



## **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 Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting March 13, 2025. 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 13, 2025 Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Muff at 6:32 pm.

### **Members Present**

Larry Muff, Chairman  
Gregg Rosenthal, Vice Chairman  
Wayne Cords, Treasurer  
Matt Sommers, Secretary  
Dan Roemhildt, Member

### **Staff Present**

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager  
Joe Edel, District Technician  
Cammi Nordmeyer, Soil Health Resource Tech  
Cheri Brummund, Admin Asst

### **Others Present**

De Malterer, Waseca County Commissioner

### **Review of the March Agenda**

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

### **Consent Agenda**

1. March Minutes
2. Approval of Bills
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Other

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

### **Old Business:**

1. 2024 Annual Report Draft-Wayne Cords made a motion to approve, and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
2. 2025 Plan of Work Draft-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve, and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
3. Administrative Assistant-announcement, advertising, updated job description-Salary Range was suggested to be set at \$17.49-\$28.56
4. SCSC Contract for Admin Assistant-Matt Sommers made a motion to accept the contract with new salary range and adding Newspaper advertising to contract – if they would not include newspaper advertising, then the District would pay for and submit the ads, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes
5. RCPP Update-Noted
6. Other

### **New Business:**

1. Wages-will be revisited November-December
2. Staff Reviews-The Personnel Committee suggested a step and 2% increase for all staff. Wayne Cords made a motion to approve, and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
3. Le Sueur WBIF Contracts

- a. LS-24-81-10 – No-till/Strip-till – 2yr – 142.73 acres - \$25/acre – \$7,136.50- Wayne Cords made a motion to approve and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
4. Soil Health Delivery Contracts
  - a. SH-2025-01 – No-till/Strip-till – 1yr – 57.08 acres - \$20/acre - \$1,141.60-Wayne Cords made a motion to approve and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
5. 2023 Soil Health Cost Share
  - a. SH-2023-04 – No-till/Strip-till & Cover Crops - 2yr – 40 acres - \$55/acre - \$4,400- Wayne Cords made a motion to approve and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
6. Riparian Funds Policy-let staff know of suggested changes or concerns before April Meeting. Noted
7. MOSH grant awarded \$2,000 to send producers to soil health events-Policy. Matt Sommers made a motion that the Policy should reflect Registration Fees only shall be paid for anyone one who would wish to attend a State or National Conference/Event, Dan Roemhildt seconded. All-Yes.
8. MOSH application for tentative soil health event-Matt Sommers made a motion that authorizes staff to apply for tentative soil health events, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
9. Truck-checks for \$42,898.00 for Deml and check for \$2991.24 tax & license are needed. Wayne Cords made a motion to approve and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
10. Local Work Group Meeting Planning – June TBD-Noted
11. Pheasants Forever Banquet-March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mill – Sponsorship \$300-Wayne Cords made a motion to pay sponsorship and allow anyone interested to attend-Joe Edel volunteered, Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
12. Farm/City Days March 20 at The Mill at 11:45 \$18 per person, Cammi Nordmeyer and Cheri Brummund to attend-Wayne Cords made motion to approve and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
13. Fair Booth approval \$175.00 Indoor Booth-Wayne Cords made motion to approve Fair Booth and Matt Sommers approved.
14. Stadium Cups 144 @ \$1.35 each - to use for fair/Soil Health Meetings – (Soil Health Delivery Grant dollars)-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve and Wayne Cords seconded. All-Yes.
15. Pens 500 @ .50 or .25 each - supply lasts about 18-24 months-Matt Sommers made a motion to order the \$.25 pens and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
16. Ribbons for 4H at county fair 50 @ \$1.35 each (have 5 left now—gave out 9 each year)-Wayne Cords made a motion to approve, and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
17. Other

### **Supervisor Reports:**

1. Dan Roemhildt reported that he attended a Cannon River Watershed meeting, Clear Lake water testing by the PCA was discussed.
2. Larry Muff gave a followup on the LeSueur Watershed Meeting. He also requested that staff should look into teaming up again with NRCS into finding landowners to do field days.

### **Agency Reports:**

1. Commissioners De Malterer no report.

### **Staff Reports:**

1. Cammi Nordmeyer reported on the Cover Crops, No-till/Strip Till contracts she has worked on and also on putting together Field Days; Hwy 14 Soil Health tour; GBERBA Meeting discussing the Soil Health Signs and Tours. She also has been writing and submitting newspaper columns.
2. Cheri Brummund mentioned she has been working on various subjects and putting together a transition report for the new personnel that will be taking her place when she retires.
3. Joe Edel reported that he has been working on trees-sales of 8500+ 135 orders, buffer inspection letters, reopening projects that landowners have been on hold for various reasons.
4. Mark Schaezke-see attached notes

**Adjourn:** Matt Sommers made a motion to adjourn and Wayne Cords seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm by Chairman, Larry Muff

**Next Board Meeting Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6:30 pm.**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- March 14 GBERBA – 1:00 virtual and at Cottonwood SWCD in Windom
- March 18-20 National Cover Crop Summit-Online
- March 20 SCTSA Meeting – 10:00 Blue Earth County SWCD (Mankato)
- March 22 Future Southern MN Lakes Conference – 9-4 Mayo Event Center Mankato
- March 27-28 MACDE Managers Meeting – MN Dot St Cloud Training Center
- April 8 Le Sueur SWCD Water Storage Meeting-Le Sueur Justice Center-Le Center

**March Bills:**

Keen Bank	Cammi-Joe-Mark H S A	\$300 each	\$ 900.00
Bock's	Truck Gas		\$ 100.11
Janesville Journal	Renewal	Inv #8801	\$ 50.00
Tree Order #82	Trees not available	Reimbursement	\$ 687.20
Tree Order #112	Trees not available	Reimbursement	\$ 161.06
Tree Order #117	Trees not available	Reimbursement	\$ 16.11
MN State Auditor	Final Audit Services	Claim #72531	\$ 248.00
DeWitt	Tree Mats	Inv#392363	\$ 256.28
Tree Pro	Tree Tubes	Inv#TP10377	\$ 254.71
Cheri Brummund	Open House supplies	Voucher 2025 CB1	\$ 20.73
MACDE	Manager Meeting	Registration	\$ 20.00
Innovative Office	Office Supplies	IN4788076	\$ 67.23
Mark Schaezke		Voucher 2025 MS2	\$ 340.03
			<b>\$ 3,121.46</b>

**Manager's Report - March 2025**

**RCPP training – St. Peter**

Went over logistics of grant and increased expectations. Local policy, but NRCS needs to approve ranking questions. Minimum required questions but no minimum score. BWSR to upfront \$ to districts, but BWSR is getting reimbursed by NRCS after project completion. \$180,000 first round, able to ask for \$120,000 more monthly. Not to exceed rates for practices. Need general guidance from board on eligibility and payments. BWSR is applying the brakes until they can get confirmation from USDA that they will get reimbursed.

**Hwy 14 Soil Health workshop – Owatonna**

Decent attendance of around 80, but much less than reserved. Speculation that cold weather hurt attendance. Compost, soil health research, and soil health results were the main topics. Noticed several producers from Waseca County in attendance.

**RIM** – submitted two applications for wetland restoration on an existing wetland restored through CRP.

**Legislative day and briefing – March 4 & 5**

Listened to legislative briefing from SWCD staff, MASWCD staff, and our two lobbyists on status of session and our legislative priorities. Had panel of senators and representatives with insight on session and how to approach representatives with our priorities. Reception had one of the better turnouts of senators and representatives. SWCD aid has good support of key legislators from both parties. However economic forecast shows a \$6 billion deficit for FY28 & FY29 which will make any ask for additional funding more difficult. I met with Sen Jasinski, Sen Dornink, Rep Allen, and Rep Sexton. They seemed supportive but also acknowledged the expected upcoming deficit. With a one vote majority in the senate and a tied house

there seems to be more working across the aisle than the last two years.

**CIG**

Discussed algal bloom sampling effort with MPCA – Clear Lake is one of the proposed lakes. More discussion on Lake Francis as a priority lake – consensus is there is not enough data to support it at this time and we would likely not take it up until we are ready for our plan renewal. Other lakes are in same category. Staff felt they did not have time for additional public meetings for the Upper Cannon Flood Study.

**LIT** – focus on creating workplan outline for FY26 and attempt to coordinate with RCPP for non-structural practices. Also attempt to coordinate with known large project needs like Reeds Lake Ravine. Trying to coordinate online shared access for documents.

**WCA**

One ongoing exemption with associated data request

One potential violation investigation

No-loss application

Assistance on application for water storage

Wetland delineation for potential water storage

58 hours of effort for 2025