



Minutes from the January 17, 2023, 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 Ken Berg at 7:35 a.m.

Reorganization of the Board of Supervisors as follows:

	<u>Current Positions</u>	<u>Reorganized Positions</u>
Members Present:	Chair: Ken Berg	Chair: Bruce Juntunen
	Vice Chair: Bruce Juntunen	Vice Chair: Tom Schulz
	Treasurer: Tom Schulz	Treasurer: Brett Dailey
	Secretary: Nancy Benson	Secretary: Ken Berg
	Public Relations: Brett Dailey	Public Relations: Jerry Kern

Others Present: County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
District Manager: Darren Newville
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Assistant: Chantal Tougas

Oath of Office: Ken Berg, Brett Dailey, and Jerry Kern said the oath of office. Introductions were made as we have a new board member.

Reorganization: Motion made by Tom Schulz to make the above changes to the board appointments, second by Brett Dailey. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to nominate Bruce Juntunen as the new Wadena Liaison to attend EOT Board meetings and to make changes to the committee appointments. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to adopt the agenda with a new business addition. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Brett Dailey, seconded by Ken Berg to approve the last month's Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Ken Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid and Bills Payable: Motion made by Ken Berg, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. 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.

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Redeye WBIF Cost Share:

2022-RE09; Thompson, Tyler; authorization to approve payment for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$858.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$643.50 or 75%, whichever is less in Aldrich Township, section 14. (Consultant written) Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

2023-RE01; Schreiner, Paul; authorization to encumber funds for a tree planting, with a total cost of \$8,930.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$6,697.50 or 75%, whichever is less in North Germany Township, section 15. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

2023-RE02; Jahnke, Randy & Nicole; authorization to encumber funds for a field windbreak, with a total cost of \$316.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$237.00 or 75%, whichever is less in Aldrich Township, section 11. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

County Commissioner's Report:

- The county web page is being worked on.
- Wadena County is ranked #5 in the state internet/broadband service.
- The DNR has put out ditch proposals and there has been push back on that.
- The Conservation Fund Committee will be discussing PILT payments at a future meeting.

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: as written and read by Ivan Reinke

Other Agency Reports: none in attendance

Forestry Update: The next meeting is Thursday, January 19, 2023. They will be discussing an increase in plan writing fees. The current rate is \$7-9/acre + \$300/plan.

Water Plan Update: covered in District Manager's report.

TSA & Report: The TSA no longer has staff. We do have access to a PE and Engineer Tech for assistance. The engineer received severance pay. Currently working on a dues schedule.

Meetings/Trainings:

- CMIC Meeting – Jan 19th CLC Staples
- SWCD Forestry Meeting – Jan 19th in McGregor
- MnSTAC Meeting – Jan 19th virtual
- Cow/Calf Days – Jan 24th in Staples, \$10
- MASWCD Legislative Webinar - Jan 25th 10:30 to noon
- LCCMR Grant Meeting – Jan 26th in Brainerd
- Nitrogen Smart Workshop – Jan 31-Feb 1 in Willmar, hotel

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- Forest Health Workshop – Jan 31st in Walker
- Redeye TAC Meeting – Feb 14th in Perham
- IAM Meeting – Feb 16th in Freeport
- Irrigation and Nutrient Management Clinic – Mar 2nd in New York Mills
- Legislative Days – Mar 7th & 8th in St Paul
- MACFO Workshop – Mar 21-23 in Winona, \$100 + hotel
- AIS Management 101 – Online Course - \$75.00

Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve those planning on attending the above meetings. Opposed: none, motion carried. Darren noted he is planning on a Staff/Supervisor retreat for Tuesday, March 28.

Mileage Rate: Federal mileage rate has increased from \$0.625/mile to \$0.655/mile for 2023.

Per Diem: Per diem for 2023 is currently at \$125.00.

Official Newspaper: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to use the Verndale Sun as the official District newspaper, as we usually follow what the County does for that. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Official Financial Institution: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to keep Bremer Bank as the official District financial institution. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Peterson engagement letter: Motion made by Brett Dailey, seconded by Ken Berg to retain Peterson Company Ltd for year-end audit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Year End Documents: Error on W-2 PERA reporting. Request made to reissue those W-2's with PERA reporting.

Public Comments: none

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.