Sue Cerwinske -
- I. BWSR Report –
- J. Other agencies – Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner, Whitewater Watershed Coordinator
***Whitewater meeting June 27th. Changing meetings to Quarterly. Selected an Auditor. Well Sealing Grants – funding cost share 2 wells.
Landowner timeline could wait. Between meetings, sub-agreement fund.
After the Olmsted meeting, another well-sealing contract was funded with Whitewater funds.***

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve DKKA LLC Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-03 in the amount of \$8,775.00 for NRCS (FOTG)- Practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24-FY25 Greater Zumbro Watershed Based Funding - WAGZ)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve DKKA LLC)
Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-03 in the amount of \$8,775.00 for NRCS (FOTG) – Practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

Note: B. Daniel Miller Contract# 2025-WinLaC-Wab002 two versions up for discussion on which version to approve. 92% or 100% cost share. – **Board Action**

- B. Approve Daniel Miller Contract# 2025WinLaC-Wab002 in the amount of \$7,853.86 for NRCS (FOTG)- (Diversion) 92% cost share.
(Funding sources – WinLaC 1W1P \$6,440.25 and Local funds \$1,413.61)
or
Approve Daniel Miller Contract# 2025-WinLaC-Wab002 in the amount of \$8,587.00 for NRCS (FOTG)–(Diversion) 100% cost share.
(Funding sources – WinLaC 1W1P \$4,293.50 and Local funds \$4,293.50)

Matt and Peter Fryer discussed payment options with the board for Dan Miller's contract:

After the Gorman Creek project was done, Bill noticed that in the spring that the pasture by the tributary was wet. The diversion should have been part of the original Gorman Creek restoration project. Also, added stream crossing to the contract. Pete designed a diversion to get water out of pasture. Something we didn't see at the beginning.

Pete and Matt's recommendations were Option 1, 92% cost share.

(100% diversion and 75% stream crossing). Contract total of \$7,853.86.

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve Daniel Miller Contract# 2025WinLaC-Wab002 in the amount of \$7,853.86 for NRCS (FOTG) – Diversion. 92% cost share

(Funding sources – WinLaC 1W1P \$6,440.25 and Local funds \$1,413.61)

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- C. Approve Dennis P & Denise M Probst Contract# 25-CC-6 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for NRCS (FOTG) Practice 314 Brush Management – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Dennis P & Denise M Probst Contract# 25-CC-6 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for NRCS (FOTG) Practice 314 Brush Management.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Approve Kathy Henderson Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-06 in the amount of \$59,227.20 for NRCS (FOTG) Practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, Install by 11/30/2025 – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY23 West Indian Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Kathy Henderson Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-06 in the amount of \$59,227.20 for NRCS (FOTG) Practice 410 Grade Stabilization Structure. Install by date 11/30/2025.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Whitewater Joint Powers Board Well Sealing (2025) Sub-agreement between Whitewater Joint Power Board and Wabasha SWCD. Grant agreement for \$21,600.00 for May 27, 2025, to December 31, 2025 – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Whitewater Joint Powers Board Well Sealing (2025) Sub-agreement between Whitewater Joint Power Board and Wabasha SWCD. Grant agreement for \$21,600.00 for May 27, 2025, to December 31, 2025.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Upcoming Events
- i. Friday, July 4, 2025, Independence Day – Offices Closed
 - ii. Wednesday, July 16th, West Indian Creek Get Together
Terri added that Mark Kruger is doing outreach in the West Indian watershed. We can use 319 funds.
Almost 2,000 acres, people are interested in doing drone cover crop seeding. Dean Thomas will be doing seeding rates. Broadcast rate.
The seed dealer is Midwest Cover Crop Council. We would pay the seed dealer and the drone operator.
Meet in BJ's parking lot. WIC Gathering, July 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.
5:00 pm DNR doing fish shocking. 5:30 pm Drone seeding demo.

- iii. Thursday, July 24th, Regular Meeting
- iv. Wednesday July 30 – Saturday, August 2, Wabasha County Fair
Schedule with a staff person for a shift to cover our booth.
Let us know what days/times you can help.
***Morning and afternoon of July 31 and August 1, staff will be doing demos.
8/1 Olmsted doing nitrate testing. Borrowing the root pull display.
Dag available Thursday or Friday evening.***

- G. Approve the hiring of Ella Jurgerson as a Conservation Outreach & Planning Technician.

Terri commented that there were 2 people interviewed out of the 4-5 applications that Shawn had received. Both were good candidates. Ella Jurgerson fit the position better. She will finish up Ameri Corps 7/9 and she will start with us on 7/14/2025. A message had been sent to all board members that Ella was chosen and if there were no objections, we would move forward with the offer. I would like to make the offer today to hire Ella.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve hiring Ella Jurgerson as the Conservation Outreach & Planning Technician.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn

Sheila said the Policy meeting is in August.

8-11-2025 Work group meeting at the St. Charles Community Room/City Hall.

Will have a field day to look at stream restoration. Will be coordinating park and ride. Walking up and down the stream.

- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - Dag
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

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

Motioned by Zabel to recess the regular meeting to go into the Local Work Group meeting.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Motioned by Zabel to come out of recess and resume the regular meeting.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XIII. Adjourn

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to Adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Seth Tentis, Secretary