



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

Thursday, February 18, 2021

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 Thursday, February 18, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Rich Enger at 8:35 am.

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

Others Present: Land Management Director, Dave Haler
SWCD Assistant Manager & County Ditch Inspector, Chad Hildebrand
Solid Waste Administrator / Assistant Zoning Administrator, Kyla Schломann
District Technician, Laura Quiring
County Commissioner, Dillion Melheim
Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, Carrie Schultz (via phone)
Corey Sues

AGENDA

Motion by Braaten, second by Durheim to approve the February 18, 2021 agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Braaten, second by Durheim to approve the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING

Treasurer's Report: Haler discussed the expense report.

Motion by Braaten, second by Durheim to approve the treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durheim, and Enger

Opposed: None
Motion carried

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

Motion by Durham, Second by Braaten to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$5,292.93.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Supervisor Per Diem:

Date	Meeting Attended	Rich Enger	Noren Durham	Bret Braaten	Steve Sodeman	Jordan Bergeman
1/21/2021	January SWCD Board Meeting	X	X	X		
1/22/2021	GBERBA Policy Meeting	X				
2/12/2021	GBERBA Executive Meeting	X				
2/18/2021	February SWCD Board Meeting	X	X	X		

Motion by Braaten, Second by Durham to approve supervisors per diem.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

BOARD REPORTS

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA): Enger / Hildebrand gave an update.

MASWCD: No Report

Watowan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan: Application process is moving along and should be able to submit by the middle of March.

South Central TSA: Next meeting on 3/16/2021

Liaison Committee: No Report

Commissioner Report: Melheim reported on the JD 18 Improvement meeting.

SWCD ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS ITEMS

Corey Suess: Suess was present to discuss with the board his options for buying out a portion of RIM ground that he currently owns as he is hoping to build a house in that location. Discussion was held by the board members.

Equipment Purchases: Discussion was had on purchasing a drone and accessories to help with various aspects of our work.

Motion by Braaten, Second by Durham to approve spending up to \$4,000.00 on a drone and accessories.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cost Share Projects:

Motion by Braaten, Second by Durham to approve the following new cost share project.

Kurt Blomgren: 19-LCG-02

- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Total Project Estimate = \$11,010.00

- 75% Cost-Share Amount = **\$8,257.50**

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Braaten, Second by Durham to approve the following completed cost share project.

Mike Lynch: 19-LCG-01

- 3 Saturated Buffers (604)
- Total Project Cost = \$14,109.51
- 75% Cost-Share Amount = **\$10,582.13**

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion carried

MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP):

Motion by Durham, second by Braaten to approve the payment of \$100.00 for David Beck for application completion of the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Enger, and Durham

Opposed: None

Motion carried

SWCD PROGRAM UPDATES & REPORTS

Walk-In-Access: Hildebrand stated that the state is currently looking for 40-acre tracts with sign up opening in March 2021.

Tree Program: Quiring gave an update on current tree sales.

BWSR Road Wetland Replacement Program: Hildebrand gave an update and application opens February 22, 2021.

Local Work Group Meeting: Hildebrand gave an update on the upcoming trainings for LWG.

FY 2021 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant: Hildebrand gave an update on the funds awarded to us to help with noxious weed problems.

Staff Agency Reports:

WCA LGU: No Report from Bucklin.

Farm Bill Biologist: Verbal Report via phone

NRCS District Conservationist: No Report

SWCD Assistant Manager: Verbal Report

District Technician: Verbal Report

BWSR: No Report

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 24, 2021	GBERBA Technical Meeting	Staff
March 2, 2021	Emerald Ash Borer Field Workshop (Faribault, MN)	Staff
March 3, 2021	Local Work Group Training (1)	Staff
March 10, 2021	Local Work Group Training (2)	Staff

March 17, 2021	Local Work Group Training (3)	Staff
March 24, 2021	Local Work Group Training (4)	Staff
March 12, 2021	GBERBA Policy Meeting	Staff & Supervisors
March 16 - 18, 2021	BWSR – Wetland Restoration Training (Online)	Staff
March 16, 2021	South Central TSA Area 6 Meeting	Chad, Dave & Noren

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

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Braaten, second by Durham to adjourn at 9:53 am

Affirmative: Bergeman, Braaten, Durham, and Enger

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Next Regular SWCD Board Meeting will be on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 8:30 am at the District Office.

District Supervisor

District Administrator