



## **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 February 11, 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 6:30 pm.

### **Members Present**

Wayne Cords, 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

**Review of the February Agenda:** Todd Stencil made a motion to approve the Agenda and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.

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

**Review January Treasurer's Report:** Todd Stencil moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.

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

### **Old Business:**

1. Other-None

### **New Business:**

1. Closing of 2021 Conservation Delivery-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve the closing of the grant and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
2. Plan of Work approval-Larry Muff made a motion to approve the Plan of Work and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
3. Annual Report approval-With clarification wording on NRCS numbers added, Todd Stencil made a motion to approve and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
4. Newsletter approval-Larry Muff made a motion to approve and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. Wayne Cords suggested that the Newsletter be made available through Partners by giving out link info to area SWCDs and added to County medias-Cheri Brummund will send out the info to area SWCDs and County and other partners.
5. Reimbursement for RIM Costs on 2 Easements-\$327.95-needs signature-Todd Stencil made a motion to approve and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.

6. MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capital \$50 registration (March 18)-Todd Stencel made the motion that if anyone wishes to participate, registration would be paid just let office know, Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
7. Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Membership Dues \$2,000.00-Todd Stencel made a motion to approve payment for this year and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
8. Distribution of funds for the Le Sueur Civic Engagement Invoices (2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2020) Payment to the Waseca SWCD has come from MPCA in the amount of \$ 5,200.00. Payment of invoice MSU for \$5000.00, Waseca SWCD retains remainder of \$ 200.00. for Inv#LSW3 Todd Stencel made a motion to approve payment and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
9. Tree Ordering Open House-Cookies, plastic baggies for cookies, Hot Chocolate-individual packets, plastic stir sticks, napkins— or ordering cookies from Pheasant Café--suggestions? Cheri Brummund mentioned with all the Covid rules and regulations maybe it would be better to just have cookies made from Local Business that are packed individually, with mention of the Pheasant Café doing that for \$.75 cookie = 2 dozen equaling \$18. Larry Muff made a motion to approve the Pheasant making 2 dozen cookies and Todd Stencel seconded. All-Yes.

**Supervisor/Meeting Reports:**

1. None

**Agency Reports/Commissioners:**

1. Ciara Ahrens sent an email with information on the upcoming Incentive plan for the Mississippi River Basin. More information to come.

**Staff Reports:**

1. Tyler Polster reported on working on trees, buffer planning.
2. Mark Schaetzke wrote a summary of the meetings he has participated in. (see attached)
3. Cheri Brummund reported she has been working on reports, tree orders and cost share letters for inspections.

**Adjourn:**

Todd Stencel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm by Board Chairman, Wayne Cords.

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm.**

**Upcoming events:**

TBD-Last week of February-Le Sueur 1W1P  
 March 12-GBERBA Policy Meeting 1 pm  
 March 16-SCTSA 10 am  
 March 18-Day at the Capitol

**February Bills:**

First National Bank	Tyler-Cheri-Mark H S A (\$283.33 ea)	Mar	\$ 849.99
Sportsman Stop	Truck Gas	January Gas	\$ 67.92
			\$ 917.91

## Ciara Ahrens' NRCS Report

Greetings Waseca SWCD! I can't wait until I can join you folks in person again. COVID has created many challenges for us all and I'm thankful for all our good health and look forward to getting back to normal in hopefully the near future.

NRCS has been quite busy this past month. Starting off with programs. I have created our ranking questions for our EQIP program based off your inputs from our local working group. I am excited to say that your input will determine what will be funded this year. I hope to get most of our high priority applications funded by being creative with using state funding and our local funding. We hope to have ranking available by the end of the week. We will know pre-approvals by mid-March, we hope. CSP application period is still open and likely to be until end of March, no date has been set quite yet, but please send folks our way, we look forward to helping them! Once those solid dates are set, I will make sure to get that date to you and the SWCD staff. CRP, well A HUGE thank you to your SWCD staff as it appears that our hard work is paying off and now other areas of the state are taking interest, including the state office! Our mission of getting programs streamlined and more producer friendly are taking place and nothing makes me happier to hear! We conducted our roll-out training this past month and I am excited to get things rolling again. NRCS is currently working hard on EQIP, CSP and CRP eligibility determinations.

Jessica has been working hard on outreach, including some cold calling of new customers that NRCS can serve. I only hope as we continue to build our programs that Waseca sees more conservation on the ground and producer receiving the good customer service they desire! We still have an open position in Mankato for a civil engineer technician under direct hire. If any of you folks know of any interest, please send them my way. It is a direct hire therefore it could be a nice transition into a career with NRCS for said person. I wanted to also point out that we have got 80% of all of our engineer plans completed already! Once we get 100% we will begin to start of the lower priority ones to get things ready for when funding is available. As for compliance, we have tackled our backlog by 57%! My hopes are that now that we are fully staffed, and they are almost fully trained we can get the 1026 process to be much smoother. NRCS is working hard to fix the issues that were there to get our customers better served and conservation on the ground.

On another note, there are many programs coming down the pipeline and I have a desire to seek more funding for our producers. I wanted to plant a mustard seed with the board on an idea I have to seek national funding through a national funding. The Mississippi River Basin Incentive is a national funding pool we are now eligible for. The priority areas have changed, and we are not included in this. Mark has the details. There is no announcement yet, BUT if we get the ball rolling early there is some opportunity to put in a proposal to see if we can be selected for funding. This would be HUGE for our county. We have many shovel ready projects that need funding. Getting a national funding like this would allow us to get NRCS and SWCD projects funded without having to touch our local funds. Please discuss if this is something that the board would like Mark and myself to begin discussing. 😊

Thanks, and I look forward to meeting with you all in March! Stay warm folks!

**1-20-21 Le Sueur steering Team – gotomeeting**

Completed final touches to budget, timeline, and work plan. Discussed and planned agenda for first policy meeting. The first policy meeting will be the last week of February. Group also reviewed draft bylaws for the policy committee.

**1-27-21 – GBERBA Tech – webex**

Election of officers with Chad Hildebrand from Watonwan SWCD being elected chair. New Americorps staff to assist with the MAWQCP Dru Larson was introduced and is housed at Cottonwood SWCD. Watonwan 2W2P is getting close to getting their watershed based implementation funds. Several grant reimbursements are pending and Cottonwood SWCD is not cashing their checks from GBERBA until those reimbursements are deposited. There is about \$5000 left of cover crop funds. There is a statewide LiDAR effort to update data. Some areas of the state will be collected in 2021 not including Waseca with products likely not available until 2022.

**2-2-21 – 2-4-21 – losco tree removal**

losco tree removal started by Borneke construction. Up to 5 crew on site with an excavator and skid loader. Project has gone well but was halted due to cold weather. They are approximately half done with the job. The Creek was not frozen enough for vehicle traffic and crew members even fell through on foot. They plan to pile and burn the debris with the understanding if vegetation is harmed under the burn piles on RIM or CRP ground that it will need to be reseeded. All health trees removed for machinery access will need to be replaced as per the Waseca County Erosion Control Permit.

**2-10-21 – Cannon PWG – zoom**

Group opted to rename themselves the Cannon Implementation Group (CIG) since planning is completed and implementation has begun. Reviewed by-laws and organizational policy. Staff have created a draft statement of work for the shoreline survey of Lower Sakatah Lake. The intent is for a consultant to complete this one and staff could use it for a template to determine if staff are able the remaining surveys. Dakota SWCD staff are working on putting together an online database to track the projects. Group is making progress on terrain analysis contracting, executive board, SSTS inventory contracting, and lake management plans.

**Cannon Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)**

Cannon WBIF are now available for cover crops and practices within the Cannon River Watershed. Projects will need to be prioritized and ranked. Anything less than \$50,000 can be encumbered by the local SWCD or County Board. Anything over \$50,000 needs to go to the Cannon River Watershed JPB.