



Minutes from the May 20, 2024, 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 7:31 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
District Manager: Darren Newville
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

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

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Tom Schulz to approve last month's Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to cash out the CD maturing on May 18, 2024. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to renew the CD that matures on May 21, 2024, for 6 months at the current rate. Opposed: none, motion carried. *Please note that to get that same rate I had to renew it for 8 months.*

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

Local Capacity Cost Share P22-6162/P23-2523:

8-P22-6162-01; Flying Cow Farms; Leaf River Township, Section 16; is requesting cost share assistance for an ag waste pit closure. The total estimated cost of the project is \$14,778.50 with cost sharing of \$11,083.88 or 75%, whichever is less. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8-P23-2523-01; Scott Putzke; Rockwood Township, Section 23; is requesting cost share assistance for an ag waste pit closure. The total estimated cost of the project is \$19,200.00 with cost sharing of \$14,400.00 or 75%, whichever is less. Motion made by Tom Schulz to approve, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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County Commissioner's Report: Wadena County continues to work with Ottertail County on Ditches. Wadena is giving Adrich back a road. Funding was applied for this and granted.

District Manager's Report: presented by Anne Oldakowski

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Presented by Ivan Reinke

- EQIP– Working on the QAR process with pre-approvals. Gathering required signatures. 10 million more funds were allocated out in Area NE. New applications still coming in. Working through planning, no deadline currently.
- CTA – Plenty of new interest in projects. Grazing, Irrigation, Tree Plantings, Pollinator Habitat, Etc.
- CSP – 7 applications were pre-approved. Working on putting the contracts together. Meeting with applicants for final fixes and approvals.
- Coming up – UTV training May 22, 2024 in Little Falls, Pasture Walk May 23, 2024 @ Erick Blaha Farm from 6-8 pm and Area NE NRCS meeting on May 29-30, 2024 in Grand Rapids.

Other Agency Reports: none present

Forestry Update: Anne provided an update from the May 16 meeting. Presentations on the North Shore Forestry Collaboration and Sugarloaf Cove project.

TSA 8 Report: Nothing to update

Meetings/Trainings:

- Area Meeting June 7, 2024, in Bemidji: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to approve those wishing to attend. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- SWCD Governance: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Tom Schulz to approve those wishing to attend. Opposed: none, motion carried. Jerry and Tom want to attend so I will get them signed up.
- MASWCD Leadership: no one is ready to attend this.

Alliance for Climate Smart Project: Discussed project and timeline of contracts.

MASWCD Resolutions: Board was asked to submit ideas if they think of any.

Supervisor Election: Bruce and Tom are up for re-election. Filing dates are May 21st through June 4th.

Tumblers: Motion

Public Comments: Tom received a call from a landowner in Orton Township, Crow Wing Watershed. It appears a new road has been installed which is causing the farmer's field to be wet when it wasn't before, as no culvert was installed in this process. While we do not have jurisdiction over this situation, it will be recommended that the landowner talks with his neighbor to resolve the issue. If they can't come to an agreement their next step would be to consult with an attorney.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

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