



Minutes from August 18, 2025, 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 7:30 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
East Otter Tail SWCD Liaison: Bruce Albright
Education & Outreach Admin Asst: Kristi Rorah

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to adopt the agenda as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

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

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

Cost Share

Policy update: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve the cost share policy update as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Redeye WBIF Cost Share C22-7830:

8-C22-7830-03; Schmitz, Dale is requesting cost share assistance for cover crops on 11.4 acres. This is a one-year, multi species flat rate/acre contract of \$35/acre. The cost share estimate is \$399.00. This was pre-approved according to district cost share policy by Anne Oldakowski on 7-28-2025. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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8-C22-7830-03; Schmitz, Dale is requesting payment for his cover crops practice on 11.4 acres. This is a one-year, multi species flat rate/acre contract of \$35/acre. The cost share payment is \$399.00. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-04; Dailey, Brett; Rockwood Township, Section 25, is requesting cost share assistance for Prescribed Grazing Plan & Pasture/Hayland Planting. The estimated cost of the project is \$33,575.00 with cost share of \$25,181.25 or 75% whichever is less. Brett Dailey recused himself from voting. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-05; Fischer, Matt; Rockwood Township, Section 29, is requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$658.00 with cost share of \$493.50 or 75% whichever is less. This is the allowable amount for a new plan and will be entered into SFIA in the fall. Plan will be written by Anne. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-06; Fischer, Ross & Adam; Rockwood Township, Section 29, is requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,351.00 with cost share of \$675.50 or 50% whichever is less. This is the allowable amount for a new plan and will be entered into 2C. Plan will be written by Anne. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-07; Perius, Kevin; Wadena Township, Section 15, is requesting cost share assistance for his Cover Crop practice on 14 acres. This is a one-year contract with a flat rate of \$490.00. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-08; Strayer Dairy, LLC; Bluffton & Rockwood Townships, Sections 12, 13, 14, 30 & 31, is requesting cost share assistance for their Cover Crop practice on 174 acres. This is a one-year contract with a flat rate of \$4,350.00. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-09; Schmitz, Dale; Leaf River Township, Section 18, is requesting cost share assistance for his Cover Crop practice on 14 acres. This is a one-year contract with a flat rate of \$490.00. This was pre-approved according to district cost share policy by Anne Oldakowski on 7-28-2025. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C22-7830-09; Schmitz, Dale; Leaf River Township, Section 18, is requesting a final cost share payment for his Cover Crop practice on 14 acres. This is a one-year contract with a flat rate of \$490.00. The cost share payment is \$490.00. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

MDA Weed Management Grant 264520:

264520-2025-05; Dailey, Brett; Leaf River Township, Sections 13 & 18, is requesting cost share assistance for wild parsnip management, with a flat rate of up to \$1,000. Brett Dailey recused himself from voting. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report:

- County is continuing to work on the budget process
- The county ditch hearing is expected to happen in August.

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- The county's HR dept is getting caught up, no county manager yet.

District Manager's Report: Read by Anne

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Read by Ivan.

Other Agency Reports: Bruce Albright gave an East Otter Tail SWCD update.

Forestry Update: Nothing new to report.

TSA 8 Report: Nothing new to report.

Meetings/Trainings: Area VIII tour and meeting will be September 18 & 19, 2025

MN Prevailing Wage: Darren presented current information regarding prevailing wage and new form for producers to sign along with contracts with prevailing wage language and Tennessen warning.

MN Paid Leave: Darren presented information on Minnesota Paid Leave law and recommended that Wadena SWCD have a policy in place even though it has no full-time employees at present. There are two options for paying for the cost; the employer may choose to pay 100% of the required payroll percentage or the employer may choose to pay 50% and the remaining 50% is paid by the employee. This will be put on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Public Comments: Bruce asked about nitrate testing, if there have been higher numbers. Most tests done in Wadena county have been under the state guidelines so far. Ivan commented on the recent Ray Archuleta talk, making the point that even those who have been in the ag industry for a long time can take away positive information from such outreach events. There was a short discussion about the Aldrich dam. Darren gave an update that the DNR has recommended complete removal. The city of Aldrich will make the final decision as it is under city control.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.