



Minutes from the February 21, 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 Bruce Juntunen at 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chair: Bruce Juntunen
Vice Chair: Tom Schulz
Secretary: Ken Berg
Public Relations: Jerry Kern

Members Absent: Treasurer: Brett Dailey

Others Present: County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
FSA Director: Kayla Mattson
District Manager: Darren Newville
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Admin, Education & Outreach Assistant: Kristi Rorah
BWSR: Pete Waller

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

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Tom Schulz, 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.

SOIL HEALTH GRANT

P23-2744-01; Joseph & Lynette Schmitz/Derek Harrison; Orton Township, section 30; is requesting approval of cost share assistance contract for a windbreak. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1,000 with cost sharing of \$750.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

District Manager's Report: Presented by Darren Newville.

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NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Presented by Ivan Reinke

- 3 EQIP applications pre-approved, reminder letters going out to current contracts.
- 5 RCPP applications pre-approved
- CSP applications screened, will be working on ones that screened high
- Inflation Reduction Act to provide additional funding for programs.

FSA Report: Presented by Kayla Mattson

- General CRP signup begins Feb 27, currently have 96 contracts with 2 expiring this year.
- Changes in office: Bonnie Hintzman is retiring.
- Two new programs: emergency relief program for crop losses due to last year's drought and pandemic assistance revenue program for other losses – both signups end June 2, 2023

County Commissioner's Report: Presented by Murlyn Kreklau

- Discussed conservation land, county ownership versus DNR ownership.
- Discussed Hwy 10 project, there will be additional cost for the county as well.

*Merlyn Kreklau left the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

Other Agency Reports: BWSR Report presented by Pete Waller

Forestry Update: Tom handed out the Farmers' Guide to Carbon Market Contracts in Minnesota and The Farmers' Guide to Solar and Wind Energy

Water Plan Update: two items to vote on

- Comprehensive Water Plan Resolution: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to approve the comprehensive water plan resolution. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- Long Prairie Watershed Agreement Amendment: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve signing the Long Prairie watershed agreement amendment. Opposed: none, motion carried.

TSA 8 Report: Equipment owned by the TSA is available for districts to bid on. Meeting in March.

Meetings/Trainings:

- Carbon Sequestration Meeting March 3 in Walker
Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to approve staff and/or supervisors attending the March 3 carbon sequestration meeting. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Letter of Support Request:

- Request for a letter of support received from an applicant for the MDA Soil Health Equipment Grant
- Discussed if we should write letters of support for grant applicants if requested.
- Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to approve writing a generic letter of support for applicants if requested or a more detailed letter of support if we have a history of working with the producer. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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AIS – Always There Staffing Agreement:

- Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to approve the signing of the Always There Staffing Agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Area 8 Envirothon donation request:

- Area 8 Envirothon is requesting a donation of \$300 from area SWCDs.
- Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve the donation of \$300.00 to Area 8 Envirothon. Opposed: none, motion carried.

MASWCD's SWCD Aid Legislative Proposal HF735/SF526:

- Legislative appointments for March 8: two set, still setting up an appointment with Senator Utke

Public Comments:

- Discussion regarding AgBMP lenders.
- Further discussion regarding Wadena roundabout.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.