



Minutes from the January 18, 2022, Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. in person at the Sheriff's Building at the fairgrounds (or via Zoom). A notice of the meeting was posted on the door of the SWCD Office Location (4 Alfred Street NE) and explained how the public was able to participate in the meeting if not attending in person.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Berg at 7:35 a.m.

Members Present:

Vice Chair: Bruce Juntunen
Treasurer: Tom Schulz
Public Relations: Brett Dailey

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
District Manager: Darren Newville
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician: Ivan Reinke
Admin, Ed, & Outreach Asst: Kristi Rorah
Watershed Coordinator: Ben Underhill
Irrigation/Nutrient Mgmt Specialist: Nathan Wiese
BWSR Conservationist: Chris Pence (Zoom)

Members Absent:

Chair: Ken Berg
Secretary: Nancy Benson

Oath of Office: Not required this year.

Reorganization: Motion made by Tom Schulz to continue with current organization of board and committee appointments, seconded by Brett Dailey. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, seconded by Brett Dailey to adopt the agenda with addition. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

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Cost Share:

- New landowner, Dale Schmitz Leaf River 18, has requested to buy out cost share contract 13-409: field windbreak, 10-year contract would expire in 2024. Buy out may be up to \$150% of amount paid out at board's discretion. Suggested buy out of 150% of pro-rated amount based upon number of years it has been in the contract. Motion made by Brett Dailey, seconded by Tom Schulz to approve allowing buyout of contract 13-409 at 150% of pro-rated amount. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report: (moved up on agenda as commissioner is leaving early)

- County Board is working on reorganization/restructuring of how the board functions.
- Labor contract has not been signed yet.

District Manager's Report: as written and reported by Darren Newville, see attached.

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: as presented by Ivan Reinke

- EQIP: planning for 2022 applications
- CSP: finished payments, started training for 2022 applications
- Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council winter meeting is Thursday, moved location to Verndale Community Center as CLC closed to outside meeting temporarily

*8:09 a.m. Ben Underhill joined the meeting

*8:11 a.m. Murlyn Kreklau left the meeting

Other Agency Reports: BWSR report by Chris Pence

- Grant reporting is due February 1, grants with web reporting due March 15
- Deadline for habitat enhancement grants (\$20-40,000) and cooperative weed RFP is February 23
- Deadline for Lawns2Legumes demonstration projects is February 23 and February 15 for individual applications.
- Staffing: hiring two conservationists, grants coordinator, as well as several other positions

Forestry Update: presented by Tom Schulz

- Next meeting is Thursday, Jan 20, 2022.

Water Plan Update: presented by Anne Oldakowski

- Working on an application for Red Eye funds

TSA 8 Report: presented by Tom Schulz

- Board meeting is next Monday
- Discussed reorganization of the TSA

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MDH Groundwater Presentation: Ben Underhill and Nathan Wiese

- Presented information about issues within Wadena County
- Information is located on the shared server

*8:52 a.m. Ben Underhill left the meeting

Meetings/Trainings:

- MASWCD legislative briefing is March 9

Mileage Rate: Federal mileage rate has increased to .585 from .56 for 2022.

Per Diem: Per diem for 2022 is currently at \$125.00. Motion to accept the current per diem made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Official Newspaper: Motion made by Brett Dailey, seconded by Tom Schulz to use the Review-Messenger as the official District newspaper. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Official Financial Institution: Motion made by Tom Schulz, seconded by Brett Dailey to keep Bremer Bank as the official District financial institution. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: none

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.