



Minutes from the September 21, 2020 Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. at the Wadena County Sheriff's Building on the County Fairgrounds at 500 Birch Ave NW in Wadena.

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 7:30 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

Present via Teleconference:

NRCS DC: Josh Hanson
BWSR: Chris Pence

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. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve the August Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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.

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BWSR State Cost Share:

CWL Crow Wing River Forestry Plan Writing:

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

39 – Todd Mike; cost share up to \$855.00 or 75% whichever is less in Bullard Township, section 27 (consultant written). Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Nancy Benson to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

40 – Soule, Joe; cost share up to \$1,164.75 or 75% whichever is less in Meadow Township, sections 27, 34 (consultant written). Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

41 – Hiedeman, Raymond & Janice; cost share up to \$289.88 or 75% whichever is less in Lyons Township, sections 3,4. Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

42 – Martin, Nathan; cost share up to \$597.00 or 75% whichever is less in Meadow Township, section 27. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cover Crop Grant/District Capacity:

CC-01; Clarksean, Dean; requesting first year payment for cover crops. This is a three-year contract for a total flat rate amount authorized not to exceed \$13,500.00 with the first-year payment of \$4,500.00. Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

CC-02; Schock, Andrew; requesting first year payment for cover crops. This is a three-year contract for a total flat rate amount authorized not to exceed \$13,500.00 with the first-year payment of \$4,500.00. Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

CC-03; Matthews, Harold; requesting first year payment for cover crops. This is a three-year contract for a total flat rate amount authorized not to exceed \$1,012.50 with the first-year payment of \$337.50. Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Nancy Benson to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Soil Conservationist's Report: Collecting CSP Certification forms for payments. Finished contracts for EQIP & CSP this year. Batching period hopefully in November for EQIP. Will be hiring a Civil Engineering Tech to be based out of Little Falls that will cover 3 counties.

County Commissioner's Report:

- A tour of the parks along the Crow Wing River shows that the parks are being used regularly.
- Tax Forfeit Land Sales – 20% of the sale price goes into the Parks account for picnic tables, shelters, roads, and bathrooms.

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- COVID 19 – Group meets every Monday
- Cares Act – funding for county (1.7 million), schools, townships to use for COVID related projects.
- Courtroom needed – The county is in need of a larger space to use as a courtroom either for rent, sale, or land for building. The county is open to ideas.

BWSR: as written and read by Chris Pence.

Forestry Update: Grants and our resolution on logging database was the discussion at last week's meeting. It was recommended by the state to move forward with the pilot project (Cass, Crow Wing, and Aitkin). Lindberg Ekola is a good hire to keep the Forestry/SWCD Association group moving forward.

Water Plan Update: Motion made by Nancy Benson, seconded to Bruce Juntunen to approve for Brett to sign the resolution to adopt and implement the Redeye Watershed plan. Opposed: none, motion carried.

TSA & Report: Meeting in October with a follow up Personnel Committee meeting after that.

Job Approval Authority: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Nancy Benson to approve Aimee, Liz, and Mitchell Ness for Ecological Sciences JAA as recommended by NRCS and the District Manager. Opposed: none, motion carried.

RCPP Irrigation Proposal: 19 SWCD's, CLC, MDA, UMN, BWSR, MDH, MRWA & more partners are on board for a 5 year project for new technologies to address groundwater. Motion to approve a letter of commitment for application made by Ken Berg, seconded by Bruce Juntunen. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: Marvin Runyan, former Wadena SWCD Supervisor passed away on September 18, 2020. Tom Schulz gave an update on the Soil Health School he attended.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m. Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Nancy Benson to adjourn. Opposed: none, motion carried.