



Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting.

The Meeting of the Waseca County Board of Supervisors that was held at the Waseca County Community 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 6:30 pm.

Members Present

Wayne Cords, Chairman
Todd Stencel, Treasurer
Larry Muff, Member
Keith Morgan, Secretary (on phone part of meeting)

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Michael Johnson, Waseca County Administrator
Doug Christopherson, Waseca County Commissioner
Brad Krause, Waseca County Commissioner
Haley Byron, Waseca County Water Resources Specialist

Review of the September Agenda: Todd Stencel made a motion to approve the Agenda and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes

Review Minutes of the August Meeting: Larry Muff made a motion to approve the Minutes and Todd Stencel seconded. All-Yes

Review August Treasurer's Report: Todd Stencel moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes

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

Old Business:

1. NRCS Office Space Contract and County walk through-Michael Johnson gave all a tour of the new available office location. A work session will be scheduled in the next couple weeks. A decision was made to table the discussion until next meeting.
2. Cannon 1W1P Resolution-Mark Schaetzke explained that there does not need to be a resolution made. Noted
3. Calendar-approval-Todd Stencel made a motion to approve with the change of caption and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
4. FYI-Soil Management Summit Pod Host approval from U of M-Mark Schaetzke reported that Waseca SWCD was given approval on the pod cast. The dates will be Dec 15 & 16 at the cost of \$125 per person.
5. Other-None

New Business:

1. 2019 Audit Draft for approval-Todd Stencel made a motion to approve the Draft and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
2. Distribution of Funds for the Le Sueur Civic Engagement Invoices. (1st ½ 2020 time period) Payment to the Waseca SWCD has come from the MPCA in the amount of \$28,363.55 – Larry Muff made a motion to approve and Todd Stencel seconded. All-Yes.

Invoice #	Name	Deposit Amount	Invoice Amount	Balance
LSCE2020-1st	Received from MPCA	\$ 28,363.55		\$ 28,363.55
20-1-BESWCD	Blue Earth SWCD		\$ 250.00	\$ 28,113.55
20-1FrSWCD	Freeborn SWCD		\$ 1,250.00	\$ 26,863.55
MSU-	Minnesota State University, Mankato		\$ 20,639.63	\$ 6,223.92
20-1-WSWCD	Waseca SWCD		\$ 6,223.92	\$ (0.00)

3. GBERBA Contract TMDL-319-16-81-12 Cost Share: (pending available funds)
 - a. Mark Byron total cost \$3,800.00 Cost Share amount \$1,900.00-Todd Stencel made a motion to approve and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
4. FYI: 2021 Capacity Funding-increase from 2020 from \$110,626.00 to \$113,206.00-noted
5. FYI: 2021 Buffer Grant funding reduction from \$20,000 to \$17,200.00-noted
6. FYI: 2021 CREP Outreach and Implementation Grant Agreement has been executed-noted

a.

Grant Amt	Match Amt	Total
\$ 26,000.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 28,600.00

7. No In-Person Convention this year-maybe buy a gift certificate for Conservation Farmer. Todd Stencel made a motion to get a \$50.00 gift card from Cabela’s for Carl Guse and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
8. Other

Supervisor/Meeting Reports:

1. Wayne Cords reported that he attended a meeting with SWCD Landlord, Kevin Clemmons and Mark Schaetzke, on space requirements.

Agency Reports/Commissioners:

1. Haley Byron, Waseca County Water Resources, spoke on the Le Sueur Watershed Plan and it’s progress. Boot Creek was also a topic discussed. Haley said she has one Watercraft Inspector working yet. The other two went back to school. She said that boaters were mostly courteous and abiding to the Inspectors.
2. Ciara Ahrens, NRCS, was unable to attend the meeting. She sent a brief summary update-CRP Reporting-NRCS has made great headway in CRP and should be meeting our deadline with a few signatures needed. Also, NRCS is working to increase applications. There is no news for the office remodel dates. A furniture design but has not been shared at this point. Once she has the final design, she will share with all.

Staff Reports:

1. Cheri. Brummund reported she has been working on the Calendar, Website and also entering CRP paperwork.
2. Tyler Polster reported on working on CRP paperwork and has one questionable parcel left. He stated he would be working on the RIM Easement inspections in the coming weeks.
3. Mark Schaetzke wrote a summary of the meetings he has participated in. (see attached)

Adjourn:

Todd Stencil made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm by Board Chairman, Wayne Cords.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming events:

GBERBA Policy Meeting September 11, 2020 1:00 pm

September Bills:

Clemons Properties	Rent	Oct Payment	\$ 665.00
First National Bank	Tyler-Cheri-Mark H S A (\$283.33 ea)	Oct Payment	\$ 849.99
Sportsman Stop	Truck Gas	for Aug	\$ 78.36
Waseca County Recorder	Inv#202000000028	Easement-Groh	\$ 322.00
			\$ 1,915.35

Manager's Report – September 2020

8-20-20 – Freeborn Area Soil Health Team - virtual

The team is working on putting together some recorded videos to take the place of an in person fall workshop or bus tour. Several topics and locations were proposed. We are still looking for partners who have the equipment and expertise to put videos together. Still in tentative planning stages for a winter workshop tour. There is interest to put it on, but uncertainty on what Covid meeting restrictions might be.

8-26-20 – GBERBA Tech– virtual

The tech committee recommended approving additional cover crop contracts with the understanding that funds may or may not be available. Any new applicants are to be made aware that cost share is not guaranteed but may be available if other projects cost less than estimated. I provided an update on the progress of the CD-19 project and have asked for consideration of a second extension from BWSR. It is looking less likely that any earthwork would be completed this year due to additional ditch process requirements. MAWQCP is making progress with 900 producers representing 625,000 acres statewide.

9-9-20 – Cannon Planning Work Group (PWG) - virtual

Still working on policies, ranking forms, and workplan. A first draft of how the project dollars would be divided amongst counties was presented with the ability of staff to put in their recommendation. Waseca ranks low because we don't have a top priority lake or stream within our county and we only represent 5% of the Cannon 1W1P planning area. My recommendation was \$5000 for cover crops, \$40,000 for structural practices, and the planned amount of \$21,855 for an inventory of natural shoreline quantity and quality on Toners Lake. This would be for the first BWSR allocation.

Various soil health webinars and virtual field days.

I have attended several over the last month. They have provided useful information. I have noticed that they are generally shorter than an in-person event and a lot less audience questions and interaction.

Le Sueur One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

The planning grant application was approved at the August BWSR Board meeting. Staff are beginning to organize the next steps including budget and workplan. Waseca SWCD will be the fiscal agent meaning that we will be responsible to review invoices, make payments, and do financial reporting. Supervisors should begin to consider who should represent the SWCD at policy meetings and if an alternate is needed.

Waseca Soil Health Field Day

We received the \$500 grant to help support a soil health field day. I feel an in-person event would be most useful to our local producers. Tentatively considering mid-November (after harvest?). Also considering a self-guided tour. Potential costs include advertising, host/producer compensation, signs/flyer holders if doing the self-guided tour, PPE for Covid, and refreshments.

Soil Management Summit (SMS) – Dec 15-16

We were selected as one of the Pods for the SMS. Proposed location is The Mill. The County Commissioners considered helping with some of the registration costs and would like to consider additional information at their Sept 15 meeting.

BWSR Academy – October 27-29 – virtual format

Training sessions 1.5 hours long and only in the morning to try to maintain attention and effectiveness. No registration fees.