

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District Regular Board Meeting
July 24, 2025
8:15 am
611 Broadway Avee, Suite 10B**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Co-Chair, Chet Ross

Supervisors Present: Chet Ross, Co-Chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Seth Tentis, Secretary, Dag Knudsen, Member.

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

*Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Christina Taylor, NRCS, Chris Schmidt, NRCS Team Lead, Luther Newton, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, Colleen Pawlenty, FSA
Frank Klennert, Citizen*

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve The Agenda.

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross

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. Contract Amendments

- A. Kenneth Heise Amendment# 1 for Contract# 25-CC-8 to change the authorized amount to \$1,909.06 from \$1,743.61 for 380 Windbreak / Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation and 490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation.**

(Funding source – FY24 Conservation Contracts \$150.99 and FY25 Conservation Contracts \$1,758.07)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Contract Amendment# 1 for Contract# 25-CC-8. for Kenneth Heise.

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

ii. Vouchers

- A. Kenneh Heise Voucher in the amount of \$1,909.06 for Contract# 25-CC-8 for 380 Windbreak / Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation and 490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation.
(Funding source – FY24 Conservation Contracts \$150.99 and FY25 Conservation Contracts \$1,758.07)
- B. Steve Evers Voucher in the amount of \$14,832.37 for Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-04 for NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization Structure.
(Funding source – FY23 West Indian Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection)
- C. Richard Oeckler Voucher in the amount of \$500.00 for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-14 for Forest Stewardship Plan.
(Funding source - FY24 Watershed Based Funding (WAGZ))
- D. Gary Stoning Voucher in the amount of \$1,320.00 for Contract# 25-CC-9 for 327 Conservation Cover.
(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Vouchers on the Consent Agenda.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. June 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Board Action
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Secretary's Report.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

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

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$86,867.22 - Board Action
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$86,867.22.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Negotiations with the 5 Unions in August.
State cuts have been pushed back a year or two. Will have time to prepare.
No idea on Federal budgets, how it will impact locally.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
Quarterly billings. 2 mid-year reports are larger.
Onboarding Ella. Official start date 7-14-2025.
Event for WIC. Drone demo, to do drone seeding pilot. Cover acres producers signed up for. Contract directly with drone operator and seed person. Matt Kruger got individuals interested in the event. Had around 36 people that attended.
Gearing up for RCPP Soil Health Grant. Waiting for it to be executed. Deanna putting together contracts. Working with producers & plans to be approved.
- D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (In the packet) Gave report at the meeting.
Spending time with people to see if on track and ready to be certified.
EQIP -20 active contracts. Eliminated 14 of the older plans.
Start CRP plans for people signed up.
People with concerns coming in are for grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures and cover crops. Questions on how to get rid of buckthorn. Looking for Technical and Financial Assistance.
Bob asked about Pasture Grassland CRP. Collen said that for CRP, there are basic details. No requests yet. Would work with Dean Thomas for technical part, if interested. Sign up until August. Typically, people don't proceed.
They would have to have a grazing plan and follow specific rules. Bob is interested and would like an information sheet.
District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – (In the packet)
- E. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – (In the packet)
- F. Soil Health/Nutrient Management Tech Report – Deanna Pomije – (In the packet)
- G. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Report -Sue Cerwinske -
- H. BWSR Report –
- I. FSA Agency Report – Colleen Pawlenty
Busy with acreage reporting.
Busy with CRP signups. Fiscal year end, get them approved.
Supplemental Disaster Relief Program. Stage 1 - 400 applications received for year 2023 and 2024 disaster events. 50% of the applications have already been done in-house. No deadline.
Stage 2 in September. For shallow losses not included in Stage 1.
Neither of the offices were affected by layoffs. Both offices, Wabasha and Goodhue are fully staffed. 5 Program Analysts in Goodhue and 3 in Wabasha.

- J. Chris Schmidt, NRCS Team Lead

Based out of Faribault. Boundary division.

Vacancy in Wabasha for District Conservationist. Critical vacancy.

Done with CRP status reviews. Shift to completing CRP Conservation Plans

CSP, CRP & EQIP wrapping up. Obligated for CSP & EQIP.

Sign up 8/1 for EQIP for Spring. Start planning earlier.

Training is still going on, limited travel. Christina is doing the annual Conservation Planning course over a 3-week time-period. Keeping it local, 3 locations.

Team concept – align number of employees to Supervisor, at 10 to 1 ratio.

Chris supervises the customer service team in the South Metro.

- K. Luther Newton, Assistant Staff Conservationist for Field Operations

Based most of the time in Rochester. He comes from the NW corner of the state, near Canada border. His boss is Troy Daniels, Board Conservationist.

Supervises 20-25 of the area District Conservationists.

We are in a stall pattern. Limited travel and limited spending. Purchasing has 1 card for 3 states. Cut-off 8/1/2025. Some have stocked up on paper.

Mandated return to office. Some employees never left. Some were hired remotely and don't know where to go. Communication was not good.

Need to get to a new normal. Plan rolled out for current staff. Plan to reduce to a certain number. We don't know what that number is. Voluntary staff shifting within department. Move laterally, not promotion. Hiring freeze.

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

Terri showed social media campaign video for Well Inventory and one for Soil Health for Cover Crops, Nutrient Management and Farm Planning.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve Craig Breuer Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-04 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice 351 Well Decommissioning. Install by date 5/30/26-Board Action
(Funding source – FY25 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Craig Breuer Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-04 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice 351 Well Decommissioning. Installed by date 5/30/26.

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- B. Approve Jary Holst Contract# 2025WinLac-Wab-001 in the amount of \$13,222.14 for a NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization Structure. Installed by date 11/30/2025-Board Action

(Funding source – FY25 WinLac 1W1P)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Jary Holst Contract# 2025WinLac-Wab-001 in the amount of \$13,222.14 for a NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization Structure. Installed by date 11/30/2025.

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- C. Approve 1864 Joseph Roemer Farm LLC Amendment# 1 to Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-05 to change address to 22205 699th St. Wabasha, MN 55981- **Board Action**
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve 1864 Joseph Roemer Farm LLC Amendment# 1 to Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-05 to change address to 22205 699th St. Wabasha, MN 55981.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Approve 1864 Joseph Roemer LLC Voucher payment for Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-05 in the amount of \$3,768.10 for NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization Structure – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24-FY25 Greater Zumbro Watershed Based Funding (WAGZ))
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve 1864 Joseph Roemer LLC Voucher payment for Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-05 in the amount of \$3,768.10 for NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization Structure.
(Funding source – FY24-FY25 WAGZ – Greater Zumbro Watershed Based Funding)
- E. Nominations for Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year. – **Discussion**
Terri had asked Stacy Miller and Deanna has been working with Alan Jostock.
Write up on whoever accepts the nomination.
Woodland Manager – No nominees currently.
- F. List of potential 2025 RCPP Soil Health cover crop contracts. Pending grant execution. **(Moved to Letter J.)**
- G. Resolution 07242025-1 - Signature Authority for Terri Peters to sign the list of RCPP cover crop contracts once the grant is executed. – **Board Action**
(Moved to Letter J.)
- H. Approve Reiter Living Trust/William Reiter Amendment# 1 to change Total Amount Authorized to \$43,950.59 from \$35,412.30 for Contract# 2024WinLac-WAB-008
NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization & 412 Grassed Waterway – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY23-FY24 WinLac)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Reiter Living Trust/William Reiter Amendment# 1 to change the Total Amount Authorized to \$43,950.59 from \$35,412.30 for Contract# 2024WinLac-WAB-008.
NRCS (FOTG) 410 Grade Stabilization Structure & 412 Grassed Waterway
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried.

- I. Approve Partial Payment Voucher for Reiter Living Trust/William Reiter for Contract# 2024WinLac-WAB-008 in the amount of \$1,857.59 – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY23-FY24 WinLac) Completed Grass Waterway.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Partial Payment Voucher for Reiter Living Trust/William Reiter for Contract# 2024-WinLac-WAB-008 in the amount of \$1,857.59.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- J. 2025 Soil Health RCPP
- i. Final policy and cost share rates – decision/**Board Action**
Policy ranking criteria approved by NRCS. Cost share policy practices listed. We chose eligible practices and rates. Max rate allowable. Different steps for FSA eligibility.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Final policy and cost share rates.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- ii. Authority for Terri to sign grant agreement and cost share contracts that are batched and ranked – decision – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve Authority for Terri to sign grant agreement and cost share contracts that are batched and ranked.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Oppose: None
Motion Carried
- iii. Current batched and ranked 2025 RCPP contracts pending grant execution – **Board Action**
List is ranked and batched. Ella & Deanna worked on contracts. Can be up to 4 years, # of acres and total funding request. NRCS requires batch & ranking, once a month to move forward with projects. Starting with \$180,000.00, once that is encumbered, we can ask for an additional \$120,000.00. Board members will only see information that we can share at the Board Meetings. Terri can sign the contracts once the grant is executed.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Current batched and ranked 2025 RCPP contracts pending grant execution.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- K. Approve Alan Jostock Voucher in the amount of \$339.50 for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-02 for 327 Reduced Tillage, No-Till – 1st year payment of 2-year contract Contingent upon Technical Assistance sign-off. – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Alan Jostock Voucher in the amount of \$339.50 for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-02 for 327 Reduced Tillage, No-Till - 1st year payment of 2-year contract. Contingent upon Technical Assistance sign-off.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- L. Approve Alan Jostock Voucher in the amount of \$204.00 for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-03 for 329 Residue Management, No Till – 1st year payment of 2-year contract. Contingent upon Technical Assistance sign-off. – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24 Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro)
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to approve Alan Jostock Voucher in the amount of \$204.00 for Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-03 for 329 Residue Management, No Till – 1st year payment of 2-year contract. Contingent upon Technical Assistance sign-off.
Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- M. Upcoming Events
- i. August 5, 2025, Southeast MN Forage Field Day & Dairy Tour at Hyde Park Holsteins – Kevin Siewert. 61944 Wabasha Cty Rd 6, Zumbro Falls.
9:45 am – 2:00 pm. RSVP at mfa@midwestforage.org Flyer on website.
 - ii. Terri will be on vacation from August 23 – August 27th.
 - iii. August 28, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
 - iv. September 10 & 11, 2025, MASWCD – Stewardship Summit:
SWCD Governance & Leadership Essentials.
Registration Deadline – August 22 St. Cloud. Sharleen signed up.
 - v. County Fair dates July 30 – August 2
(We'll have Tap-In staff doing nitrate testing August 1st from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Table with NRCS and FSA. Tent for demos. Deanna will be doing Soil Health demo 2 times. Katelyn will have Monsters with Leaves display. Any board members can drop in whenever they can to cover booth.
 - vi. July 31st We are part of a BWSR Board Conservationist Tour at the Hager RIM site.
Katelyn is working in Cooks Valley, just before Gorman Creek Project. RIM Forest Buffer Project. Couple of RIM easements are going in and in completion stages. This will be included in the tour.

XII. Board Reports

A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn

B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag

Greater Zumbro Watershed Policy Committee (1W1P) August 21st.
(Oronoco start and bus tour)

C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn

WinLaC Policy Committee Meeting – August 11 in St. Charles.
(Tour of stream restoration project)

D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag

Just had a meeting on July 17th, and they meet 2x/year

Looked over finances. 0-100% projects, that they -have money to cover 8-9 months.

Project descriptions. Dean Thomas had 3 projects that he reported on converting from row crops to grazing and livestock operations. Forage, water systems. EQIP funding. Direct water quality changes.

E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

Gave report about the West Indian Creek event at Whippoorwill.

- ***Additional item – Terri found a driver to move the no-till drill from place to place. Chuck Fick and one other person interested. If the person would be using our truck, we would need a copy of his license and insurance card.***

Discussion on the rate per hour pay.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve whoever is hired to pull the No-Till Drill for us, we will pay at a rate of \$20.00 an hour.

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XIII. Adjourn

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 am

Affirmative: Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Ross

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Seth Tentis, Secretary