



Minutes from the August 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 7:31 a.m.

Members Present: Chair: Bruce Juntunen
Vice Chair: Tom Schulz
Secretary: Ken Berg
Treasurer: Brett Dailey

Members Absent: Public Relations: Jerry Kern

Others Present: County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS Team Lead: Josh Hanson
NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
District Manager: Darren Newville
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Ken Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

COST SHARE

Soil Health Cost Share P23-2744:

P23-2744-01; Derek, Harrison; Authorization to approve payment for his field windbreaks, with a total cost of \$954.00, cost-share not to exceed \$715.50 or 75%, whichever is less in Orton Township, section 30. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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LCCMR Cost Share P23-2944:

01-2023; Cottrell, Clesson; Authorization to approve payment for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$1,020.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$765.00 or 75%, whichever is less in Bullard Township, section 9. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

03-2023; Brejcha, Brad & April; Authorization to encumber funds for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$1,254.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$940.50 or 75%, whichever is less in Aldrich Township, sections 11 & 15. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

04-2023; Gilligan, Ryan; Authorization to encumber funds for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$993.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$744.75 or 75%, whichever is less in Bullard Township, section 7. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

05-2023; Anderson, Roger; Authorization to encumber funds for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$1,900.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$1,425.00 or 75%, whichever is less in Bullard Township, section 17. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

06-2023; Schouvellier, Keith & Jan; Authorization to encumber funds for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$1,320.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$990.00 or 75%, whichever is less in Wing River Township, section 14. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Redeye WBIF Cost Share C21-3238 (EOT):

2023-RE03; Schulz, Tom; Authorization to encumber funds for components of a grazing system (heavy use protection, watering facility), with a total cost of \$3,722.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$2,791.50 or 75%, whichever is less in North Germany Township, sections 5 & 6. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried. *(Note: Tom Schulz abstained from voting)*

DC 2021 Cost Share P21-2762:

DC 2018-02; Meech, Reese; authorization to amend funds for cover crops. This was originally a three-year contract for a single species total flat rate in the amount of \$7,200 (\$15/acre for 160 acres) in Orton Township, possible sections 14,15,16,21,22,25, & 36 and Lyons Township section 2. He was paid for the 1st year in 2022. He would like to switch to a multi-species flat rate of \$6,400 (\$20/acre for 160 acres) for the other 2 years. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Tom Schulz to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report: A housing tax abatement policy was drafted and should be finalized this fall. There is a 5-year construction plan for maintaining roads and it started this year. The County website has a list of those roads.

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District Manager's Report: Presented by Darren Newville.

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Presented by Ivan Reinke

- EQIP – There are new applications coming in. October 6, 2023, is the cutoff date for signups. Management may be increased to 5 years. Payment rates and caps are being adjusted.
- IRA – More funding will be coming under this allocation again this year.
- CSP – Starting to review contracts for 2023 payments.
- CRP plans were written for landowners enrolling in SIGN UP 59 and 60.
- Payments are being made on the EQIP, RCPP, and certifying CSP practices installed.
- Attended the following trainings: Livestock Water System Design, Pollinator and Grazing for Wildlife, and Ag Waste Closure hosted by EOT SWCD.
- Attended the Soil Health Field Day in Deer Creek.
- Personnel – Openings for a SCT and SC have been out, Wadena has an opening.
- Area NE meeting will be held September 19-20 in Grand Rapids.
- Working with Mitch Janson, SWCD to update JAA for engineering.

8:27 a.m. Murlyn left the meeting.

Other Agency Reports: None.

Forestry Update: The next meeting will be held in Grand Rapids. RCPP forestry applications are being submitted by DNR not BWSR. Need more details about the application. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to write a letter of support for the forestry application. Opposed: none, motion carried.

TSA 8 Report: An audit is to be conducted by Peterson Company.

Meetings/Trainings: Tom Schulz will be attending the MFRC meeting tomorrow in New York Mills. Bruce will be attending the Otter Tail Tour as liaison on Sept. 11. The next Area 8 meeting and tour is scheduled for Oct 12-13.

Tree Planter – The DNR has indicated they will provide us funding for a new tree planter to rent out through the LCCMR grant. The plan is for the district to purchase the tree planter and DNR will reimburse us. We will also need to decide what to do with the old tree planter once we have the new one.

Website Hosting: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Tom Schulz to approve using the same company that EOT SWCD uses for their website with estimate at \$3,000 plus annual update costs. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: none.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made at 8:58 a.m.

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