



Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting.

The Meeting of the Waseca County Board of Supervisors that was held via Zoom. The reason for this is due to the “Stay at Home” Order given by Governor Walz due to the COVID 19 Virus. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Cords at 6:30 pm.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
Tyler Polster, District Technician
Cheri Brummund, Admin Assist

Others Present

Brad Krause, Waseca County Commissioner
Doug Christopherson, Waseca County Commissioner
Haley Byron, Waseca County Water Specialist
Ciara Ahrens, NRCS Team Lead

Review of the May Agenda: Todd Stencil made a motion to approve the Agenda and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes

Review Minutes of the April Meeting: Keith Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes and Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes

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

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

Old Business:

1. Le Sueur River Watershed MOA and Resolution-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve both the MOA and the Resolution and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes
2. Call for Resolutions MASWCD-no resolutions proposals were brought up
3. Reminder of Filing Period May 19-June 2 Districts 1, 5-Contact Dan Kuhns at the following numbers: 507-835-0622-Courthouse, 507-461-2681-Cell, or email him at

dan.kuhns@co.waseca,mn.us for filing information-the question of Larry Muff needing to file this election. Cheri Brummund stated that Dan Kuhns had contacted her and said that according to the Secretary of State Office and Waseca County Attorney, Larry Muff did not need to file.

4. Other-none

New Business:

1. FY21/FY22 CREP Outreach and Implementation: Request for Interest-Todd Stencel made a motion to approve with the additional approval for Mark Schaetzke sign document due to current time frame of request ending date being May 15. Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes
2. FY20 Cost Share Technical Assistance Option-Todd Stencel made the motion to request the Technical Assistance Option if necessary, Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes
3. GBERBA Cover Crop Cost Share #319-TMDL-16-81-09 Russell Farms \$675.00-Keith Morgan made a motion to approve payment on Russell Farms Cost Share, Todd Stencel seconded. All-Yes
4. State Cost Share Policy Consideration - Well Sealing-Ciara Ahrens suggested that NRCS has programs for Well Sealing-tabled to next meeting.
5. CRP Contribution Agreement with MASWCD-table until next meeting
6. NRCS Office Space Contract-Discussion on Office Space in detail on what the SWCD has for space. A meeting is to be set up with SWCD Board, staff, NRCS and Landlord to figure correct square footage of office area. This is to be done before next meeting. Topic will be on agenda then to recalculate options.
7. 2021 Budget Discussion-Mark Schaetzke is to discuss Budget proposals with Budget Committee, Wayne Cords and Keith Morgan. 2021 Budget is due to Waseca County Commissioners in June-Topic tabled to June Meeting.
8. Soil Health Bus Tour with NRCS/BWSR-Attendee and potential sponsorship-Ciara Ahrens brought up that NRCS is offering \$500 for SWCD's on soil health. These funds could be used to Bus Tour. She will get information to Mark Schaetzke. Todd Stencel made a motion to approve and Scott Hildebrandt seconded. All-Yes
9. Office Opening-Cheri Brummund asked if we could have 1 SWCD Staff in office at all times of open hours. She stated that some calls are being missed due to not being able to pick up messages on the main line, so some messages go for days without being answered. It was agreed to have one SWCD staff in office during working hours, Mark Schaetzke can figure out a schedule to achieve this on a rotating basis, so all staff is able to have office time during the week. Todd Stencel made a motion to approve, Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
10. Possibility of June meeting located off site if 'social distancing' still a factor-maybe have meeting at Courthouse East Annex Meeting room? Cheri Brummund will contact Board Chairman, Wayne Cords 2 weeks prior to meeting to determine what type of meeting we are able to have and if face to face is possible, then what location is feasible for meeting.
11. Other—Mark Schaetzke added the NRCS MOA-tabled to next meeting.

Supervisor/Meeting Reports:

1. Todd Stencel met with landowner who received a buffer non-compliance letter. He reviewed concerns on wording of letter and the way it was interpreted by the landowner. Todd suggested making changes to the letter and seeing if supervisors have contacts before sending a letter.

Agency Reports/Commissioners:

1. Waseca County Commissioner, Doug Christopherson noted that he attended the GBERBA Meeting. Doug also mentioned that the County was gradually opening up offices to the public today May 14 and tomorrow May 15, 2020.
2. Waseca County Commissioner, Brad Krause also made note of the Buffer Compliance Letters that have been sent out.
3. Haley Byron, Waseca County Water Planner spoke on the Le Sueur Watershed work being addressed. She also spoke on more Solar fields going in. Haley also mentioned that Tyler Polster and her have been doing water sampling on the Iosco Creek and Bull Run locations over the past couple weeks. She said the equipment has needed some fine tuning to get it all in good working order for this season.

Staff Reports:

1. Cheri Brummund said that she has been working from home and going to the office to get printed materials and drop off work of and on during the weeks.
2. Tyler Polster reported on the Tree Program and that sales were up from last year, selling over 5,000 trees this year. He also stated that the second third of Waseca County Buffer Compliance checks are completed and that 5 parcels have went on the County for enforcement issues. Tyler also reported that construction has been completed on the Lau Project and the Bange Terraces. We should be receiving the bills for their vouchers shortly.
3. Mark Schaezke highlighted some things he has on his attached report such as the Bange had Terraces put in but not the waterway. Also in the attachment is information on the Le Sueur River 1W1P project. He also attended an Isaac Walton League Meeting. See his Manager's Notes attached to these minutes.

Adjourn:

Todd Stencil made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm by Board Chairman, Wayne Cords.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:**May Bills:**

Clemons Properties	Rent	June Payment	\$	665.00
First National Bank	Tyler-Cheri-Mark H S A (\$283.33 ea)	June Payment	\$	849.99
Sportsman Stop	Truck Gas	for April	\$	44.18
Waseca Cty Recorder	copies of title transfers/Deed		\$	4.00
Waseca County Auditor	Miscalculation on Ins invoice sheet total coverage increased \$81.00	1st qtr adjustment	\$	81.00
Freeborn SWCD	Rick Clark Speaking fee- reimbursable from LSRW	Hwy 90 Crop Tour	\$	595.10
			\$	2,239.27

4-14-20 MN Office of Soil Health – Economics of Soil Health forum

Participated online. Group did a great job on converting this in person conference to the online forum using Zoom. Topics included FINBIN, economic tracking tools for a farmer, banking and loan considerations, and research. Participants were put in small discussion groups as well. All presenters were from the academic or business sectors with no actual farmer perspectives. The event had around 100 attendees.

4-15-20 Cannon 1W1P Planning Work Group (PWG)

We saw a presentation from Kristen Dieterman from MPCA on the Cannon River Watershed Cycle II monitoring efforts. Monitoring to begin in the spring of 2021. There were additional changes to the plan and a goal of cursory review and have it to BWSR by April 24. Holly from Le Sueur County presented a lake management plan and discussed how they could assist in our efforts. Most of the meeting was used to discuss policy details on how the implementation funds could be used. Additional work is needed on this.

4-22-20 GBERBA Tech

Normal business of encumbering and paying out projects. Staff are working from home and taking precautionary measures when working from the office. They are pursuing asking for an extension on the cover crop/alternative side inlet/alternative tile intake 319 grant from MPCA due to Covid 19 and weather delays. A number of cover crop contracts were cancelled over the last few months because weather last fall was not conducive to getting them planted. There are two water storage bills making their way through the MN legislature. One is being pushed by the MN River Congress and the other from the Freshwater Society.

4-29-20 Le Sueur 1W1P

Staff representatives met to review the grant application that Haley put together. We had discussion on what additional roles and time commitment that staff would be willing and able to contribute up and above the effort to represent their organization. Except for myself, volunteers were difficult to come by so we may look at having a consultant do more of the effort for comparison. I think the group sees value in staff doing more of the work but are leery of committing to doing portions of it. We reviewed an estimate from the consulting firm RESPEC for aiding in portions of the plan.

5-1-20 County Ditch Improvements and Isaac Walton League

Participated with County staff and Isaac Walton League members about goals and potential ways to improve working together. An emphasis on working cooperatively was stressed.

5-13-20 Cannon PWG

Staff made additional progress on policy recommendations and project ranking and eligibility. BWSR has or will cancel their May Board meeting so our plan will not be reviewed until June 24th. Rita Weaver, BWSR State Engineer, provided some info on data available with an emphasis on floodplains. Staff are adjusting a proposed workplan for the anticipated implementation grant.