

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District Regular Board Meeting
September 25, 2025
8:15 am
611 Broadway Avee, Suite 10B**

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, Secretary, Seth Tentis, Secretary

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Dave Copeland, BWSR and Katie Streveler, County Human Resources

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve The Agenda with the additions of New Business Letter G. Approval for Staff to go to BWSR Academy and Letter H. Health Insurance options and Move Letter D. & H. to the top of New Business.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, 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. Contract Amendments:

ii. Vouchers

- A. Ernest Walters Voucher payment for Contract# 24-SWCDAid-1 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Practice 314 Brush Management.
(Funding source – FY24 SWCD Aid)
- B. Warren Craig Beighley Voucher payment for Contract# 25-CC-7 in the amount of \$215.13 for Practice 315 Herbaceous Weed Management.
(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)
- C. Gerald VanDewalker Voucher payment for Contract# 24-CC-14 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for 314 Brush Management.
(Funding sources – FY24 Conservation Contracts \$1,394.50 and FY25 Conservation Contracts \$105.50)

- D. Voucher Payment for Contract# 79-25RCPP-04 in the amount of \$2,850.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. August 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes – **Board Action**

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Secretary's Report as written.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. August District Financial Statements

Included for your review

- B. August Program Record

(per Governance 101, the chair can acknowledge the Treasurer's Report)

As Chair, I acknowledge that I have seen the Treasurer's Report and acknowledge that they have been done.

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$39,356.54 - **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Payment of the monthly bills in the amount of \$39,356.34.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes

Approved 5% levy for 2026. Still in negotiations with Unions.

- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters

Worked on Paid Family Medical Leave and Health Insurance. Shawn and Katie input.

BALMM Meeting. Topic – Outreach ideas that people are doing.

Farmer led group. Next meeting is December 10 and inviting some farmer led groups.

Going through evaluation for the Gorman Creek Stream Restoration Project. Report will come out in a few months.

***MDH meeting on Well Inventory, grant process and reporting on GIS system.
Darrin Thompson, working on septic systems grant – scoring, policy.
Soil Health RCPP - All of the first round of funding has been spent, requesting
second round to hopefully get in October.
Submitting information for Auditor.***

- D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (Too late to get into the packet)
Terri read through her report.
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – (Too late to get into the packet)
Terri read through his report
- F. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – (Too late to get into the packet)
Terri read through her report
- G. Soil Health/Nutrient Management Tech Report – Deanna Pomije – (In the packet)
- H. Conservation Planning & Outreach Technician – Ella Jurgerson – (In the packet)
- I. BWSR Report – Dave Copeland
***Thank the Board for approving staff to go to BWSR Academy.
BWSR grant staff working on getting out grants. (NRBG) should be coming in October.
Also, the Conservation Delivery and the Conservation Contracts grand will be coming soon.
Soil Health RCPP \$180,000 spent. Ready for next round of RCPP \$120,000.
BWSR is now doing monthly batching periods, our district is in line for Sept.
Opportunity for this Fall, \$850,000 from prior session funding to address the EPA Nitrate Petition. Funding for 8 Counties in SE MN. RFP.
Buffer Law Implementation grant. Request for interest and how much you think you need to carry out Buffer Law responsibilities.***
- J. Other –

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bear Valley Watershed District, Had special meeting on 9-17-2025 to discuss testing tile discharge. SWCD water testing once per month for approximately 9 months. The cost will be about \$500.00. Samples once a month and delivered to Rochester lab. – **Discussion**
***Tile line goes through number of properties emptying into a sink hole.
Discussion on options to fix this. Collect water samples, data may support a possible grant.***

- B. 2025 Soil Health RCPP – 2nd round funding (\$120,000) requested – Approval to accept and to delegate authority for Terri to sign grant agreement when it is available. – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to Approve acceptance of the 2025 Soil Health RCPP 2nd round of funding (\$120,000.00, requested) and delegate authority for Terri to sign grant agreement when it is available.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- C. 2025 Soil Health RCPP – September Batching and updates on the July and August batches. Deanna will get info – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the 2025 Soil Health RCPP September batching, contingent on funds coming in for this round. Updates on the July and August batches.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Equivalent Insurance Plan for Paid Leave. Shelter Point Life Insurance Company, Fully Insured Approved Private Plan Coverage for State mandated Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML)
Employer/Employee amounts paid for PFML (50/50 would be the recommendation. – **Discussion/Board Approval**
Terri had discussions with State Managers and came up with Shelter Point Insurance Company at .59% coverage. State is .88%. Shawn looked at the plan and recommended it as a good option for us. Total annual payment is under \$3,000.00. Katie talked about the PFML, covers employee for mental, physical and caring for family members. 12 weeks for employees and 12 weeks for other family medical issues. Max 20 weeks. Goes into effect January 1, 2026. Pay unemployment tax to MN Unemployment. If you leave on good terms, you can get cashed out. We can't opt out, required. Recommend 50/50 Payroll tax for everyone. (.295%) Supervisors are included.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to go with recommendations of Shelter Point Life Insurance Company for .59% PFML and rates for PFML are shared 50/50.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- E. D K K A LLC Amendment# 1 to Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-03 to change the authorized amount to \$9,108.34 from \$8,775.00. – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY24-FY25 WAGZ)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve D K K A LLC Amendment #1 to Contract# 2025WAGZ-WC-03 to change the authorized amount to \$9,108.34 from \$8,775.00.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Governance & Leadership Essentials for SWCD. Sharleen attended.
Her report is included with the packet.
- G. Approval for staff to go to BWSR Academy – **Board Action**
Katelyn and Ella will be attending.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve for staff to go to BWSR Academy.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- H. Heath Insurance options.
Katie Streveler will go over the options.
The County has been providing Health Insurance for SWCD. 2026 rates will increase 6.7% on all four or their plans. Farm Bureau sent quote, based on age. Sent to Shawn and Katie. Cost savings to SWCD but would affect families. Waiting for quote from MN Healthcare Consortium. For now, Terri recommended staying with the Counties plan. Look at other quotes when they come in. Meet with Personnel Committee, Lynn and Chet and figure out rates before the next meeting. Open enrollment starts November 1st.
- I. Upcoming Events
- i. Friday, September 26, 2025, Sunflower Harvest Field Day. 12:30 pm -2:30 pm
Scott and Dawn Lightly – Address, 22238 - 830th Ave. Oakland, MN 56007
 - ii. Thursday, October 2, 2025, Area 7 Joint Fall Meeting, SE MASWCD and SE MACDE for Staff & Board. Grand Meadow, MN
 - iii. Monday, October 13 – Indigenous Peoples Day, Office Closed
 - iv. Tuesday – Thursday. October 21 – October 23, 2025
BWSR Academy at Cragun's Resort.
 - v. Thursday, October 23, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
 - vi. December 1-3 (Monday – Wednesday) – MASWCD Annual Convention.
(Bloomington)
Let us know if anyone is planning on going so that we can get you registered. Sharleen and Lynn will go.

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

XIII. Adjourn

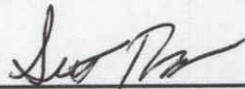
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to Adjourn the meeting at 10:21 am

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motioned Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Seth Tentis, Secretary