



## **Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District**

300 North State Street

Waseca, MN 56093

507-835-0603

[www.wasecaswcd.org](http://www.wasecaswcd.org)

Approved Minutes of the April 8, 2021 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 6:50 pm. The meeting was late due to waiting for a supervisor so there was enough for a quorum.

### **Members Present**

Wayne Cords, Chairman  
Todd Stencil, Treasurer  
Keith Morgan, Secretary

### **Staff Present**

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

### **Others Present**

Dave & Marlene Lau, Waseca County Landowners  
Brad Krause, County Commissioner  
Haley Byron, Waseca County Water Resources-on line  
Doug Christopherson, Waseca County Commissioner-on line  
Ciara Aherns, NRCS Team Lead-on line  
Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, BWSR-on line

**Review of the April Agenda:** Todd Stencil made a motion to amend the agenda to include landowner, David Lau. Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. David Lau added to beginning of New Business section of meeting.

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

**Review March 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 Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes.

### **Old Business:**

1. Cost Share Limitations: Limitations were discussed and the Policy changes were made. Wayne Cords made a motion to accept with changes and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. New policy with changes is attached to minutes.
2. Other-None

**New Business:**

1. *David Lau, Landowner*-questions on tiling an area of his property. After Mr. Lau explained his plans, Mark Schaetzke will contact Mr. Lau and visit the site next week and discuss the plans.
2. CD19 GBERBA CWF-MDM-17-18-02 Contract amendment-date extension-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve the extension install date to 4/30/22. Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
3. Le Sueur 1W1P Grant Agreement and supporting information-Keith Morgan made a motion to approve and Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes.
4. Le Sueur 1W1P Invitation to submit priority issues and plan expectations-After a brief discussion, it was decided that Mark Schaetzke write up a more clarifying plan and email out to the Board before the next meeting. This will be discussed at time.
5. Riparian Funds Cost Share Policy-Suggestions were made to also add Water Storage w/o Habitat Component. Also consider 10% going for staff time out of Cost Share. This is to be sent out also to Board and discussed at next meeting.
6. CS #2(20) Jeff Meyer-Waterway \$5,600 Total Cost-A motion was made by Todd Stencil to pay 75% or \$4200.00 Cost Share for the project. Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes
7. Closing of 2020 Local Capacity Grant-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve closing the Grant and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
8. RIM Reimbursement Approval-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
9. Appoint Alternate Member to CRWJPB-Todd Stencil made a motion to appoint Scott Hildebrandt to be and Alternate Member to CRWJPB, Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
10. Soil Health Demo Plots-Ciara Ahrens spoke of the Plot she is implementing in Blue Earth County and would like to establish one in Waseca County pending funding from NRCS. She will report at next meeting.
11. Other

**Supervisor/Meeting Reports:**

1. Keith Morgan reported on the Cannon 1W1P meeting. He stated that dues would be requested again for the partners. Discussion on verification of dues and their uses should be made available.

**Agency Reports/Commissioners:**

1. Ciara Ahrens spoke of Cover Crops, CSP funding, and also a new program CIC and also RCCP. Ciara stated that CRP Program is being put together, the approval has not yet been made on SWCD involvement. She is also planning on a work group session to be June 10 at 6 pm. This will be before the Waseca SWCD regular Board Meeting.
2. Doug Christopherson reported on how the landowners should be able to go to one government entity and get answers. This brought about discussion on putting a meeting together to establish the one stop or one call entity.

**Staff Reports:**

1. Cheri Brummund reported she has been working on elink reports, tree orders, and reports.
2. Tyler Polster reported on wetland restoration training he participated in and working on cost share inspections, buffer planning, trees.
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 Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm by Board Chairman, Wayne Cords.

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm.**

**Upcoming events:**

April 14-GBERBA Policy Meeting 1 pm

**April Bills:**

First National Bank	Tyler-Cheri-Mark H S A (\$283.33 ea)		\$ 849.99
Sportsman Stop	Truck Gas	March Gas	\$ 73.12
Patton, Hoversten, Berg (RIM will Reimburse)	(2 inv) Groh \$470.00 & Bently \$388.50	Title Ins	\$ 858.50
Waseca County Auditor	Insurance-1st qtr 2021		\$ 9,244.38
Supervisors	Vouchers-1st qtr 2021		\$ 1,094.39
South Central TSA	NPEA Grant Match \$1340.00 Shared Svs Match \$2210.00	Inv# 328	\$ 3,550.00
Dewitt	Tree Supplies		\$ 341.84
			\$ 16,012.22



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Local cost share program policy for State Cost Share Grant.

*For structures such as terraces and basins, the district will provide up to \$2000 of cost share for underground outlet.* The intakes are a cost shareable expense. Orifice plates shall be installed in the tile intakes per design. Recommend orifices not smaller than 3 inches in diameter.

Streambank restoration – costs share up to 50% of total cost. Projects will be prioritized primarily by water quality benefits. Projects that protect infrastructure such as homes, roads, trails, or buildings will receive secondary prioritization.

Well Sealing – cost share up to 50% of total cost, not to exceed \$1,000. No more than \$3,000 total for all well sealing practices may be paid by State Cost Share Grant in a calendar year. Well sealing must be performed by a state licensed and certified well contractor, with applicable license for type of work being performed. Application must be accompanied by a well contractor's itemized estimate.

In-kind services rates such as seeding, mowing, and disking shall be practical and reasonable as determined by the technical staff and using the Iowa Custom Rates Survey as a guide. All in-kind charges shall be itemized and documentation from the landowner shall be provided to the SWCD.

The district will consider partnering with EQIP or other funding sources. Total cost share from all sources shall not exceed 75% for common practices. Practices that provide limited applicant benefits but significant public benefits such as saturated buffers, nitrogen bioreactors, and other proactive practices as determined by the board shall not exceed 75% State Cost Share and not more than 90% total from all combined sources. Applicant is to provide EQIP or other funding information or sign information release form (SD-ADS-016 for USDA) allowing Waseca SWCD to access it. Other funding sources cannot be used on practices where the district pays a flat rate.

The engineer's or technical representative's estimate shall be used for determining cost share contract amounts. The landowner shall obtain two or more bids to justify increasing the cost share above the engineer's or technical representative's estimate. Cost share then shall be based on the lowest bid. Applicants shall meet the same income limits of FSA for Farm Bill benefits. Applicant is to provide copy of most recent adjusted gross income (AGI) form from FSA or sign information release form (SD-ADS-016) allowing Waseca SWCD to access it.

Summer construction of grassed waterways and other practices where vegetation establishment is critical to success is encouraged. NRCS practice standard 327 – Conservation Cover or 340 – Cover crop, or BWSR's Companion Crops and Temporary Cover guidelines can be used for Pre-Construction cover.

The district may consider partial payments on a case by case basis. The district shall withhold a portion of the payment to encourage completion of the project. The withheld amount shall be determined by the amount and importance of the work yet to be completed, but shall not be less than 10%.

Updated 4-8-21

Waseca SWCD Board Approval date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Cords, Board Chairman

**South Central Technical Services Area meeting - 3-16-21**

Staff provided updates on projects and financials. Last fall was a good construction season allowing for many projects to be completed. Financials are in good shape. Staff vacancies resulted in higher than planned grant balances. One Technician was hired last fall and is doing well. The second Technician position was not filled due to lack of a quality candidate pool. This position will be advertised again. They approved purchasing an additional survey unit. A revolving grant increase earmarked for equipment was used for a portion of the equipment cost.

**Legislative efforts**

I met with Rep Munson, Rep Petersburg, and Sen Jasinski to communicate the important services the SWCD provides. I provided information on Capacity funding, CREP bonding, SWCD per diem increases, and other priorities outlined by MASWCD. I have been trying to get a meeting with Sen Rosen, but it keeps getting postponed due to her busy schedule. Capacity funding is proposed to come out of CWF again and MASWCD has postponed the effort to have it come out of the general fund. The Governor's budget includes capacity funding, which is an improvement from the last biennium, but it is at a smaller amount. GBERBA staff and I were asked and did provide testimony on a bill Sen Rosen authored to extend the GBERBA MDM grant appropriation language. It is unclear if that will result in any real benefit up and above the current extension that has been granted to GBERBA by BWSR.

**Wetland training – BWSR – 3-17 & 3-18**

I attended portions of two of these trainings. BWSR staff reviewed engineering design components and provided examples. Trainings were well done and they did a good job of tailoring them to SWCD staff.

**Le Sueur Civic Engagement (LSCE)– MPCA – 3-22**

SWCD, County, and MPCA staff met to discuss progress and next steps for the tasks in the workplan. Little was completed in 2020 due to many of the tasks involving meetings of some sort. Staff feel tasks can still be completed in the next year. Waseca SWCD's tasks include soil health outreach, a county ditch BMP study, tillage or cover crop transect, and administration.

**Floodplain draft – DNR - 3-23**

DNR staff presented preliminary updates to the floodplain maps for Waseca County and asked for comments. They are not able to add additional water bodies at this time. This will be a tremendous improvement in the quality of this data. It is not publicly available at this time since it is still in draft form.

**GBERBA tech – 3-24**

MDM grant extension has been approved by BWSR. Still a few funds left for cover crops and potentially additional MDM projects. Staff are working on getting the Watonwan drinking water grant executed and Watonwan 1W1P implementation funds. Staff from MDH did a presentation on source water assessment and surface water intake protection plans.

**Freeborn Area Soil Health Team 3-25**

Meeting attendance was down with no farmers. Discussed a potential fall field day but would likely not do a bus tour due to likely lingering Covid concerns. Still tentatively planning a winter I90 tour but holding off on any commitments. We have LSCE funds that could be used for this effort if the event was in or near the Le Sueur Watershed. Members discussed getting additional funding support from other organizations.

**Self Guided Soil Health Tour 4-1**

Started up again and we anticipate to run through crop canopy. All cooperators were willing to host again.

**LS Steering 1W1P 4-1**

Staff worked on workplan, timeline, and budget. Next steps include developing a request for qualifications(RFQ), ranking sheet, and identifying firms to send it to. Next policy meeting is April 23 and we hope to get a recommendation to send out the RFQ to desired firms. Waseca SWCD is the fiscal agent for the grant and will be the one responsible to enter into a contract with the recommended firm.

**Cannon JPB 4-7**

Waseca was not represented by a voting member. Board passed bylaws, operating policy, established executive committee, alternate member ID, and discussed 2022 dues. Members present were willing to pass the same amount of dues for 2022.

**Cannon CIG**

Staff made progress on project and expense reporting process. Staff to report expenses once a quarter. The process to ID pollutant reductions using PTMApp is cumbersome so it was suggested Emmie from Rice SWCD and Ashley from Dakota SWCD would do the modeled pollutant reductions. The group is running into a bit of a hurdle with the lake management plans. Septic inventories are recommended for the watershed and there is difficulty getting the needed septic information to create a more accurate lake management plan. The group is trying to iron out the outreach and education components that the Cannon River Watershed Partnership is going to help with.