



Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of the July 9, 2020 Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting.

The Waseca LWG held a Work Session beginning at 6:30 with the Board Meeting following.

The Meeting of the Waseca County Board of Supervisors that was held at the Waseca County Fair Grounds Meeting Room. This meeting room provided ample space for safe social distancing. The reason for this is due to the "Stay Safe" Order given by Governor Walz due to the COVID 19 Virus. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Cords at 7:50 pm.

Members Present

Wayne Cords, Chairman
Scott Hildebrandt, Vice Chairman
Keith Morgan, Secretary
Todd Stencil, Treasurer
Larry Muff, Member

Staff Present

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
Cheri Brummund, Admin Assist

Others Present

Doug Christopherson, Waseca County Commissioner
Ciara Ahrens, NRCS Team Lead

Review of the July Agenda: Scott Hildebrandt made a motion to approve the Agenda and Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes

Review Minutes of the June Meeting: Larry Muff made a motion to approve the Minutes and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes

Review June Treasurer's Report: Todd Stencil moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes

Bills: (see back) Keith Morgan made a motion to approve payment of the bills and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes

Old Business:

1. NRCS Office Space Contract: Cheri Brummund measured the Office Area and attached a map to the meeting packets (attached in minutes). Mark Schaetzke stated that a meeting with NRCS and Board Chairman Wayne Cords and himself would be July 23, 2020. This was a request from NRCS to limit attendance. Doug Christopherson offered another office space option to take into consideration next to the P & Z Offices.
2. NRCS MOA-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes
3. Other-None

New Business:

1. CS Voucher Myrwood Bange-Contract # 2 (19). \$7481.09 from FY19 State Cost Share Grant (\$9652 was encumbered) and \$1025.75 from FY18 State Cost Share Grant (\$1025.75 encumbered). Scott Hildebrandt made a motion to approve payment and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
2. FY21 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant-Mark Schaezke stated he didn't have any projects for this grant.
3. FYI-Cannon 1W1P Resolution coming for August Meeting-noted
4. Calendar—Need Board pictures next meeting-Calendar pages were handed out to the Board to look at and give ideas or changes at the next meeting. Any Board Members that wish their picture retaken will be done at August Meeting.
5. Other-Mark Schaezke sent around a Thank you card from Myrwood Bange for the work done and being able to work with the good group of employees.

Supervisor/Meeting Reports:

1. Keith Morgan said he participated in the Cannon River Watershed meeting.
2. Wayne Cords said he would be participating in the GBERBA meeting on July 11.

Agency Reports/Commissioners:

1. Ciara Ahrens, NRCS stated that the Waseca SWCD will have approx. 77 CRP agreements to work on.

Staff Reports:

1. Tyler Polster was not present at meeting but gave a written report. (see attached)
2. Cheri Brummund also gave a brief written report (see attached)
3. Mark Schaezke highlighted some of the topics on his report (see attached)

Adjourn:

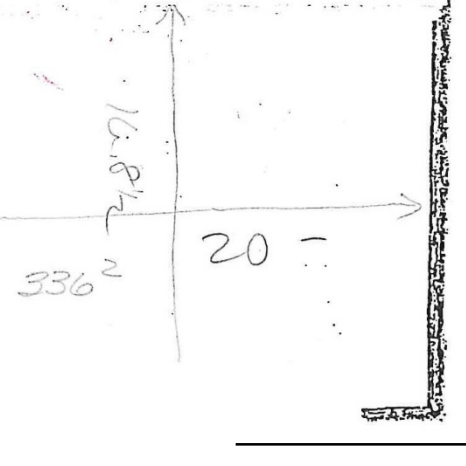
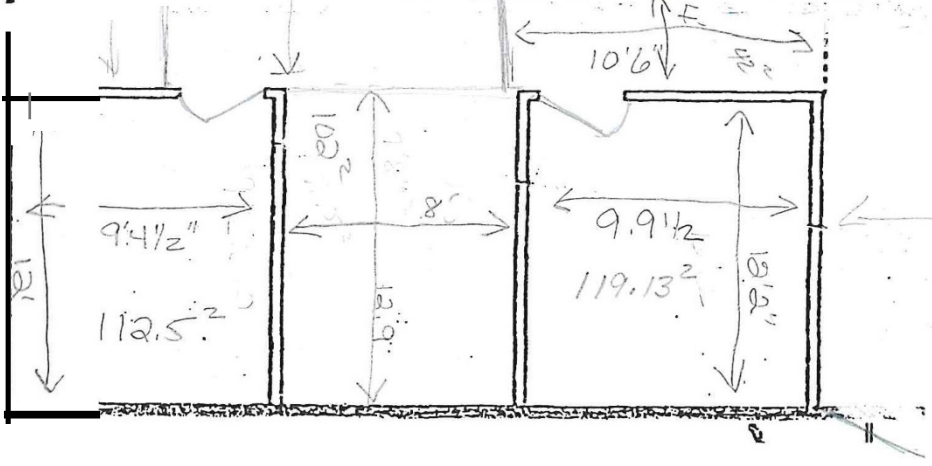
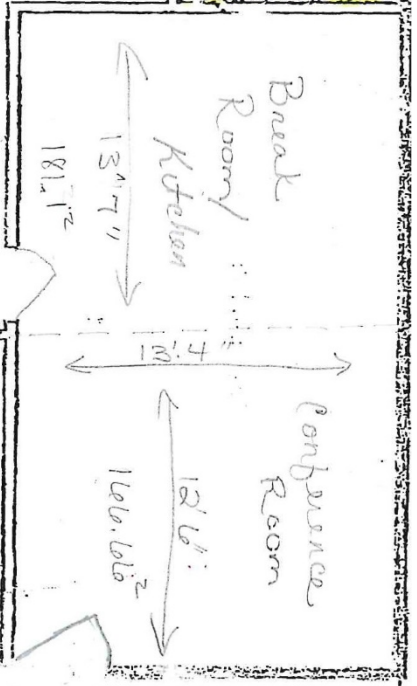
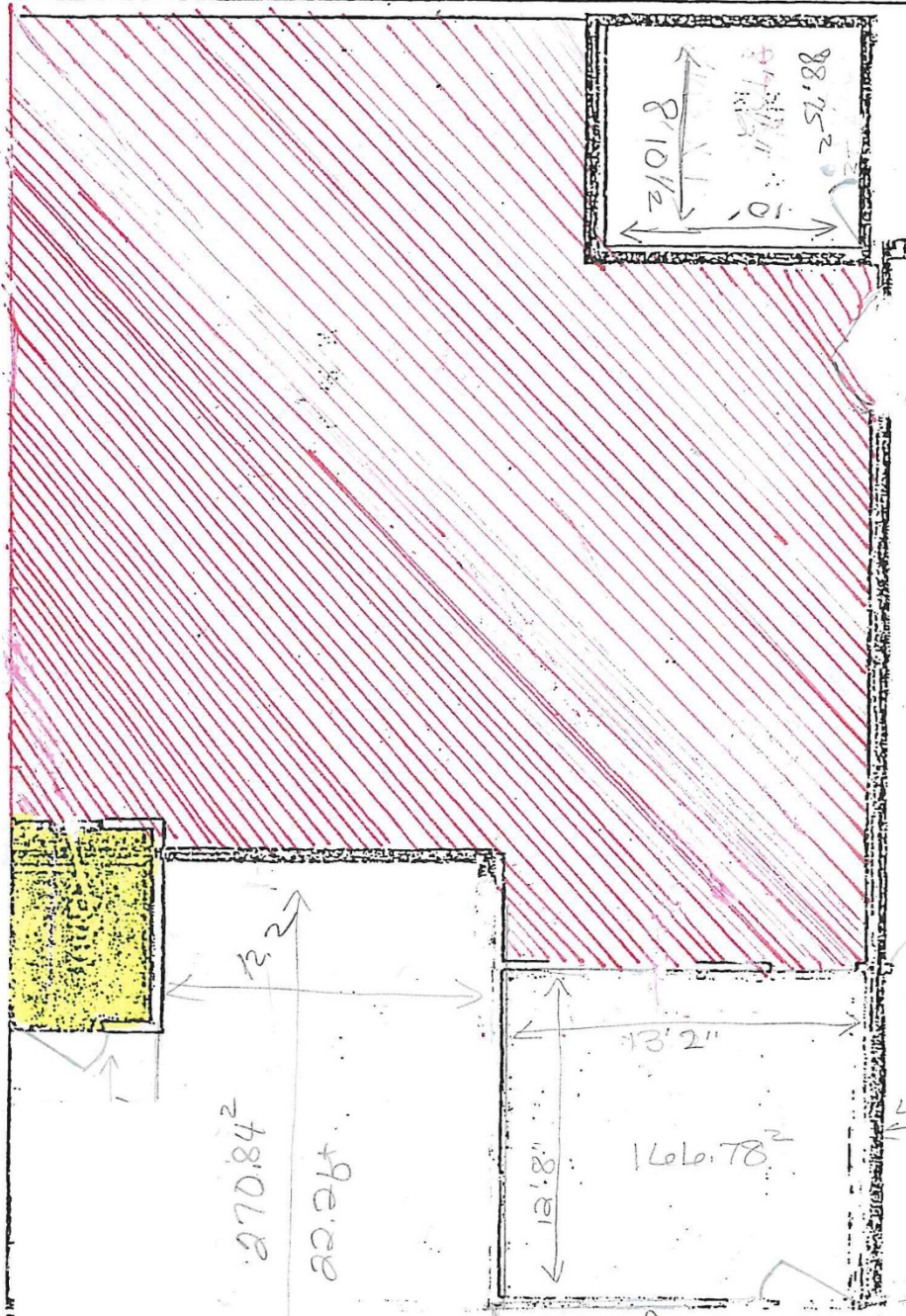
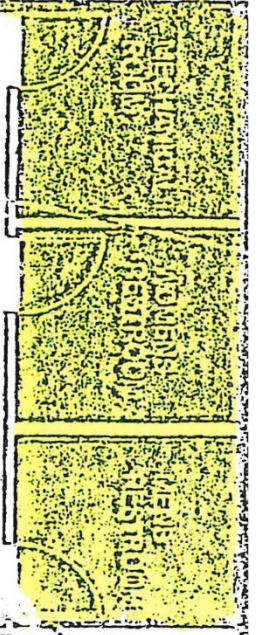
Scott Hildebrandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm by Board Chairman, Wayne Cords.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

July Bills:

Clemons Properties	Rent	Aug Payment	\$ 665.00
First National Bank	Tyler-Cheri-Mark H S A (\$283.33 ea)	Aug Payment	\$ 849.99
Sportsman Stop	Truck Gas	for June	\$ 56.84
Waseca Cty Recorder	Deed Copies	Inv#202000000023	\$ 6.00
Tesch Service Center	Road Service #21198/unlock truck		\$ 45.00
Supervisor Vouchers	2nd Qtr 2020 Vouchers		\$ 720.34
			\$ 2,343.17





48 ft.

112.52

1022

119.132

81.242

270.842

166.782

542

166.662

181.12

88.752

3362

KITCHEN

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Technician Report 7/9/2020

- Buffer Program Update
 - o Letter sent to Vivian, Freedom, Alton, Janesville
 - o Worked with Todd to direct contact some landowners
 - Also in contact with Russ Guse to stay updated on ditch cleaning and seeding schedules by the county
 - o Deadline to respond of August 15th 2020
 - o 66 Parcels affected
 - As of today, 29 have responded
- Working on 2 possible C/S projects
 - o Working with TSA on both to come up with designs/estimates
 - Scott Jones
 - Likely a small Grassed Waterway
 - Kevin Trahms
 - Terrace Rebuild/Repair
 - o Possibly a larger project that I may try to get directed towards
EQUIP
- Cost-Share Inspections Finished
 - o No Violations
- Starting CRP work
 - o Waseca SWCD will be working on General CRP signups
 - o Taking on full process from Initial Site visit through contract development.

Admin Report 7-9-2020

I have finally got back in the office on June 24, back to some normalcy.

1. I have been working on sending out maps and letters to Landowners for Inspections. Also making maps for CRP Inspections.
2. Filing had been by the wayside for a few months. Getting caught up on that was wonderful.
3. I have completed all BWSR and CREP reporting for the 2nd quarter.
4. I have been working with the Auditor (Peterson LTD) on collecting all of the paperwork they need to do our audit. So far things are going smooth.

Le Sueur 1W1P

Le Sueur was one of 9 applications statewide. BWSR expects to fund 5-7 of them, depending on any reductions to the funding pool as a result of Covid 19. BWSR anticipates a decision in August.

6-15-20 – Waseca County Ditch Process – Annex

Staff from various departments in the county including Haley and Russ met to discuss ditch process and the potential for input from the Water Resource Specialist and the SWCD. There has not been a formal natural resources review process. The county would prefer a local review rather than scrutiny from regional or state scale organizations. A process for improvement projects was initiated to be able to provide review early in the process and Haley and I are working on a template form to be able to provide input. We are unsure what our role may be in repairs and maintenance.

6-16-20 – TSA – Webex

One of the technicians has resigned after being there for around a year. The job announcement has been posted. The two long term employees received COLA and 3% raises. The remaining technician was placed on a 30-day probationary period. Due to staffing gaps, one of the grants had funds that needed to be used up. These funds were used to purchase two GPS Controllers to update their survey equipment. Work for 2019 included assisting in some capacity on 133 projects including 7 in Waseca and assisting with several technical trainings.

6-17-20 MN Office of Soil Health (MOSH) – zoom

Our second call of folks interested in and implementing soil health. Mainly updates from efforts and some brainstorming of issues.

6-23-20 – I -90 soil health tour – zoom

Partners along the existing I-90 tour as well as additional interested partners along Hwy 14 discussed strategies of having separate tours in 2021. There may be enough interest to do separate tours spaced a month or more apart along I-90 and Hwy 14. Due to Covid considerations it is difficult to plan a large group gathering. Group wants to investigate possible speakers, times, locations but not to commit to any down payments yet. If we participate the Le Sueur MPCA Civic Engagement funds could be used for this.

6-24-20 - GBERBA Tech – Webex

Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program has been funded through 2021. (GBERBA has 2 staff that work for MAWQCP). Cover crop and intake program had \$27,000 left to encumber as of the June tech meeting. The July meeting has about \$20,000 of requests so this is getting used up fast. Our multipurpose drainage management grant for CD-19 is moving slowly, partially due to Covid – 19. We asked about the possibility of a second extension for this grant and it was not well received by BWSR.

7-8-20 – CRP Plans – Microsoft teams

SWCD staff participated with NRCS, FSA, and other partner staff serving Waseca, Blue Earth, and Faribault Counties discussed how to complete CRP plans and switch from delivering paper plans to delivering digital versions of plans. NRCS is using a new planning software and a new tracking software this year.

CLEAR 30 CRP

A pilot program offering a 30-year CRP contract for select expiring CCRP contracts. Signup period runs through August 21, 2020. Rental rates include a 27.5% increase in the payment rate to adjust for inflation.

Waseca LWG Meeting July 9, 2020

Meeting start time: 6:30 pm at the Fair Board Meeting Room at the Waseca Fair grounds.

Members Present

Wayne Cords, Chairman
Scott Hildebrandt, Vice Chairman
Keith Morgan, Secretary
Todd Stencel, Treasurer
Larry Muff, Member

Staff Present

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
Cheri Brummund, Admin Assist

Others Present

Doug Christopherson, Waseca County Commissioner
Ciara Ahrens, NRCS Team Lead

Ciara Ahrens, District Conservationist, began meeting discussing how they wanted to address Waseca Counties resource concerns. It was decided that they would pick their top 5 and allow the District Conservationist – Ciara Ahrens fill in the others.

Croplands discussions were that soil erosion was the main concerns. They see a lot of sheet erosion and gullies. Soil health – tillage reduction and cover crops were addressed as needed to address erosion. They also expressed a strong desire to have more structures be put in place to address field erosion and stream bank erosion. They have doubts that contracts are being funded with locally led resource concerns. Nutrients run-off - sediment loading was a high concern as regulations are getting tighter on the farming community. They were also discussion on wanting odor control to have the farming community and the general public live in more harmony.

Five top resource concerns are: Soil – Aggregate Instability, Water-Nutrients Transported – Surface Run-off field loss, Soil – Compaction, Soil – Classic Gully erosion, Plant – Pest Pressure

Farmstead discussions were that energy was a high concern with the swine industry. They see a lot of issues with lack of trees for snowdrift. Nutrient run-off was also a concern for ground water wells. They see a lack of wildlife habitat for pollinators and windbreaks. Odor control was again brought up as an issue to address. Want to see some funding for well decommissioning.

Five top resource concerns are: Water – Snow Drift, Energy – Efficiency of Equipment and Facilities, Air – Objectionable Odor, Animals – Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife, Water – Nutrients Transported – Ground Water field loss

There is no forestland

Pasture discussions were that there is a high issue with plant pressure from weeds and some erosion can be seen. Lack of proper grazing has decreased pastureland health. Fencing projects may be a need to address pastureland stand issues. Would like to see more funding for grazing for water toughs and pipeline. Also discussed some streambank issues been seen.

Five top resource concerns are: Plant – Pest Pressure, Plant – Structure and Composition, Animal – Livestock Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution. Soil – Organic Depletion, and Soil – Ephemeral Gullies.

Discussions continued issues with NRCS farm bill programs. Timeframes seem to take to long and the paperwork causes folks to not be interested in them. Would like to see a faster turn around from time they apply to when funding is issued. Would like to reassure that money is being more locally spent. With new team approach would like to see a set amount of money given to each team to spend. They are concerned that NRCS lack of staff in the past will continue. Need more local presences when producers want to stop in. They feel that the wetland regulations hinder them from farming and feel they need to be less strict. They also feel that there is a lack of

engineer help, therefore projects do not get done in a timely manner.

NRCS and the district will work on advertising more for the next LWG. Thoughts were to either have food available or host a workshop and have the producers stay after to join in on the LWG discussions.

The district wanted to see a tree workshop to teach folks about diseases and proper ways to plant trees. Also felt this would boost their tree sales and bring in more revenue for the district. The district is excited to have a stop in the I-90 soil health tour this year. Interested in having more field days to talk about soil health.

LWG meeting ended at 7:50pm. Their monthly meeting followed this meeting.
LWG meeting minutes taken by Ciara Ahrens, NRCS District Conservationist