



Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

300 North State Street

Waseca, MN 56093

507-835-0603

www.wasecaswcd.org

Approved Minutes of the June 10, 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. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Cords at 8:15 pm. The Meeting was called to order late due to LWG meeting running later than anticipated. LWG Notes and Worksheet attached at the end of SWCD Minutes.

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
Myles Elsen, NRCS Faribault County District Conservationist
Ciara Ahrens, NRCS Team Leader
Emmie Peters, District Technician, Rice County SWCD
Jeff Kunz, Waseca County Landowner

Review of the May Agenda: Wayne Cords suggested that item 3 Under Old Business be moved to item 1 under Old Business due to later hour and Emmie's drive distance. Scott Hildebrandt made a motion to approve with change and Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes.

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

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

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

Old Business:

1. Cannon JPB Dues: Emmie Peters from Rice to provide info-Emmie Peters explained what the Dues and the Grant dollars are being used for. Decision on payment will be made at a later date. Tabled
2. Call for Resolutions-MASWCD-Due July 21-review next month
3. 2021 Outstanding Conservation Candidates-Wayne Cords made a motion to select Jason Norton for the Outstanding Conservationist for 2021, Todd Stencil seconded. All-Yes.
4. Other-None

New Business:

1. Le Sueur 1W1P Recommended Consultant & Contracting-Two Consulting Companies were brought to the Board, Larry Muff made a motion to accept ISG Consultant & Contracting, Todd Stencel seconded. All-Yes
2. Change in Gas Station Accounts from Sportsman's to Bock's Service-Scott Hildebrandt made a motion to change account to Bock's Service and Todd Stencel seconded. All-Yes.
3. Donation to 4-H for Conservation Projects Award-Todd Stencel made a motion to give the same as last year of \$50.00 and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
4. GBERBA Cover Crop Contract-Bob Priebe #319-TMDL-81-17 for \$3,250.00 Cost Share, Total \$6,500.00 Todd Stencel made a motion to approve and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
5. Other-None

Supervisor/Meeting Reports:

1. Larry Muff attended the Le Sueur 1W1P Meeting and spoke of topics presented. Larry also said that the Welcome SWCD Sign on Hwy 13 South was down, probably due to wind. A suggestion was made to maybe look into a vinyl sign with wind vents. Cheri Brummund will look into and bring back information to next meeting.
2. Wayne Cords reported on the GBERBA Meeting he attended.
3. No other reports

Agency Reports/Commissioners:

1. Doug Christopherson asked some Buffer dollar questions and Recommendations. He also asked questions on WCA projects that Waseca County is involved in.

Staff Reports:

1. Tyler Polster reported on Buffer Compliance checks and the progress of inspections is coming. He also reported on the increase in tree orders and shared the profit and loss numbers for this year.
2. Mark Schaetzke reported on CREP and also items on the attached sheet.
3. Cheri Brummund reported that she has completed inspections sheets for upcoming RIM Easements for Tyler and also the normal day to day job duties.

Adjourn:

Todd Stencel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry Muff seconded. All-Yes.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm by Board Chairman, Wayne Cords.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm.**Upcoming events:**

- June 24 10:00 am TSA meeting
 June 25 8:30 LS Policy
 July 7 9:00 am Cannon JPB – location pending
 Sept 6 FarmAmerica-Soil Health Field Day

June Bills:

First National Bank	Tyler-Cheri-Mark H S A (\$283.33 ea)		\$ 849.99
Sportsman Stop	Truck Gas	May \$89.27 June \$82.73	\$ 172.00
Corporate Recognition	Pens	Inv 18645	\$ 286.14
Corporate Recognition	Coloring books	Inv 18647	\$ 613.58
			\$ 1,921.71

GBERBA Tech – 5-26-21

Normal business of projects and financials. We had a discussion on the expectations and eligibility of Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) Studies for the Watonwan Watershed using Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). The Policy board expressed interest in meeting in person for the July meeting so GBERBA staff are going to look into locations that can accommodate that size of a group with consideration for social distancing.

Le Sueur 1W1P steering team

The steering team conducted interviews of the two consultants that provided statements of qualifications on 5-27-21. The next day we met to review the results of the interview and the group was able to come to a consensus. The group met again on 6-8-21 to plan the upcoming policy meeting and discuss 1W1P contract details. Planning for the kickoff meeting is still pending.

6-2-21 – Cannon Implementation Group

Staff are working on contracting shoreline inventory, PTMApp, and septic inventory. A few projects are showing up. Projects are currently limited to Teir 1 of the cost share policy. We spent a fair amount of time reviewing what the Clean Rivers Partners (former Cannon River Watershed Partnership) Education Plan. They are focused on public outreach strategies and some staff wanted more technical language from the 1W1P.

6-7-21 – CD30 improvement landowner meeting

Engineering staff presented two options for increasing the tile capacity on CD30. Expected total costs are high and there did not seem to be consensus if they wanted the improvement to proceed or not. I presented the option of doing a Multipurpose Drainage Management Study with funding support through our grant with MPCA for Le Sueur Civic Engagement. There was consensus from the group to move ahead with this effort. Main goals for this study would be to mitigate increased flow from improvement and be proactive in addressing criticism from DNR. Next steps include identifying scope of study and contracting tasks the SWCD cannot do.

losco Tree debris cleanup

Borneke's completed the last few items of tree planting and seeding. The landowner has burned most of the tree debris and just had a few charred logs to haul away. The county will be wrapping up the final paperwork details of the grant including reimbursing us for our time spent on the project.

WCA

Haley and I will be will be discussing existing WCA workload to ensure any deadlines are met and that we are providing the proper documentation. There is one violation that may result in a restoration order that has been controversial. Unfortunately there is no exemption that would fit this particular situation.

CREP

We have two pending new applications. However, FSA is not able to currently process applications due to the soil rental rates being increased and an updated software program that is not functional yet. One wetland restoration project is out for bids. Four are in the title insurance and easement paperwork stage. Paying cost share on restoration costs has been delayed due to delayed payment processing at FSA and to a lesser extent pandemic restrictions with BWSR staff.

LWG Meeting Information-Held prior to SWCD Meeting

Waseca LWG notes taken by Myles Elsen

1. In attendance:
 - a. 2 SWCD board members, 2 County commissioners, 3 SWCD staff, 2 NRCS staff, 1 producer
2. Meeting started with introductions.
3. Ciara walked everyone through why we are here. Why this meeting is important and how the results from the meeting indicate how we rank funding in the coming year.
4. Ciara walked everyone through the maps of current applications and practices being implemented in the county.
5. Mark took over and walked the group through the ranking of Resource Concerns per land use and gave everyone some time to read through and prioritize for their selves the RC's.
6. The group convened and went through the land uses and each RC's.
7. The group then walked through the Priorities/needs, comments on farm bill, training needs, and outreach
 - a. Jason Norton comments read
 - i. Get more interest in cover crop programs by starting out with small acres like 20 or less as an option with options for contract length.
 - ii. Get people like Andy Linder or Joe Jirik involved with talking to potential grower.
 - iii. Draw out specific time lines for plantings-spraying-tillage with different options
 - iv. Suggest Cover crops that will be beneficial to the crop rotation
 - v. Guidance in planning areas and what anticipated outcomes may or may not prove to be.
 - vi. Meetings are good but have more one to one type or group discussions. Jason direct quote "The real meeting and learning starts after the meetings are over. That's when discussions amongst the growers really start.
 - vii. Meetings and forums are beginning to get repetitious, need for new ways of teaching and showing results.
 - b. Outreach:
 - i. 1. There is not a local newspaper or way to communicate to the majority of producers in the county for updates and information on NRCS programs or studies (MOSH). SWCD puts stuff on their website and are thinking about getting social media going. Producers in the room thought the GovDelivery or FSA newsletter would be the best way to share out information in county.
 2. Hold events for the MOSH study.
 3. Board members/producers had very good things to say about the self-guided tour. Not a lot of people letting SWCD know they are looking but board members see people stopped all the time.
 4. Do a bus tour in the fall to visit different practices and talk about resource concerns which will then create for a better LWG meeting next year as people will understand NRCS practices/terminology better. This will also help bolster the practice adoption.
 - c. Farm Bill comments:
 - i. 1. Delay in time from application to contract. More intermediate funding needed. Several sign ups/funding periods per year vs once a year.
 - ii. 2. Easements becoming increasingly more unfriendly and response times terrible
 - d. Additional priority needs:
 - i. 1. Streambank erosion is a major concern of many farmers in the county. There are issues with eligibility and cost of projects.
 - ii. 2. Would like to see increase of Wetland Restorations and pollinator plots to improve wildlife in the county.
 - iii. 3. Would like to see increase in outreach events to get contracts numbers and adoption of conservation practices up in county.
 - e. NRCS Improvements needed:
 - i. 1. RETAIN STAFF! Producers are sick of the revolving door and don't have time to build trust with a planner.
 2. FSA/NRCS need to be co-located. Would be nice to have SWCD co-located as well.
 3. Wetland compliance staff retention and timeliness of response to 1026s.
 4. Program flexibility and how the staff interprets the NPPH and be able to simplify it for the producer to follow.
8. Final remarks. Each person was giving the opportunity to speak and ask questions.
 - a. NO comments were made.

LWG Workbook

Resource Concern Categories should be further prioritized (1- highest priority, 2- 2nd priority, etc.) as identified on worksheet 3. Under the Priority RCC's, the listed resource concerns should also be prioritized (1- highest priority, 2- 2nd priority, etc.). This worksheet does not need to be filled out in its entirety during the LWG meeting, but the NRCS DC will need enough information to complete the prioritization before submitting the workbook.

County/Tribe:

ENTER LWG NAME (COUNTY/TRIBE/OTHER)

Resource Concern Category (RCC)	Resource Concern (RC)	CROP	FOREST	FARMSTEAD	PASTURE
Air Quality emissions		H		M	L
Air Quality emissions	Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen	3		5	
Air Quality emissions	Emissions of greenhouse gases - GHGs	1		2	
Air Quality emissions	Emissions of ozone precursors	4		3	
Air Quality emissions	Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors	2		4	
Air Quality emissions	Objectionable odor	5		1	

Aquatic Habitat		L		N/A	L
Aquatic Habitat	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms				
Aquatic Habitat	Elevated water temperature				

Concentrated Erosion		H		H	H
Concentrated Erosion	Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyances channels	3		1	1
Concentrated Erosion	Classic gully erosion	1		2	3
Concentrated Erosion	Ephemeral gully erosion	2			2

Degraded Plant Condition		L		L	H
Degraded Plant Condition	Plant productivity and health				1
Degraded Plant Condition	Plant structure and composition				2
Field Pesticide Loss		M		L	L
Field Pesticide Loss	Pesticides transported to groundwater	2			
Field Pesticide Loss	Pesticides transported to surface water	1			

Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss		H		L	L
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Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss	Nutrients transported to groundwater	1			
Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss	Nutrients transported to surface water	2			
Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss	Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater	4			
Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss	Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water	5			
Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss	Sediment transported to surface water	3			

Fire Management		L		L	L
Fire Management	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation				

Inefficient Energy Use		L		L	H
Inefficient Energy Use	Energy efficient equipment and facilities				1
Inefficient Energy Use	Energy efficient farming/ranching practices and field operations				2

Livestock Production Limitation		M		L	H
Livestock Production Limitation	Feed and forage balance	1			2
Livestock Production Limitation	Inadequate livestock shelter	3			3
Livestock Production Limitation	Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution	2			1

Pest Pressure		H		N/A	L
Pest Pressure	Plant pest pressure	1			

Salt Losses to Water		L		L	N/A
Salt Losses to Water	Salt transported to groundwater				
Salt Losses to Water	Salt transported to surface water				

Soil Quality Limitations		H			H
Soil Quality Limitations	Aggregate instability	1			2
Soil Quality Limitations	Compaction	3			1
Soil Quality Limitations	Concentration of salts or other chemicals	6			5
Soil Quality Limitations	Organic matter depletion	2			3
Soil Quality Limitations	Soil organism habitat loss or degradation	4			6

Soil Quality Limitations	Subsidence	5			4
Source Water Depletion		N/A		L	N/A
Source Water Depletion	Groundwater depletion				
Source Water Depletion	Inefficient irrigation water use				
Source Water Depletion	Surface water depletion				
Storage and Handling of Pollutants		H		H	N/A
Storage and Handling of Pollutants	Nutrients transported to groundwater	1		1	
Storage and Handling of Pollutants	Nutrients transported to surface water	2		3	
Storage and Handling of Pollutants	Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater	3		2	
Storage and Handling of Pollutants	Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water	4		4	
Terrestrial Habitat		H		M	H
Terrestrial Habitat	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	1		1	1
Weather Resilience		H		M	M
Weather Resilience	Drifted snow	4		1	1
Weather Resilience	Naturally available moisture use	5			5
Weather Resilience	Ponding and flooding	1		2	2
Weather Resilience	Seasonal high water table	2		3	3
Weather Resilience	Seeps	3		4	4
Wind and Water Erosion		H		N/A	L
Wind and Water Erosion	Sheet and rill erosion				
Wind and Water Erosion	Wind erosion				