



Minutes from August 17, 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 7:30 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Assistant: Chantal Tougas

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Brett Dailey to approve the Treasurer's Report. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to reinvest CD 5436 for 15 months @ 4.05%. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Cost Share

Redeye WBIF

8-C25-0118-14; Keith Waln; Leaf River Township, Section 14; is requesting a final cost share payment for his Waste Facility Closure. The total cost of the plan is \$19,375.00 with cost share assistance of \$14,531.25 which is 75%. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C25-0118-15; Tom Schulz; North Germany Township, Section 8; is requesting a final cost share payment for Forest Stewardship Plan. The total cost of the plan was \$670.00 with cost share assistance of \$167.50 which is 25% of the total cost of the plan. Motion made by Jerry

The Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District seeks to achieve and maintain the highest quality and quantity of natural resources possible through wise stewardship for now and the future of human and financial means available.

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Approved 9/21/2026



Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried. *Note: Tom Schulz abstained from voting.*

8-C25-0118-17; Joe Van Dam; Aldrich Township, Section 29; is requesting cost share assistance for a Multi Species Cover Crops on 40 acres. The flat rate payment is \$1,400.00, which is \$35.00/acre. Additional funding from MDA. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C25-0118-18; Rick Schwartz; Leaf River Township, Section 9; is requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship Plan on 199 acres. The estimated cost of the plan is \$2,290.00 with cost share assistance of \$572.50, or 25% whichever is less. This is a renewal forestry plan that is enrolled in SFIA and written by Anne Oldakowski. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Crow Wing WBIF

8-C25-0310-17; Lori Fuchs Revocable Trust; Lyons Township, Section 28; is requesting to amend the landowner's name on the contract to Brian Fuchs with final payment for their forest stewardship plan reissued to Brian Fuchs (the prior check will be voided). The total cost of the project was \$1,600.00 with cost share of \$400.00 which is 25%. Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-C25-0310-19; Bruce & Lyn Juntunen; Shell River Township, Sections 20, 22, 23; are requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship Plan on 185 acres. The estimated cost of the plan is \$2,150.00 with cost share assistance of \$1,075.00, or 50% whichever is less. This is a new forestry plan that will be enrolled in 2C and written by Anne Oldakowski. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried. *Note: Bruce Juntunen abstained from voting.*

8-C25-0310-20; Donald & Sue Juntunen; Shell River Township, Section 21; are requesting cost share assistance for a Forest Stewardship Plan on 175 acres. The estimated cost of the plan is \$2,050.00 with cost share assistance of \$1,025.00, or 50% whichever is less. This is a new forestry plan that will be enrolled in 2C and written by Anne Oldakowski. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried. *Note: Bruce Juntunen abstained from voting.*



Soil Health Practices RCPP – P26-0061

80-1-04; JS Dairy; Thomastown Township, Section 8; is requesting cost share assistance for a pasture and hay land planting on 63 acres. The flat rate payment for the project is \$6,300.00, which is \$100.00/acre. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

80-1-06; Nate Witthuhn; Wadena Township, Section 8; is requesting cost share assistance for Single Species Cover Crop on 37.95 acres. The flat rate payment for the project is \$948.75, which is \$25.00/acre. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

80-1-07; Ron Perish; Redeye Township, Sections 5, 9, 16; is requesting cost share assistance for Single Species Cover Crop on 208.48 acres. The flat rate payment for the project is \$5,212.00, which is \$25.00/acre. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report: Not present.

District Manager's Report: Read by Anne Oldakowski.

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

Other Agency Reports: None present

Forestry Update: A survey is being developed by Cass SWCD on SWCD cost share and forest stewardship plans. The next meeting is Friday, September 18, in Grand Rapids to coincide with the North Star Expo and MFA's Polaris Gathering.

TSA 8 Report: Nothing new to report.

Shared Extension Educator: A discussion was held about serious concerns that the position is not working for us. and wanted to relay that info to EOT regarding their concern on the position. This item has been tabled to the next meeting.

JAA Approval: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to approve Level 2 Conservation Planner JAA for Alyson Levig. Opposed: none, motion carried. *The board would like Alyson to know that they are proud of you!*

Long Prairie Watershed: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve Darren to sign the collaborative fiscal agent agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Leaf Wing Red Eye WBIF Agreement: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to approve and sign the agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

The Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District seeks to achieve and maintain the highest quality and quantity of natural resources possible through wise stewardship for now and the future of human and financial means available.

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Approved 9/21/2026



Peterson management representation letter: Chantal noted we will hopefully have a draft audit by next month. Discussion on prevailing wage.

Public Comments: Some irrigation permits have been shut down by the DNR. Also, some landowners are asking what is being done about the drought. We explain the weather patterns and multi-year drought, provide the HydroClim report as background from the MN Climatologist Office, and we refer them to DNR on questions about irrigation permitting. Discussion was held on the June hail event and the impact on our 3 vehicles with the repair quotes and insurance. The newest vehicles will be fixed, and an adjuster has been on site to view the oldest vehicle with a report coming soon.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.