



Minutes from the September 18, 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 7:37 a.m.

Members Present: Chair: Bruce Juntunen
Vice Chair: Tom Schulz (*via teams*)
Secretary: Ken Berg

Members Absent: Treasurer: Brett Dailey
Public Relations: Jerry Kern

Others Present: BWSR BC: Pete Waller
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 Bruce Juntunen to adopt the agenda as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve last month's Board Meeting Minutes. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried. It was noted that one of the CD's on the treasurer's report was maturing. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve renewing the CD for 12 months @ 5%. Opposed: none, motion carried. After the meeting Chantal confirmed this, made the renewal, and advised the board as such.

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

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COST SHARE

LCCMR Cost Share P23-2944:

04-2023; Gilligan, Ryan; Authorization to approve payment 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. (77 acres, written by Anne). Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

05-2023; Anderson, Roger; Authorization to approve payment for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$1,861.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$1,395.75 or 75%, whichever is less in Bullard Township, section 17. (160 acres, written by consultant). Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report: none, not present.

District Manager's Report: Presented by Darren Newville.

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: Presented by Ivan Reinke

- EQIP – New applications coming in. Working on putting conservation plans together. October 6, 2023 is the deadline for signups.
- CSP – Certification of practices installed continues. Starting to review contracts for 2023 payments. Payments will start after October 1, 2023.
- Payments are being made to EQIP and RCPP.
- Attended the MN WC Area Forestry meeting in New York Mills. Also attended the Dung Beetle & Pasture Management workshops.
- Area NE meeting will be held September 19-20, 2023, in Grand Rapids.

Other Agency Reports: Pete Waller @ BWSR – Pete talked about the legislative changes to the State Cost Share program now the Conservation Contracts Program that will start with FY24 grants. These changes give the SWCD more flexibility in the use of the funds.

Forestry Update: Last meeting was in Grand Rapids. Ryan from the Forestry Association gave a presentation. His specialty is remote sensing. The next meeting is in November. An increase in dues will be the topic of discussion.

TSA 8 Report: Grant agreement was signed. Funds should be coming in soon.

Meetings/Trainings: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve those wanting to attend the Area VIII tour and meeting. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve those wanting to attend BWSR Academy. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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Public Comments: A landowner that has been applying for projects with NRCS has complained that SWCD Supervisors are getting special treatment with Cost Share dollars. Staff from NRCS and the SWCD met with the individual and his wife and explained the NRCS ranking and scoring process. He had a better understanding of how there is no room for favoritism by NRCS because of this process.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen. Opposed: none, motion carried. Adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

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