



Minutes from the November 16, 2020 Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom due to the Public Health Pandemic Emergency declared under Chapter 12 by the Governor. A roll call vote was taken on each item needing voting. 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 Vice Chair Ken Berg at 7:30 a.m.

Vice Chair has now handed over the meeting to District Manager Darren Newville.

Members Present:

Chair: Brett Dailey (*via Zoom*)
Vice Chair: Ken Berg (*via phone*)
Secretary: Bruce Juntunen (*via Zoom*)
Treasurer: Nancy Benson (*via Zoom*)
Public Relations: Tom Schulz (*via Zoom*)

Others Present:

NRCS DC: Josh Hanson (*via Zoom*)
County Commissioner: Chuck Horsager (*via Zoom*)
District Manager: Darren Newville (*via Zoom*)
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski (*via Zoom*)
Admin Secretary: Chantal Tougas (*via Zoom*)

Present via Teleconference:

BWSR: Chris Pence (*via Zoom*)

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

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Ken Berg to Adopt the Agenda adding under new business: Tom is seeking re-appointment to the BWSR Board and would like a recommendation letter from Wadena SWCD. Opposed: None. Motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes from previous month: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve the last month Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: None. Motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

7:38 a.m. Brett Dailey joined the meeting via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Benson asked if we had received the extension of the CWF Forestry grant yet. Darren noted that we have not heard for sure yet. Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve the October Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

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Bills Paid and Bills Payable: Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Nancy Benson to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None. Motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

CWL Crow Wing River Forestry Plan Writing:

Approve final cost share payments for:

33 – Nicholas Schultz; cost share up to \$645.00 or 75% whichever is less in Bullard Township, section 35 (consultant written). Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Ken Berg to approve final payment. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

36 – Gloege, Kristin; cost share up to \$634.00 or 75% whichever is less in Orton Township, sections 20,21 (consultant written). Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve final payment. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

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

8:06 a.m. Chris Pence joined the meeting via Zoom.

Soil Conservationist's Report: Working on 2021 CSP renewals. Deadline for EQIP is November 20, 2020. Lots of online trainings going on now. Wadena USDA office is at Phase 1 COVID operations.

County Commissioner's Report:

- Chuck is on the COVID Executive Committee and they are meeting today.
- Wadena Armory is a free COVID testing facility; appointments are preferred.
- The County has received the CARES Act funding and is busy making allocations.

BWSR:

- Still waiting to hear from St. Paul on our grant extensions; not sure what the hang up is.
- If you have applied for the CWF then you are still waiting for approval; hopefully in December.

Forestry Update: There is a virtual meeting scheduled for this Thursday.

Water Plan Update: The RCPP application is almost put together. There are a lot of partners coming together.

TSA 8 Report: Personnel Committee met on October 20, 2020 and will be making a recommendation to the board. Koochiching SWCD has a project beyond the scope of the TSA Engineer. Tom approved them to outsource the project.

Convention Planning: Discussed at the meeting with voting happening via individual log in. Resolution votes are being tallied.

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Local Election Recap: Discussion of the election outcome was held. Congrats to Bruce Juntunen & Tom Schulz for their win!

December Board Meeting: After discussion, our December 21, 2020 board meeting will be held at our normal time (7:30 a.m.) via Zoom. Check the posting on our office door or visit our website at www.wadenaswcd.org for more details.

Letter: Tom is asking for a letter of recommendation from Wadena SWCD as he is seeking re-appointment to the BWSR Board. Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Nancy Benson to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried. *(Please note that Tom abstained from voting.)*

Public Comments: None.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

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