



Watonwan Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors – Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 20, 2020

108 8th Street South, St. James, MN 56081

The Watonwan Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office in St. James, Minnesota on Monday, July 20, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Rich Enger at 8:31 am.

SWCD Members Present: Chairman, Rich Enger
Vice Chairman, Noren Durheim
Secretary, Steve Sodeman
PR & I, Bret Braaten
Treasurer, Jordan Bergeman (via phone)

Others Present: Land Management Director, David Haler
SWCD Assistant Manager & County Ditch Inspector, Chad Hildebrand
Solid Waste Administrator / Assistant Zoning Administrator, Kyla Schломann
County Commissioner, Ray Gustafson (via phone)
Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, Carrie Schultz
NRCS Conservationist, Karen Boysen (via phone)
Robert Vee
Tom Kunz

AGENDA

Motion by Braaten, second by Durheim to approve the July 20, 2020 amended agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call -yes), Braaten, Durheim, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Durheim, second by Braaten to approve the June 15, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durheim, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING

Treasurer’s Report: Haler discussed the expense report.

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Bills to Pay: Haler discussed the monthly bills to pay.

Motion by Bergeman, Second by Braaten to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$2,232.16.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Supervisor Per Diem: Supervisors Rich, Noren, Bret, and Steve presented meetings attended and turned in per diem sheets. Supervisor Jordan Bergeman will wait until next month due to attending meeting via phone.

Date	Meeting Attended	Rich Enger	Noren Durham	Bret Braaten	Steve Sodeman	Jordan Bergeman
3/16/2020	SWCD Monthly Meeting		X	X		
3/18/2020	1W1P Policy Meeting	X				
4/15/2020	1W1P Executive Meeting	X				
4/20/2020	SWCD Monthly Meeting	X	X	X	X	
5/8/2020	GBERBA Policy Meeting	X				
5/18/2020	SWCD Monthly Meeting	X	X	X	X	
5/20/2020	1W1P Policy Meeting	X				
6/15/2020	SWCD Monthly Meeting	X	X	X	X	
6/16/2020	TSA Meeting		X			
7/6/2020	SWCD District Technician Interviews	X				
7/10/2020	GBERBA Policy Meeting	X				
7/20/2020	SWCD Monthly Meeting	X	X	X	X	

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve supervisors per diems.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

BOARD REPORTS

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA): Supervisor Rich Enger gave an update.

MASWCD: No update.

County Water Plan: 60 Day comment period ends today, July 20, 2020.

South Central TSA: Supervisor Noren Durham gave an update.

Liaison Committee: New Technical Clerk has been hired and starts August 3, 2020. District Technician will be reposted due to the person turning down the offer and not having any other qualified applicants.

Commissioner Report: No update.

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve board reports.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

SWCD ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS ITEMS

Watowan SWCD Living Snowfence Easement: A lengthy discussion was had on whether or not we as an SWCD should allow a Living Snowfence Easement under contract to be canceled prior to the expiration date. The following will be adopted as the Watowan SWCD Living Snowfence Easement Policy. Living Snowfence Easement contracts will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis when a contract holder requests a cancellation. Upon approval of contract cancellation, the landowner will reimburse the Watowan Soil & Water Conservation District 10% of the total cost-share funds originally received.

Motion by Sodeman, second by Braaten to adopt the Watowan SWCD Living Snowfence Easement Policy.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Robert Vee – Living Snowfence Easement #83-19-00-97: Discussion regarding the living snowfence easement and the request by the landowner to have the contract cancelled. Provided maps, documentation for the SWCD Board to review. The total cost-share funds originally received was for a total of \$3,106.00.

Motion by Braaten, Second by Bergeman to terminate the Living Snowfence Easement #83-19-00-97 for Robert Vee on the basis that the building site to the North provides the same or better benefit as the living snowfence easement.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Tom Kunz – Living Snowfence Easement #83-19-00-102: Discussion regarding the living snowfence easement and the request by the landowner to have the contract cancelled. Provided maps, documentation for the SWCD Board to review. The total cost-share funds originally received was for a total amount of \$3,909.00.

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to terminate the Living Snowfence Easement #83-19-00-102 for Tom Kunz on the basis that it was improperly installed and is not appropriate to the function.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Watowan SWCD & Pheasants Forver, Inc. Local Partners Agreement: Discussion about the continued agreement term be extended from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve the local partnership agreement with Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

MAWQCP Contract Payments:

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve MAWQCP worksheet completion payment for Jason Wayne Smith in the amount of \$100.00.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve the MAWQCP worksheet and certification completion payment for Richard Enger in the amount of \$300.00.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, and Sodeman (Enger abstained from voting)

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Equipment & Technology Purchase Ideas: Discussed the purchase of various equipment with available funds. The Dew Drop Seed Drill is a 3-foot pull type seed drill capable of being pulled with a 4x4 or UTV and seed small seed and fluffy seed mixtures. Talking with landowners, the option of a smaller seeder will benefit well with our Great Plains 1006NT seed drill. The cost of the Dew Drop Seed Drill is \$7,925.00. Discussed potential purchases of an updated Trimble TSC7 handheld unit similar to the South Central TSA office is purchasing, a second Spatial Analyst license for the office, work phone upgrades and the purchase of a drone to help target conservation practices.

Motion by Sodeman, Second by Enger to purchase a Dew Drop Seed Drill for up to \$7,925.00.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

SWCD PROGRAM UPDATES & REPORTS

1W1P Update: No update.

FY2021 DNR Observation Wells: Schlomann gave an update.

Spring 2020 Seed Drill Project Update: Schlomann gave an update on the number of seedings done thus far.

FY18 Well Sealing Update: Schlomann gave an update on well sealings done and what remains to be spent.

Yearly Land Management / SWCD Insert Information: Schlomann gave information about the upcoming insert and asked the board to email staff with any ideas for articles.

Staff Agency Reports:

WCA LGU: No report.

Farm Bill Biologist: Verbal Report.

NRCS District Conservationist: Verbal Report.

District Technician: Written Report.

Seasonal Intern: Schlomann gave an update on what Chase has been working on.

BWSR: Written Report.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

August 12, 2020	ISG – Agricultural Drainage + Future of Water Quality Workshop (Mankato, MN)	Staff
August 17, 2020	SWCD Board Meeting (St. James, MN)	Staff, Supervisors

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve the meetings listed above.

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

Outstanding Conservationist 2020: Steve Sodeman talked about suggestions for 2020 Outstanding Conservationist for Watonwan County to be representative at the 2020 MASWCD Annual Convention. Steve suggested Taylor Swanson since he has converted to Strip-Till and cover crop practices on the ground he farms.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sodeman, second by Durham to adjourn at 10:51 am

Affirmative: Bergeman (roll call – yes), Braaten, Durham, Enger, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Next Regular SWCD Board Meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 8:30 am at the District Office.

District Supervisor

District Administrator