



Minutes from the July 19, 2021, Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, July 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 7:30 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS DC: Josh Hanson
District Manager: Darren Newville
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Admin Secretary: Chantal Tougas
Admin, Ed, & Outreach Asst: Kristi Rorah

Adopt Agenda: Proposed budget added to agenda under new business. Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to Adopt the Agenda with one addition. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

New employee introduced: Kristi Rorah

7:34 am Bruce entered the meeting

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

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BWSR State Cost Share:

20-03; Donna, David; authorization to approve payment. Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, Motion carried.

District Manager's Report: as written and read by Anne Oldakowski.

Tanner Schmitz starts July 26th

District Conservationist's Report:

- ✓ CSP – 5 applications pre-approved, 4 moving forward, 1 cancelled.
- ✓ EQIP – 8 applications pre-approved, moved forward to approval.
- ✓ WBP – 1 application is pre-approved.
- ✓ Ivan is working on certifying practices completed in 2021.

County Commissioner's Report:

- Reminder to submit budget requests.
- County has formed a new committee to be involved in land conservation process. Looking for members with forestry experience.
- County ditches – there was a motion to discontinue but nothing resulted.
- Free plastic pickup program has started for farm plastic – may be added to website/FB to promote.

BWSR Report:

- Not present to report.

Forestry Update: Meeting was held at Badoura. Two nurseries that were producing containerized trees closed. Study is being done to see if Badoura might expand production to include that. Workforce at the nursery is aging out. Resolutions discussed.

Water Plan Update: Meeting with staff is the next step.

TSA 8 Report: Working with TSA for fall meeting, set tentatively for September 23-24. Area tour will be in Cass County.

Proposed Budget: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve the proposed budget and forward to the county. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Meetings/Trainings:

- ✓ Board & Staff retreat will be Thursday, August 12th. Notes from previous retreat were requested by Tom.
- ✓ BOTF August 14th
- ✓ Cover Crop field day August 18th
- ✓ CLC field day August 27th

Per Diem: Per diem may be increased from \$75.00 to \$125.00. Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve increasing the per diem to \$125.00. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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Public Comments:

- Grant funding is available for new irrigation demo system at CLC. CLC will be receiving a proposal for the new system, but there may be trouble getting soil moisture sensors.
- RCPP – Conference call scheduled for today. MDA & MRCS have not reached an agreement yet.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Brett Dailey. Opposed: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.

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