



Minutes from the June 19, 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

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
District Manager: Darren Newville
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
EOT SWCD Board Liaison: Bruce Albright
Education, Outreach, & Admin Asst: Kristi Rorah

Members Absent:

Treasurer: Brett Dailey

Adopt Agenda: Added producer scholarship for soil health summit under #13 Meetings. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to adopt the agenda with addition. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Tom Schulz to approve May 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.

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

Cost Share

RE WBIF Cost Share:

2022-RE03; Doug's Place LLC; Authorization to amend cost share amount for a forest stewardship plan. The original cost estimate was \$1,857 and final cost was \$1,886.70. The cost share encumbered would change from \$1,392.75 to \$1,415.03. In Leaf River Township, section 24 and Wing River Township, section 19. Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Tom Schulz to approve contract amendment. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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2022-RE03; Doug's Place LLC; Authorization to approve payment for a Forest Stewardship Plan, with total cost of \$1,886.70, cost share payment not to exceed \$1,415.03 or 75%, whichever is less in Leaf River Township, section 24 and Wing River Township, section 19. (consultant written, 176 acres) Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

2023-RE02; Randy and Nicole Jahnke; Authorization to approve payment for a Windbreak Plan, with total cost of \$296.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$222.00 or 75%, whichever is less in Aldrich township, section 11.

County Commissioner's Report: The county is beginning the budget process. There were an unusually high number of tax abatements in the county.

District Manager's Report: Presented by Darren Newville.

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Presented by Ivan Reinke

- CSP – 3 applications have been approved.
- Have been working on certifying practices and writing new plans.

Other Agency Reports: Presented by Bruce Albright. EOT SWCD board meeting is Wednesday.

Forestry Update: Presented by Tom Schulz

- Tom and Anne attended the forestry association meeting. Use of tree tubes and NRCS forestry programs were discussed at the meeting.

TSA 8 Report: Presented by Tom Schulz

- All TSA equipment has been sold. Former employee has accepted new employment so there was just one month of unemployment paid out.

Meetings/Trainings:

- MACAI Short Course: Cost will be \$420/person including registration and hotel for two nights. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Jerry Kern to approve employee attendance of CAI Short Course. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- NACD Summer Meeting will be July 15-19 in Bismarck ND if any supervisors are interested in attending.
- Irrigation Technical Training will be July 17-18 in Staples. Since it is close, there will not be a cost to attend.
- MASWCD Leadership Training: Cost is \$5800/person, all inclusive. No staff would be going, this is open for supervisors. Darren suggested attending to Jerry, who may be interested and will check his schedule. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to approve supervisor attending the MASWCD Leadership Training. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- Soil Health Summit: In the past producer scholarships have been provided to cover registration costs for several producers. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Tom Schulz to approve providing five producer scholarships for the Soil Health Summit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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Lakes Country Service Cooperative – Service renewal agreement

Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve Darren signing the service renewal agreement.

Opposed: none, motion carried.

MASWCD Resolutions: Mille Lacs SWCD Resolution for Forestland Protection

- The board had previously voted to support the resolution. The resolution was updated/modified.
- Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to support updated resolution. Opposed: none, motion carried.

2023 Legislative Update:

- SWCDs will be receiving direct payments from the Department of Revenue
- This will allow more flexibility with funds, less reporting
- More one-time funding for soil health will be available
- There will be \$3 million in state incentives for people to enroll in CRP

Public Comments: Area 8 meeting will be Friday 6/23. Anne, Tom, Ken, Bruce, and Jerry plan to attend as well as Ivan.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made at 8:42 a.m. by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to adjourn. Opposed: none, motion carried.