



4 Alfred Street NE • Wadena, MN 56482 • www.wadenaswcd.org

February 18, 2025

WADENA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Monthly Board Meeting to be held at 7:30 a.m.

in person at Wadena Sheriff Building • 500 Birch Ave NW • Wadena, MN (at the fairgrounds)

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order by Chairperson Tom Schulz
2. Adopt Agenda
3. Approve the last month's Board Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Bills Paid and Bills Payable
6. Cost Share
7. County Commissioner's Report
8. District Manager's Report
9. District Conservationist's Report
10. Other Agency Reports

OLD BUSINESS

11. Forestry Update
12. TSA Update

NEW BUSINESS

13. Meetings and Trainings
 - ◆ NACD Fly-in Washington DC, Darren – March 25-27 MASWCD Request (Wadena SWCD share in the costs?)
14. Soil Health Grant – request for interest
15. Tree planter agreement
16. Always There Staffing AIS agreement
17. Public Comments
18. Adjourn

The Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District seeks to achieve and maintain the highest quality and quantity of natural resources possible through wise stewardship for now and the future within the limits of human and financial means available.

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Date	Meeting
2/18/2025	Wadena SWCD Board Meeting
2/19/2025	EOT SWCD Board Meeting
3/4/2025	Irrigation and Nutrient Management Clinic – New York Mills
3/4/2025-3/5/2025	MASWCD Legislative Days
3/17/2025	Wadena SWCD Board Meeting
3/19/2025	EOT SWCD Board Meeting
4/16/2025	EOT SWCD Board Meeting
4/21/2025	Wadena SWCD Board Meeting



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 Vice Chair: Tom Schulz Secretary: Ken Berg Treasurer: Brett Dailey Public Relations: Jerry Kern	Chair: Tom Schulz Vice Chair: Ken Berg Secretary: Brett Dailey Treasurer: 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.