



Minutes from the June 15, 2020 Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the Wadena County Sheriff's Building on the County Fairgrounds at 500 Birch Ave NW.

A teleconference option was also provided 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. 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 Brett Dailey at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

District Manager: Darren Newville
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
County Commissioner: Chuck Horsager

Members present via Teleconference:

Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas
BWSR Board Conservationist: Chris Pence
NRCS District Conservationist: Josh Hanson
EOT Liaison: Dennis Reynolds

Public Health: Darren reviewed the Public Health Emergency Remote Public Meeting Guidance.

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Ken Berg to Adopt the Agenda adding discussion of a support letter under Forestry Update and Conservation Award under New Business at the end. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes from previous month: Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve the last month Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Ken Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

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COST SHARE

CWL Crow Wing River Forestry Plan Writing:

We will be submitting an invoice to the grant for this forestry plan:

34 – Pietruszewski, Mark; cost share up to \$727.00 or 75% whichever is less in Orton Township, section 31 (consultant written). Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, seconded by Ken Berg. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cover Crop Grant: (District Capacity)

CC-02; Schock, Andrew; authorization to encumber funds for cover crops for a total cost of \$18,000 and cost sharing not to exceed \$13,500 for FY 20-22 in Wadena Township, section 14. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, seconded by Ken Berg. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Pending receiving signed contract

CC-03: Harold Mathews; authorization to encumber funds for cover crops for a total cost of \$1,350 and cost sharing not to exceed \$1,012.50 for FY 20-22 in Wadena Township. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, seconded by Nancy Benson to encumber once we receive a signed contract. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

BWSR State Cost Share:

18-02; Vanderbeek, Dewain and Latrelle; are requesting final payment for an unused sell sealing with a total cost of \$475.00 and cost sharing not to exceed \$237.50 or 50% whichever is less in Rockwood Township, section 12. Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Bruce Juntunen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

Soil Conservationist's Report:

- CSP – Signups due at the end of the week. Working on certifications.
- EQIP – Deadline for ranking was last week.
- COVID19 supplies have been delivered to the office. They are back to work in offices.

County Commissioner's Report:

- This was his first in person meeting in a long time. The county is opening a little more but with screening guidelines in place for visitors to the courthouse.
- He noted again that he has decided not to run again and that there are 2 candidates running.

BWSR:

- Chris Pence noted that LSOHC and CWF reductions of 10-25% most likely will happen.
- Special session will focus on police reform and strengthening the economy. The bonding bill did fail.

Forestry Update: Tom noted that he and Anne attended the May 21, 2020 SWCD Forestry Association meeting via conference call with speakers on Firewise and the state Tree Plan. Tom Schulz motioned that we submit a letter of support for the RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement Forestry Project being submitted by the MN DNR. The grant application hopes to coordinate the delivery of private forestland financial and technical assistance in MN through

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the creation of local forestry teams with federal and state partners. Nancy Benson seconded. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Water Plan Update: Anne provided an update on the Redeye 1W1P and that the 60 day comment period has ended with very few comments being received. We are meeting soon to go through those comments and address them. July 13 has been set for the public hearing in New York Mills at 7:00 p.m. Ken Berg made a motion to recommend that the Redeye 1W1P Policy Committee submit the plan to BWSR for their approval. Bruce Juntunen seconded. Opposed: None. Motion carried. For the Long Prairie Watershed, we will participate but with a very low percentage of the watershed in our county, we will probably not be attending meetings but wish to be kept in the loop.

TSA & Report: Tom Schulz and Darren will be attending a teleconference on June 30 where they are looking at updating TSA agreements, discussing funding and audit, survey results, and personnel reviews.

Job Approval Authority: Nancy Benson made a motion to approve Wade Salo's JAA for Irrigation Practices. Tom Schulz seconded. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

MDA Central Sands JPA Approval: Bruce Juntunen made a motion to approve signing the JPA for the Central Sands Private Well Network Long-Term Monitoring agreement for July 2020-June 2022. This is a continuation of the ongoing long-term project that was started in 2010. Ken Berg seconded. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Conservation Cooperator Plaque: This was ordered back in January but took longer to receive due to COVID19. It should be ready to present at the July board meeting.

Upcoming Meetings and Trainings: None.

Future Board Meetings: Nancy brought forward a discussion on board meeting times and the desire to move it up to 7:30 a.m. After a discussion, Nancy Benson made a motion to change the board meeting time for the rest of the year to 7:30 a.m. Ken seconded. Opposed: None. Motion carried. We will still be offering the teleconference option in the future.

Public Comments: None.

Meeting Adjourned: Nancy Benson made a motion to adjourn. Ken Berg seconded. Opposed: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.