



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

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

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 Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Rich Enger at 1:32 pm.

SWCD Members Present: Chairman, Rich Enger
Vice Chairman, Noren Durheim
PR & I, Bret Braaten
Treasurer, Jordan Bergeman

Others Present: Land Management Director, Dave Haler
Solid Waste Administrator / Assistant Zoning Administrator, Kyla Schlomann
District Technician I, Laura Quiring
District Technician II, Jacob VanRywsyk
County Commissioner, Dillion Melheim

AGENDA

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve the January 18, 2022 amended agenda.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Bergeman, second by Braaten to approve the December 20, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING

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 \$80,316.70.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Supervisor Per Diem:

Date	Meeting Attended	Rich Enger	Noren Durham	Bret Braaten	Steve Sodeman	Jordan Bergeman
11/15/2021	November Monthly SWCD Mtg			X		

Motion by Bergeman, second by Durham to approve the Per Diems as presented.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

BOARD REPORTS

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA): No Report

MASWCD: Chairman’s Mtg will be February 2, 2022 in New Ulm

Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan: Application process is moving along. Hoping to submit in early March for Late March approval and April fund disbursement.

South Central TSA: No Report

Liaison Committee: No Report

Commissioner Report: JD 18 project has been approved

SWCD ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS ITEMS

2022 Local Work Group Meeting: Board agreed that we as staff can set a date and location and bring that information to the February meeting.

2022 SWCD Board Seats & Committees:

2021 Board Seats	New 2022 Board Seats
Chairman - Rich Enger	Chairman – Rich Enger
Vice Chairman - Noren Durham	Vice Chairman – Noren Durham
Secretary - Steve Sodeman	Secretary – Steve Sodeman
Treasurer - Jordan Bergeman	Treasurer – Jordan Bergeman
PR & I - Bret Braaten	PR & I – Bret Braaten
2021 Committees	New 2022 Committee Elections
County Liaison Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Enger Steve Sodeman 	County Liaison Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Enger Steve Sodeman
Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bret Braaten Jordan Bergeman 	Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bret Braaten Jordan Bergeman
Watonwan River Comprehensive Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Enger Noren Durham (1st Alternate) Steve Sodeman (2nd Alternate) 	Watonwan River Comprehensive Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Enger Noren Durham (1st Alternate) Steve Sodeman (2nd Alternate)
Annual Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Enger Steve Sodeman 	Annual Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Enger Steve Sodeman

<p style="text-align: center;">GBERBA Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Enger • Steve Sodeman 	<p style="text-align: center;">GBERBA Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Enger • Steve Sodeman
<p style="text-align: center;">South Central TSA Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noren Durham • Bret Braaten (1st Alternate) 	<p style="text-align: center;">South Central TSA Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noren Durham • Bret Braaten (1st Alternate)
<p style="text-align: center;">Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board 	<p style="text-align: center;">Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board
<p style="text-align: center;">Cost-Share</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cost-Share</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board
<p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Sodeman 	<p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Sodeman
<p style="text-align: center;">EQIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Bergeman • Steve Sodeman 	<p style="text-align: center;">EQIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Bergeman • Steve Sodeman
<p style="text-align: center;">Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board 	<p style="text-align: center;">Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board
<p style="text-align: center;">PR & I and Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Bergeman • Bret Braaten 	<p style="text-align: center;">PR & I and Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Bergeman • Bret Braaten
<p style="text-align: center;">Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board 	<p style="text-align: center;">Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board

Motion by Braaten, Second by Durham to approve board seats and committees remain the same is 2022 as they were in 2021 as listed above.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Mileage Reimbursement Rate = \$0.58 per mile for 2022:

Motion by Bergeman, second by Durham to approve the mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.58/mile for 2022.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Enger, Durham, and Sodeman

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Official Authorization of 2022:

Motion by Durham, second by Bergeman to approve the County being the financial authorization for 2022 with Madelia Times Messenger being the first and St. James Plaindealer being the second newspaper for the Watonwan SWCD in 2022.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Enger, and Durham

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Approval for Staff Signatory:

Motion by Bergeman, second by Braaten to approve Dave Haler and Carrie Schultz as the staff signatories for the BWSR Financial Reports.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Bergeman, second by Braaten to approve Dave Haler, Kyla Schломann, Carrie Schultz, and Laura Quiring as the staff signatories for Well Sealing Cost-Share.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Enger, second by Durham to approve Dave Haler, Carrie Schultz, and Laura Quiring as the staff signatories for Walk in Access (WIA).

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Bergeman, second by Braaten to approve Dave Haler, Carrie Schultz, and Laura Quiring as the staff signatories for Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM).

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

State Cost-Share rates in 2021:

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to approve well sealing cost share at the rate of 50% up to \$500 per well.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve tile intake cost share at a rate of \$500 per rock intake and \$200 per Hickenbottom remaining the same as it was in 2021.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

SWCD Voting Districts: Discussion of potential voting district and election change options was had by the board. At this time the board is not interested in taking any action towards making changes.

Handbook updates:

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve changing the meeting time and date to the second Tuesday of the month at 8:30 am starting in March.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, and Enger

Opposed: Durham

Motion carried

Motion by Bergeman, second by Braaten to approve staff making the noted changes to the handbook and supervisors will make final approval in February.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cancellation of Well Sealing Contracts:

- A.** Applicant: Leota Hall Trust
Contract: 19-LCG-AW-11
Estimate cost: \$1050.00
50% or \$400.00 cost share amount: \$400.00
Funding : FY19 Local Capacity Grant
Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

- B.** Applicant: Randy Romsdahl
Contract: 19-LCG-AW-05
Estimate cost: \$1125.00
50% or \$400.00 cost share amount: \$400.00
Funding : FY19 Local Capacity Grant
Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

- C.** Applicant: Hayden Fast
Contract: 19-LCG-AW-13
Estimate cost: \$850.00
50% or \$400.00 cost share amount: \$400.00
Funding : FY19 Local Capacity Grant
Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve cancelling the above contracts due to work not being done in time.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Approval of upcoming GBERBA Contract:

- A.** Applicant: Hayden Fast
Contract: WBIF-WW-21-83-01
Estimate cost: \$850.00
50% up to \$1000.00 cost share amount: \$425.00
Funding : WWIMP Grant 41
Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

- B.** Applicant: Leota Hall Trust
Contract: WBIF-WW-21-83-02
Estimate cost: \$1050.00
50% up to \$1000.00 cost share amount: \$525.00
Funding : WWIMP Grant 41
Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

- C.** Applicant: Randy Romsdahl
Contract: WBIF-WW-21-83-03
Estimate cost: \$1125.00
50% up to \$1000.00 cost share amount: \$562.50

Funding : WWIMP Grant 41

Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve the above GBERBA contracts.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cost-Share Payment Reimbursements:

A. Applicant: Robert Reihls

Contract: 21-LCG-01

Estimate cost: \$12,056.00

Actual cost: \$11,772.50

75% cost share: \$8,829.38

Funding: FY21 Local Capacity Grant

Practice: 638 Water Sediment Control Basin

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve final Cost-Share payment of \$8,829.38 to Robert Reihls for the 638 Water Sediment Control Basin project.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

B. Applicant: Lonnie Meier

Contract: 19-LCG-AW-10

Estimate cost: \$790.00

Actual cost: \$790.00

50% or \$400.00 cost share: \$395.00

Funding: FY19 Local Capacity Grant

Practice: 351 Well Decommissioning

Motion by Durheim, second by Bergeman to approve final Cost-Share payment of \$395.00 to Lonnie Meier for the 351 Well Decommissioning.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

SWCD PROGRAM UPDATES & REPORTS

Staff Agency Reports:

WCA LGU: Haler noted that Bucklin has submitted the 2021 annual report to the state.

Farm Bill Biologist: Vacant Position

NRCS District Conservationist: No Report

SWCD Assistant Manager: No Report

District Technician I: Verbal Report

District Technician II: No Report

BWSR: No Report

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

1/26/2022	GBERBA Tech	Staff & Rich
2/22/2022	Area VI MASWCD Chairman’s Meeting (New Ulm)	Rich
2/ /2022	February SWCD Meeting	Staff & Supervisors
2/11/2022	GBERBA Executive Meeting	
2/23/2022	GBERBA Tech	

Motion by Braaten, second by Bergeman to approve upcoming meetings.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Enger, second by Braaten to adjourn at 3:10pm.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Next Regular SWCD Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 8:30 am at the District Office.

District Supervisor

District Administrator