



### **Minutes from the April 19, 2021 Board Meeting**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. by either in person at the Sheriff's Building at the fairgrounds or via Zoom due to the Public Health Pandemic Emergency declared under Chapter 12 by the Governor. A notice of the meeting was posted on the door of the SWCD Office Location (4 Alfred Street NE) and explained how the public was able to participate in the meeting if not attending in person. The meeting followed all the requirements for an electronic meeting as spelled out in MN Statutes 13D.021 Subdivision 1, 1-4.

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Berg at 7:34 a.m.*

**Members Present:**

Chair: Ken Berg  
Secretary: Nancy Benson  
Treasurer: Tom Schulz  
Public Relations: Brett Dailey

**Member Absent:**

Vice Chair: Bruce Juntunen

**Others Present:**

County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau  
NRCS DC: Josh Hanson  
BWSR Conservationist: Chris Pence (Zoom)  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski  
Admin Secretary: Chantal Tougas  
Nutr Mgmt Specialist: Nathan Wiese (Zoom)  
Irrigation Technician: Trisha Demarais (Zoom)  
Water Planner: Ben Underhill (Zoom)

**Adopt Agenda:** Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to Adopt the Agenda with discussion later regarding the Billionth tree planning sign that has fallen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes from previous month:** Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve the last month's Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried. Our current CD matures on May 5, before our next meeting, Chantal will email all members with information.

**Bills Paid and Bills Payable:** Motion made by Brett Dailey, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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CWL Crow Wing River Forestry Plan Writing:

We will be submitting invoices to the grant for these forestry plans:

50 – Yackley, Todd; cost share up to \$577.50 or 75% whichever is less in Blueberry Township, section 25. 80 acres Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Nancy Benson to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

51 – Tracy, Scott; cost share up to \$892.00 or 75% whichever is less in Redeye Township, section 17 (consultant written). 170 acres Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

*Approve final cost share payments for:*

47 – Flynn, Brian (Guided Lite LLC); cost share up to \$240.00 or 75% whichever is less in Shell River Township, section 27 (consultant written). 40 acres Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

48 – Myers, Scott; cost share up to \$517.50 or 75% whichever is less in Orton Township, section 14 (consultant written). 80 acres Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cost Share Policy/Rates: Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve the changes discussed. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cover Crop/Irrigation Grant: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

***District Manager's Report:*** as written and read by Darren Newville.

***Soil Conservationist's Report:***

- ✓ EQIP: 10 pre-approved application in Wadena County (8 honey bee, 1 high tunnel, and 1 pasture land)
- ✓ CSP – working on 2021 applications
- ✓ Little Falls is planning on hiring an Ag Tech
- ✓ Water bank sign up this year is April 26 to May 24, 2021
- ✓ A new Soil Conservationist Luke will start in Long Prairie 4/26/2021, you may see him in the Wadena office this summer
- ✓ There will also be an intern this summer
- ✓ LWG (Local Work Group) meeting after the next board meeting on 5/17/2021 at 10 a.m.

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**County Commissioner's Report:**

- Last weeks meeting for the County was cancelled due to lack of conversation/agenda items.
- Wadena County is partnering with Ottertail County Solid Waste for plastic pickup. 10% of the containers will be placed in Wadena County. This is a place for producers to recycle their plastic, as well as boat owners to recycle their boat wrap.
- There is a meeting coming up to discuss the results of the Housing Study the board had conducted.
- Merlyn is one the Finance Budge and Parks committee.

**Forestry Update:** The last meeting was offered in person or virtual. 15 were in attendance and 25 virtual. 1 million acres in Forestry proposed for Minnesota was the hot topic. BWSR submitted a proposal to LCCMR. California last 4 million acres to fires mostly due to lightening. Elections of officers was held. The next meeting will be in May.

**Water Plan Update:** Working on getting funding for the Red Eye. The workplan is a 2-year plan.

**TSA 8 Report:** The problem with the staffing contract has been straightened out.

**Meetings/Trainings:**

- ✓ August 12, 2021 is a possible date for a board/staff retreat.

**MASWCD Resolution Ideas:** CREP concept for Forestry. Tom will work on this some more.

**Billionth Tree Sign** – It was brought to our attention that the billionth tree planting sign has fallen down. We will be contacting the DNR Forestry office.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.