



Minutes from January 20, 2026, Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held at 7:30 a.m. in person at the Sheriff's Building at the fairgrounds.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Schulz at 7:33 a.m.

Members Present:

Chair: Tom Schulz
Vice Chair: Ken Berg
Secretary: Brett Dailey
Treasurer: Jerry Kern
Public Relations: Bruce Juntunen

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
District Manager: Darren Newville
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Re-Organization of the Board, Supervisor Committee Appointments, & 2026 Meeting Schedule: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to leave the board positions and supervisor committee appointments the same as last year. And to accept the 2026 meeting schedule. Oppose: none, motion carried.

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Bruce Juntunen, to adopt the agenda with the following additions: Under Cost Share: Cost Share Policy suggestions and 15a Personnel policy. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Approved Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Brett Dailey to approve last month's Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid and Bills Payable: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cost Share

Redeye WBIF

8-C25-0118-04; Uselman Family; North Germany Township, section 35; is requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship Plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,050.00 with cost share of \$525.00 or 50% whichever is less. The is the allowable amount for a new plan enrolling in 2C tax class. Plan will be written by Joel Holden. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C25-0118-05; Uselman, Chad; North Germany Township, section 33 and Wing River Township, section 5; is requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship Plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$790.00 with cost share of \$395.00 or 50% whichever is less. The is the allowable amount for a new plan enrolling in 2C tax

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class. Plan will be written by Joel Holden. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C25-0118-06; Finck, Sheila; Wing River Township, section 35; is requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship Plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,020.00 with cost share of \$510.00 or 50% whichever is less. The is the allowable amount for a new plan enrolling in 2C tax class. Plan will be written by Anne Oldakowski. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Crow Wing WBIF

8-C25-0310-06; Lindell Investments LLP; Orton Township, section 19; is requesting final payment for a Forest Stewardship Plan (185 acres, written by Joel Holden), with a total cost of \$800.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$600.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Conservation Contracts

8-P26-0382-01; Pettit, Wyatt and Andrea; Wadena Township, section 32; is requesting cost share assistance for tree and shrub establishment. The estimated cost of the project is \$671.20 with cost share of \$503.40 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-P26-0382-02; Burlingame, Kelly; Blueberry Township, section 26; is requesting cost share assistance for tree and shrub establishment. The estimated cost of the project is \$5,980.00 with cost share of \$4,485.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Soil Health Practices RCPP

80A-1-01; Petersen, Michael; Meadow Township, section 32; is requesting cost share assistance for strip tillage practice on 106 acres. The estimated cost of the project is \$3,392.00 which is a flat rate of \$32/acre. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cost Share Policy Updates– Darren reviewed the staff recommend Cost-Share Policy and payment rate changes with the board. After discussion - motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to make the staff recommendations to the policies. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report: In the process of hiring a new administrator. This has been in the works for two months now. Also, there is a land sale going on. See the county website.

District Manager's Report: Read by Darren Newville.

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Read by Ivan Reinke.

Other Agency Reports: None present.

Forestry Update: The last meeting was cancelled due to a lack of speakers. Alex Hoffman is the new liaison between the DNR Nursery and SWCD's.

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TSA & Report: The agreement was signed for the Audit.

EOT/Wadena Agreement: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve the continuation of the Joint Agreement between the two districts. Oppose: none, motion carried. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to approve the final budget. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Personnel Policy Recommended Changes – Darren reviewed the proposed Personnel Policy changes with the board. After discussion - Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve the changes to the personnel policy. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Meetings/Trainings: Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Jerry Kern to approve those meetings on the agenda and fees associated with them. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Mileage Rate: Federal mileage rate has increased from \$0.70/mile to \$0.725/mile for 2026.

Per Diem: Per diem for 2025 is currently \$125.00. Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Brett Dailey to keep the rate the same. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Official Newspaper: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Bruce Juntunen to use Sebeka/Menahga Review Messenger as the official District newspaper, following what the County does. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Official Financial Institution: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Brett Dailey to keep Old National Bank as the official District financial institution. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Peterson Engagement Letter: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to retain Peterson Company Ltd for the year-end audit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments:

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.