



Minutes from January 21, 2025, 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.

Oath of Office: Bruce Juntunen and Tom Schulz (re-elected) recited the Oath of Office.

Bruce Juntunen nominated Tom Schulz for the Chair position, second by Ken Berg. Opposed: none, motion carried. Tom Schulz took over the meeting. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to keep the Committee Members the same moving into 2025. The ballot was unanimous, motion was carried.

Reorganization of the Board of Supervisors as follows:

	<u>Current Positions</u>	<u>Reorganized Positions</u>
Members Present:	Chair: Bruce Juntunen	Chair: Tom Schulz
	Vice Chair: Tom Schulz	Vice Chair: Ken Berg
	Secretary: Ken Berg	Secretary: Brett Dailey
	Treasurer: Brett Dailey	Treasurer: Jerry Kern
	Public Relations: Jerry Kern	Public Relations: Bruce Juntunen

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 Bruce Juntunen to adopt the agenda as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Ken Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to renew the CD that matured for 6 months. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

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Cost Share:

2025 Soil Health P25-0561:

P25-0561-03; Trushenski, Jackie; Authorization to encumber funds for a tree and shrub establishment, with a total cost of \$1,400.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$1,050.00 or 75%, whichever is less in Lyons Township, section 7. Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

P25-0561-04; Roth Riverside Farms, Inc; Authorization to encumber funds for cover crops for 3 years on 320 acres. This is a three-year one species flat rate/acre contract of \$33/acre. Cost share payment not to exceed \$31,680, in Aldrich Township, section 16 and Wing River Township, section 35. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

2024 Conservation Contracts P24-0302:

P24-0302-01; Lindblom, John; Authorization to encumber funds for tree and pollinator plantings, with a total cost of \$1,597.50, cost share payment not to exceed \$1,198.13 or 75%, whichever is less in Leaf River Township, section 32. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

A review of the Forestry Cost Share policy took place. Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to change the policy based on the recommendations of the staff. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report:

- ▽ Hiring a new County Administrator has become a challenge.
- ▽ A landowner meeting regarding ditches will be held on April 1, 2025, with an open meeting to take place late April or early May.
- ▽ The 2025 Budget has also been a challenge.

District Manager's Report: Read by Darren

NRCS District Conservationist's Report: read by Ivan

Other Agency Reports: None present.

Forestry Update: The SWCD Forestry Association met last week with presentations by the MN Loggers Association and Aitkin County Land department. Steve Cole attended the meeting and reported that there will not be a Forester hired due to the hiring freeze. Federal grants for spruce budworm and reforestation funding through DNR was also discussed.

TSA 8 Report: Nothing to report.

Budget: Changes in the budget discussed.

EOT/Wadena Agreement: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Bruce Juntunen to approve the continuation of the Joint Agreement between the two districts. Oppose: none, motion carried.

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Peterson Engagement Letter: Motion made by Ken Berg, second by Jerry Kern to retain Peterson Company Ltd for the year-end audit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Meetings/Trainings: Legislative Days are March 4-5, 2025, this year. Jerry, Ken, and Tom have decided they would attend. Chantal will make hotel accommodations.

Mileage Rate: Federal mileage rate has increased from \$0.67/mile to \$0.70/mile for 2025.

Per Diem: Per diem for 2025 is currently \$125.00. Motion made by Bruce Juntunen, second by Jerry Kern to keep the rate the same. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Official Newspaper: Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Bruce Juntunen to use the Wadena Pioneer Journal as the official District newspaper, following what the County does. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Public Comments: Add tree planter rental agreement for next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

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