



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 March 14, 2024. The Meeting of the Waseca County Board of Supervisors was held at the Waseca County SWCD Office Area, 300 North State Street, Door 4, Waseca.

The March 14, 2024 Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Muff at 6:55 pm. Late start due to staff reviews.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
Cheri Brummund, District Admin

Others Present

De Malterer, Waseca County Commissioner
Mallory Malecek, NRCS District Conservationist
Alan Kraus, Clean River Partnership
Maggie Stahley, Clean River Partnership

Review of the March Agenda

Wayne Cords made a motion to approve, with the change of moving #2 under New Business 'Clean River Partners Information' to right after Consent Agenda so Guest speakers would not have to wait due to late start time. Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes

Consent Agenda

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

Wayne Cords made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes

Clean River Partners Information *(moved from New Business #2)*

Guest Speakers- Alan Kraus & Maggie Stahley, Clean River Partners

Alan Kraus spoke on Projects Clean River Partners have been involved in like: Habitat Protection & Restoration, Ag Practices including cover crops, sampling of tile drainage lines, increasing the number of Water Quality Certification farms, workshops, carbon awareness, Perennial & Novel crops, forestry efforts, crop rotations.

Old Business:

1. Le Sueur Fiscal agreements
 - a. Blue Earth County – Matt Sommers made a motion to approve and Wayne Cords seconded the motion. All-Yes

- b. Blue Earth County SWCD – Wayne Cords made a motion to approve and Gregg Rosenthal seconded the motion. All-Yes
- c. Freeborn County - Matt Sommers made a motion to approve and Wayne Cords seconded the motion. All-Yes
- 2. Farm Bill Biologist agreement – Wayne Cords made a motion to approve \$1500.00 to go toward the agreement and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
- 3. CS2023-01 Well Sealing total \$1495 Cost Share Total \$747.50 – Matt Sommers made a motion to approve contract and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes
- 4. Pheasants Forever Gift Certificate/Voucher from Banquet – Discussion on getting 3 gift cards if possible from Scheels instead of the one and use it for Conservation Farmers – if not able to do that, look for items to be used for Conservation Farmers gifts.
- 5. Other

New Business:

- 1. Staff Wages Increases-the Personnel Committee, after staff reviews, suggested that the Technician and Admin Assist be moved up two steps + 3% COLA increase and the Manager be moved up 1 step and 3% COLA increase. This is to get wages in a more competitive range, beginning the first full pay period in April. Technician pay \$23.93, Admin pay \$25.12, Manager pay \$45.74 - Matt Sommers made the motion to accept the suggestion and Wayne Cords seconded. All-Yes.
- 2. **Clean River Partners Information-Moved to right after consent agenda per motion.**
- 3. Farmamerica Field Day-food costs – possibility of \$16/person – A motion was made by Wayne Cords to cover cost of \$16/person for count over 40 participants only, Keith Morgan seconded. All - Yes
- 4. 81-6-13 MAWQCP \$100 application incentive through GBERBA } Wayne Cords made a motion to
- 5. 81-6-14 MAWQCP \$100 application incentive through GBERBA } accepts both applications and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
- 6. Manager Training-March 26-27 Arrowwood Lodge-Baxter \$25 Registration + motel & meals- Wayne Cords made a motion for Mark to attend and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
- 7. Cover Crop Academy, SROC- June 18 - \$75 Registration – Mark & Joe would like to attend- Wayne Cords made a motion for Joe & Mark to attend and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
- 8. MACDE Membership Dues (\$25 per employee or affiliate)-noted
- 9. Cost Share #CS-2021-01 Well Sealing total \$2010 payment voucher for \$1000 – Matt Sommers made a motion to approve payment of \$1000 for cost share and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
- 10. Soil Health Cost Share #SH-2023-03 Total cost \$810 Cost Share cost \$607.50 – Wayne Cords made a motion to approve contract and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
- 11. 2024 SWCD Administrative Conference - June 25-26th - Arrowwood Lodge, Baxter- Wayne Cords made a motion to approve Cheri attending Conference and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes
- 12. Fair Booth \$175 – Water Resources would like to get a booth next to ours.-Gregg Rosenthal made a motion to approve having a booth at the fair and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
 - a. Purchase of 500 pens- \$.50/pen total \$250 + tx & ship } Gregg Rosenthal made a motion
 - b. Purchase of 2 pounds wildflower seed \$34/lb total \$68 + ship } to approve purchase of both items and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
- 13. Farmamerica Volunteer Breakfast, April 5, 9 am—RSVP by March 26th (507-835-2052)-Noted
- 14. 4-H Donor Letter-last year \$50 was given (Blue Ribbon Donor Group)-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve \$50 donation and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes.
- 15. FYI Planning Communication Letter-Audit-Peterson - noted
- 16. Other-discussion on checking authorizations and credit card inquiries will be added to next months agenda after more information can be gathered.

Supervisor Reports:

- 1. None

Agency Reports:

1. Mallory Malecek, District Conservationist, NRCS-Reported that March 19 LWG Meeting will be held at 4:00 pm in Minnesota Lake. \$ EQIP apps out of 7 were preapproved, CRP-18 expiring contracts needing plans and 99 status reviews needed. CSP 11 apps in Waseca.
2. De Malterer, County Commissioner, reported that Waseca County was awarded a \$4.6 mil grant to get Broadband (fiber optics) installed and made available to areas in Waseca County not currently serviced.

Staff Reports:

1. Joe Edel was not present.
2. Cheri Brummund reported that she had been working on paperwork for the Annual Audit with Peterson. She also noted that she has been working on keeping the website updated and state reports and other regular monthly items.
3. Mark Schaezke's Manager's report is attached.

Adjourn –Matt Sommers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Keith Morgan seconded. All-Yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 by Chairman Larry Muff.

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

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- March 14-16, 2024 North American Farm & Power Show, 9-5-(14 & 15) 9-4-(16) Four Seasons Centre, Steele County Fairgrounds, Owatonna, MN Free admission
- March 19, 2024 SCTSA, Mankato Ag Service Center 10 am
- March 20, 2024 Spring Field Day, 5:00 pm-7:30 pm, Farmamerica Farm Shop RSVP to 507-389-5492 or kendra.daby@mnsu.edu by March 15.
- March 26, 2024 Getting Paid for Low Carbon Farming, Eagles Club, Owatonna, MN register at: www.mnsoilhealth.org/event/getting-paid-for-low-carbon-farming/
- March 26-27, 2024 Statewide Managers Meeting-Baxter
- March 27?, 2024 Area VI Chairs Meeting, New Ulm pending Date and Place
- April 5, 2024 Volunteer Breakfast, Farmamerica 9 am
- April 13, 2024 Future of S MN Lakes Conference, Mankato Civic Center, 9 am
- April 26, 2024 Le Sueur Policy Advisory Committee, City of Blue Earth, 8 am

March Bills:

Keen Bank	Joe-Mark H S A (\$300.00 ea)		\$ 600.00
Bock's	Truck Gas		\$ -
8 tree orders	Reimbursements-overpayments or unavailable stock		\$ 1,194.43
Cheri Brummund	Voucher # 2024 CB1	Open house items	\$ 28.29
Janesville Journal	Tree Ad		\$ 54.00
New Richland Star	Tree Ad		\$ 54.00
Waseca Pioneer	Tree Ad		\$ 60.00
Janesville Journal	Subscription Renewal		\$ 48.00
Mark Schaezke	Voucher #2024-MS1		\$ 300.75
Joe Edel	Voucher #12024-JE		\$ 46.00
			\$ 2,385.47

Manager's Report – March 2024

Feb 22 – Soil health workshop – Owatonna

120 attendees. Presentation on ethanol tax credit, small grains in S MN, and manure management with reduced tillage. Some Waseca County producers there but would like to see more. Joe and I had an informational booth at the event.

March 12 – Groundworks Drainage workshop

Representatives from ISG, County, NRCS, SWCD, and DNR on drainage issues and concerns. 40-50 attendees.

Tree open house Feb 23rd

Interview by paper – 155 orders, 7350 trees sold so far.

LS 1W1P

One half of the grant funds are in the bank. Interim cost share policy adopted with additions expected for April SWCD and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings.

Legislative day

Met with legislators yesterday.

SWCD Aid

RIM repair and assessment

SWCD loan authority

WCA rule changes

WCA

TEP meeting to review two wetland banking monitoring reports.

Investigation of two potential violations.

6.5 hours of effort for February.