



Minutes from the September 16, 2024, 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 7:29 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Murlyn Kreklau
NRCS District Conservationist: Ivan Reinke
Soil Conservationist: Cody Vleck
District Manager: Darren Newville
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas
District Technician: Savanna Anderson
Soil Health Specialist: Alyssa Scheve

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to adopt the agenda as presented with the following addition: under Public Comments add the DNR IRA Funding and move 13 after the Treasurer's Report. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry to approve renewing the CD maturing on 9/20/2024 for 6 months at the rate of 4.85%. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

Cost Share

Redeye WBIF Cost Share:

2022-RE11; Frolek, Alan; authorization to approve payment for a forest stewardship plan, with a total cost of \$1,831.80, cost share payment not to exceed \$1,373.85 or 75%, whichever is less in Leaf River Township, section 26. (Consultant written, 170.2 acres) Motion made by Brett Dailey, second by Jerry Kern to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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2023 Soil Health Cost Share:

P23-2744-04; Hendrickx, Michael; is requesting cost share assistance for cover crops on 11.5 acres. This is a one-year multi-species flat rate/acre contract of \$35/acre; cost share payment not to exceed \$402.50 in Rockwood Township, section 28. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

County Commissioner's Report:

- Dealing with contracts, Union negotiations, and budgets.
- Roads continue to be a problem. There are 450 miles of roads in Wadena County, 225 belong to the county with the rest belonging to the State. Four bridges need replacing and that will be a huge hit for the county budget in future years.

District Manager's Report: Read by Anne

NRCS District Conservationist's Report:

- Personnel – Cody Vleck, Soil Conservationist started September 8, 2024.
- EQIP – Ranking period closed September 6 on Sign up number 2. Busy working through planning and making payments for installed practices.
- CSP – All contracts have been obligated. Having conversations with contract holders on 2024 payments and certifications. Policy change: Minimum payments have increased.
- CRP – Plans and Status Reviews Completed
- 1026 requests from FSA Acreage Certification
- Attended:
 - SWCD Area VIII Meeting September 4-5
 - Grazing Cohort September 5
 - NRCS Fiscal Year End: September 30, 2024

Other Agency Reports: none present.

Forestry Update: There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday. The State Climatologist will be speaking. The Grant application we spoke about at the last SWCD meeting was not submitted. The Forestry Association is now looking for a coordinator from an SWCD District to fill this position. Tom attended the MFA meeting in Grand Rapids.

TSA 8 Report: Next meeting November 23, 2024.

WCA Replacement Plan: The Technical Panel (staff) presented the background information on the Wetland Conservation Act application for a replacement plan that mitigates the filling of a wetland to provide a trail to an upland area surrounded by wetlands through the purchase of wetland credits. The TEP recommends approval of the replacement plan. Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Ken Berg to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Meetings/Trainings: Discussed the recent Area Tour and Meeting. Positive feedback was received. Next month we will hold a Joint County/SWCD Meeting & Virtual Tour.

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FY 2024 USDA Forest Service IRA Funding: Motion made by Tom Schulz, second by Brett Dailey to approve the Resolution supporting the DNR' application for funding. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Jerry Kern, second by Ken Berg to approve a Letter of Collaboration for this DNR application for funding. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: none

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:42 a.m.

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