



Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

300 North State Street

Waseca, MN 56093

507-835-0603

www.wasecaswcd.org

Approved minutes of the Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting December 14, 2023. The Meeting of the Waseca County Board of Supervisors that was held at the Waseca County SWCD Office Area, 300 North State Street, Waseca. The December 14, 2023 Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Larry Muff at 6:30 pm.

Members Present

Larry Muff, Vice Chairman
Keith Morgan, Treasurer
Matt Sommers, Secretary
Gregg Rosenthal, Member

Staff Present

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
Joe Edel, District Technician
Cheri Brummund, Admin Asst

Others Present

De Malterer, Waseca County Commissioner
Mallroy Malecek, District Conservationist, NRCS

Review of the November Agenda

Matt Sommers made a motion to approve the Agenda and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes

Consent Agenda

1. October Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Approval of Bills

Matt Sommers made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.

Old Business:

1. Vacation, Holiday, Sick Time-Personnel Policy change (*Pages 11-12 Section #9.1, 10.2,10.3, 11.3*)
Matt Sommers made a motion to accept changes of Vacation & Holiday & Sick time be taken up to regular scheduled hour amounts (ex: 10 hour normal workday 10 hours Vacation/Holiday/Sick Time—8 hour normal workday 8 hours Vacation/Holiday/Sick Time)
Gregg Rosenthal seconded-all Yes.
 - a. New Earned Sick and Safe Time Law addition if necessary
 1. 5.1 Matt Sommers made the motion that 1 hour sick time could be used for each 30 hours worked during probationary period, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
 2. 11.3 Matt Sommers made a motion that any amount of available hours of sick time could be used for the definitions defined by the State of Mn Labor and Industry Standards ESST Statute, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. Vote not unanimous—Matt-Yes, Gregg-Yes, Keith-Yes and Larry-No
Motion passes with majority vote.
2. Soil Health Position Grant-Full time position discussed as a possible $\frac{3}{4}$ time Soil Health Position with $\frac{1}{4}$ time being of District Position. Matt Sommers made a motion to table to next meeting, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes

3. Facebook ideas for postings-in addition to packet list
 - a. Videos done with Landowners with their experiences with Cover Crops
 - b. Soil Warrior information-Kevin Born
 - c. Area Agronomists
 - d. McPherson, Depuydt
4. Other-None

New Business:

1. County Lease-Matt Sommers made a motion to accept the Lease and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes
 2. 2021 Cost Share Grant-Extension to April 30, 2024-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve delegating Staff to sign Extension upon Approval of BWSR, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes
 3. CS-2021-01 Well Sealing \$1,000-Contract Extension to April 30, 2024-Gregg Rosenthal made a motion to approve delegating Staff to sign Contact and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes
 4. SH-2023-02 Cover Crop Voucher \$1,600 (first year Payment 3 year SH Contract Total \$4800)-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve payment of voucher, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
 5. 2020 Cost Share Contract 2 (20) \$4200-extension April 30, 2024-Matt Sommers made a motion to accept extension, Gregg Rosenthal seconded, All-Yes.
 6. 2020 Cost Share Contract 4 (20) \$1000-extension April 30, 2024-Gregg Rosenthal made a motion to accept extension and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
 7. 2020 Cost Share Contract 6 (20) Voucher \$900.00-Gregg Rosenthal made a motion to pay the voucher and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
 8. GBERBA Contract CWF-SH-22-81-01 \$4440.00 (100% payment for 3 yr Cover Crop Contact)-Matt Sommers made a motion to recommend payment to GBERBA and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
 9. Riparian Vouchers
 - a. Riparian-2023-01 Cover Crop \$1712.00-Cancelled-Matt Sommers made a motion to accept cancelation and Gregg Rosenthal Seconded. All-Yes.
 - b. Riparian-2023-02 Cover Crop \$3236.00
 - c. Riparian-2023-05 Cover Crop \$ 992.00
 - d. Riparian-2023-06 Cover Crop \$3060.00
 - e. Riparian-2023-07 Cover Crop \$1648.00
 - f. Riparian-2023-08 Cover Crop \$1200.00
- } Matt Sommers made a motion to recommend payment and Gregg Rosenthal Seconded. All-Yes.
10. FYI-Supervisors must file with the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board after January 1 but before January 29, 2024
 11. Other-None

Supervisor Reports:

1. Gregg Rosenthal reported that he attended the Soil Health Coalition Event in Mankato. He said it was a good turnout and he thought it to be very informative.
2. None

Agency Reports:

1. De Malterer, County Commissioner-gave incite on ESST in other departments of the county. Also the Le Sueur 1W1P Policy Meeting coming up in January.
2. Mallory Malecek, District Conservationist, NRCS-spoke on Water System, Cover Crops, and livestock fencing programs that are available through NRCS. She also stated that Waseca County has 14 EQIP Project Applications and 18 Expiring CRP Contracts and 99 Status CRP Reviews coming up.

Staff Reports:

1. Joe Edel-Reported that he has been working on projects, surveying for basins and terraces.

2. Cheri Brummund-reported she has been doing year end reports for the State and also closing up loose files for year end.
3. Mark Schaetzke-Manager attached

Adjourn –Matt Sommers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 by Vice Chairman Larry Muff.

Next Board Meeting Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 12 GBERBA Policy Meeting 1 pm Location TBD

December Bills:

Keen Bank	Joe-Mark H S A (\$300.00 ea)		\$ 600.00
Bock's	Truck Gas		\$ 198.09
Mark Schaetzke	Voucher 2023 MS7	Expense & Mileage	\$ 718.76
Joe Edel	Voucher 2023 JE6	Mileage	\$ 24.89
			\$ 1,541.74

December 2023 Manager’s Report

11-17 – GBERBA Policy/Tech meeting – Mankato

Dues to be decreased by 50% for 2024. Spent \$6800 on digital display, camera, and computer for Blue Earth service center to be available for anyone in GBERBA. 2024 meeting dates published. Normal business of projects and payments. Bunch of extensions. Presentations on PF Easement enhancement, CRP incentive, and Soil health grants. Brainstorming session on how to use up existing soil health drinking water grant and what would be allowable by BWSR. Excellent soil health farmer panel discussion with 4 farmers from GBERBA area.

11-28 – Area 6 meeting – Courtland

Attended by 24 supervisors, 23 staff, and 5 partner staff. Presentation by Rita Weaver, BWSR Chief Engineer, on water storage and funding opportunities. Presentation by Tom Gile, BWSR Resource Conservation Section Manager, on Soil health funding coming our way. Presentation by Julie Westerlund on 1W1P status and Clean Water Fund (CWF) investments.

12-5 & 6 – Premier Soil Health Event – Mankato

Unsure of attendees but guessing 200. Well organized with good speakers. Russel Hendrick – first generation farmer – went deeply into debt to start farming and now owes only \$90,000 using regenerative practices. Session on farmers who have been successful mentoring other farmers. Session on Scope 3 pollution and carbon payments tied to ethanol. Would recommend encouraging or incentivizing Waseca producers to attend next year.

Dec 11-13 – MASWCD Convention

750 attendees. Monday was dedicated to SWCD Human resources training. Workload assessments, recruiting, hiring, retention, accountability, job descriptions, and performance tools. Tuesday’s keynote was about change and the second session was on private and public climate smart solutions. I attended two sessions on soil health, one on continuous living cover, and one on the we are water exhibit.

WCA –

Approved wildlife pond/no –loss application for excavation within wetlands near Lake Elysian.

Decision on after the fact application – Half of it met the wildlife exemption and the other half will need to be restored.

TEP site visit for application for wildlife pond/excavation in type 2/6/3 wetlands by Pemberton.

Application for tiling type 2 and 3 wetland by New Richland – decision will be delayed until spring and start of growing season.

Application for wetland delineation by Hwy 14 – decision will be delayed until spring and start of growing season.

Review of ditch cleaning project – mostly OK but contractor did not follow one of the conditions.

11 hours in October

21 hours in November