



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 February 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 February 13, 2025 Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Muff at 6:30 pm.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Brad Krause, Waseca County Commissioner

Review of the February Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

1. January 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. RCPP Soil Health Grant Update-approval to opt in -request for interest-Wayne Cords made a motion that we show interest in program and find out more about it, Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
2. 2025 Acceleration Implementation - Reed's Lake CWF grant Signature and Workplan-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve grant and workplan and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
3. Other

New Business:

1. Le Sueur WBIF Contracts
 - a. LS-24-07-25 – Well sealing \$5350 estimate – 50% cost share not to exceed \$1800 – encumber \$1800
 - b. LS-24-07-26 – Well sealing \$3525 est– 50% cost share – encumber \$1762.50
 - c. LS-24-07-24 – Well sealing \$2300 est – 50% cost share – encumber \$1150.00
 - d. LS-24-81-11 – Well sealing \$3000 est – 50% cost share – encumber \$1500.00
 - e. LS-24-81-12 – WASCOB (2) \$40,497.00 est – 75% cost share – encumber \$30,372.75 - delegate staff to approve technical assistanceWayne Cords made a motion to approve 1a - 1e contracts, Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.

2. Le Sueur WBIF Vouchers
 - a. LS-24-07-21 Cover Crops 3 years @ \$4,114.50 ea total payment \$12,343.50 -Wayne Cords made a motion to approve voucher and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
 - b. LS-24-07-20 Cover Crops 3 years @ \$14,105.00 ea total payment \$42,315.00 Wayne Cords made a motion to approve voucher and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
3. 2025 Soil Health Cost Share Contracts
 - a. SH2025-02 – Windbreak \$890.40 total – 75% cost share - \$667.80
 - b. SH2025-03 – Windbreak \$567.10 total – 75% cost share - \$425.32
 Matt Sommers made a motion to approve 3a-3b contracts, Wayne Cords seconded. All-Yes.
4. LS-Faribault Wetland Restoration Engineering w/Barr up to \$30,000-informational- Mark Schaetzke spoke on the project and what the project entails.
5. Cammi Nordmeyer's end of 6-month probationary period-Mark Schaetzke reported that Cammi Nordmeyer has successfully completed her 6 month probationary period and should be moved into full time position. Matt Sommers made a motion to accept the move to full time position and Wayne Cords seconded. All-Yes.
6. Peterson Engagement Letter for 2024 Audit \$5,600.00 Fee (\$5,000 reg audit + \$600 for 1W1P Grant)-Needs signatures-Wayne Cords made a motion to accept the Engagement Letter and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
7. FYI- Gaiter Lake EAW <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/engineering/pages/gaiter-lake-land-development-clearwater-preserve> - Mark Schaetzke commented on the Gaiter Lake development, Commissioner Krause also commented.
8. Tree Open House
 - a. Hot Chocolate/Apple Cider, Cookies
 - b. Tree Drawing – 2 trees
 Wayne Cords made a motion to approve 8a-8b for Tree Open House, Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes.
9. March Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capital March 4-5—Mark to attend
 - a. March 4-Legislative Briefing 4 pm-6 pm and Networking Reception 6 pm - 8 pm
 - b. March 5-Day at the Capital-Meet with Legislators
 - c. Motel \$114 to \$142 plus meals and tax
 Wayne Cords made a motion to approve Mark Schaetzke to attend and anyone else that would be interested, Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes
10. South Central Technical Service Area-FY25 Shared Services Grant Cash Match \$3,550.00
Wayne Cords made motion to approve payment and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes/
11. 2024 Annual Report Draft-tabled until next meeting
12. 2025 Plan of Work Draft-tabled until next meeting
13. 2025 State Aid Resolution-needs signature-Wayne Cords made a motion to sign resolution and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
14. Signage on Escape and Truck-previously decided/discussed that Wet Signs do the detailing for Escape, however a there was not a motion made on the truck detailing also. Would like to confirm that Wet Signs does signage on both Escape and Truck when truck comes in. Matt Sommers made a motion to enlist Wet Signs to do signage on both the Escape and Truck as soon as truck comes in, Gregg Rosenthal seconded. All-Yes.
15. Grant Amounts-Breakdowns of Projects and Allowable Staff Time Explanation – Cheri Brummund presented a spreadsheet and grant copies to explain how monies are used from the grants and the limitations. Wayne Cords made the suggestion of changing the workplan on the buffer law grants to be used for projects also. Mark Schaetzke will find out from BWSR if they can be changed at this point.
16. CRP meeting - staff time and out of pocket expenses – LS & Cannon WBIF-Matt Sommers made a motion to approve and Wayne Cords seconded. All-Yes
17. MASCDE Manager's Meeting – March 27-28 - 2 Days in St Cloud, \$20 fee + hotel \$110+tx & meals- Wayne Cords made a motion to approve Mark Schaetzke to attend and Matt Sommers seconded. All-Yes
18. Admin Assistant Replacement and Transition Plan-SCSC (South Central Service Co-Op)
Proposal contains information on their hiring/placement plan that would run \$3,500.
 - a. The Hiring team meets with personnel and recruits individuals for the position. They then weed out some applicants and forward the most best fit candidates on to the personnel committee. Interviews are then set up and hopefully a candidate is chosen.

Matt Sommers made a motion to accept SCSC Proposal for a fee up to \$3,500 and Wayne Cords seconded. All-Yes.

19. Pheasants Forever Banquet-No one has received any information on the banquet. Cheri Brummund will check on it.
20. Other

Supervisor Reports:

1. Gregg Rosenthal attended a management event in St James and also the SMS in Mankato. He reported that there were a number of helpful topics presented.
2. Wayne Cords attended the GBERBA meeting, topics included due, and grant approvals.
3. Larry Muff attended the LS Meeting.

Agency Reports:

1. Commissioners Brad Krause had some questions on the Upper Cannon River Watershed and the meaning of some of the topics he had heard of. Mark Schaetzke gave some information of the questions.
2. NRCS personnel were not present but an informational sheet was included in the meeting packets. See attached.

Staff Reports:

1. 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.
2. Joe Edel reported that he has been working on trees, buffer inspections, doing plans for windbreaks and WACOB plans.
3. Cammi Nordmeyer was not present, but had a write up for meeting-see attached notes.
4. Mark Schaetzke-see attached notes

Adjourn: Matt Sommers made a motion to adjourn and Gregg Rosenthal seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm by Chairman, Larry Muff

Next Board Meeting Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 18 Hwy 14 Soil Health, Torrey's – Owatonna
- February 19 Tree Open House, Office 8:30-4:00
- March 14 GBERBA – virtual 1:00

February Bills:

Keen Bank	Cammi-Joe-Mark H S A	\$300.00 ea	\$ 900.00
Bock's	Truck Gas		\$ 88.22
Innovative Office	Chair-office supplies	Inv#IN4739180	\$ 429.35
4 Seasons	Dan's Shirt	Inv#2339	\$ 56.00
Tree Order	Over paid tax	#37 Tree Orders	\$ 15.46
Mark Schaetzke	Mileage/meals	Voucher # 2025MS-1	\$ 43.57
Tree Order	overpaid-no chg	#71 Tree Orders	\$ 13.45
			\$ 1,546.05

NRCS Report:



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS Update

Waseca County SWCD Board Meeting
February 2025

EQIP Program Update

- 2 of the 8 applications that wanted funding have been preapproved for funding. (preapprovals can continue to be made until August)
- New Grain dryer standard will be coming out soon. Ranking period for grain dryers will be announced soon.

CSP Program Update

- Planning will start for CSP soon. Waseca County has 12 applications.

CRP

- No announcement for sign up yet.

Staffing Update

- DC vacancy was not filled in Waseca.
- Admin Assistant Julian Jones was hired in Mankato (covers Blue Earth, Faribault and Waseca counties)
- Soil Conservation Technician was hired in Blue Earth (covers Blue Earth, Faribault, and Waseca counties)
- Currently under a hiring freeze. Not sure when we will start hiring again.

Other

- NRCS will be replacing SWCD laptops. District staff were emailed with instructions about next steps.
 - State office is also working on streamlining the unfunded agreements between NRCS and SWCDs. So we might see something about that soon.
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Cammi's reports

- 2 news articles
 - news release about the clean water funds received
 - column highlighting upcoming hwy 14 event and tree sales
 - working on February column
- Outreach materials
 - Cohesive soil health brochure for Waseca County
 - Working with birds eye to get cover crop and reduced till info to growers
- Event/outreach planning
 - Hwy-14 event on February 18 – advertising, planning, and getting tabling materials ready
 - Planning “planting green” event for spring
 - Brainstorming ideas for county fair outreach
- Contract work
 - 2 no-till, 1 fishers and farmer, 1 cover crop/reduced till
- Assisted in submitting grant application for Minnesota Office of Soil Health Education grant
- Attending training and workshops

- Faribault SWCD winter farming event – Wells, MN
- Small Grain Market Workshop – Land Stewardship Project – Albert Lea
- Soil Management Summit – Mankato, MN
 - Successful “table talk” discussions in smaller settings
 - Potential disease on corn after planting rye as a cover crop and how to prevent it
 - MDA soil health equipment
 - Optimizing cover crop seed mixes depending on goals
 - Planting soybeans in high residue systems
 - Attended an interesting session on “How drainage and soil health work together” looking at a 40year study of tiled vs non-tiled fields
 - Drainage in poorly drained soil can heavily impact results of cover crops and/or reduced till
 - Good opportunities for networking with agency staff and farmers
 - Good mix of agency staff and farmers – I would guess that it was majority farmers
- Soil Management Summit – Mankato, MN – January 29th and 30th, 2025 – U of M
 - Day 1
 - Concurrent Session 1: Herbicide and Cover Crop Interactions; Dan Smith, UW and Liz Stahl; UMN
 - Concurrent Session 2: How Drainage and Soil Health Work Together
 - Concurrent Session 3: Beneath the Surface: Navigating soil/planter dynamics in high residue situations
 - Table Talk 1: Interseeding Cover Crops: The good, the bad, and the ugly
 - Table Talk 2: Pests to look out for when using cover crops and reduced tillage
 - Table Talk 3: Planting soybeans in high-residue systems
 - Day 2
 - Concurrent Session 4: 4R Nutrient Management in soil health systems
 - Table Talk 1: MDA Soil Health Equipment Grants
 - How to make your applications score higher
 - What makes an eligible item
 - Table Talk 2: How to select a cover crop mix for your operation
 - Overview and Highlights
 - Successful “table talk” discussions in smaller settings
 - Potential disease on corn after planting rye as a cover crop and how to prevent it
 - MDA soil health equipment
 - Optimizing cover crop seed mixes depending on goals
 - Planting soybeans in high residue systems
 - Attended an interesting session on “How drainage and soil health work together” looking at a 40year study of tiled vs non-tiled fields
 - Drainage in poorly drained soil can heavily impact results of cover crops and/or reduced till
 - Good opportunities for networking with agency staff and farmers
 - Good mix of agency staff and farmers – I would guess that it was majority farmers
 - What to take back to farmers
 - Better understanding on planting corn after cereal rye – will be more knowledgeable in supporting farmers if they choose to do this
 - Better able to support farmers in their cover crop mix plant method choices after attending sessions both on choosing cover crop seed and a talk about interseeding.

