

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 16th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #01-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by McWalter to approve the January 16th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, President
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

District Employees Present: Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Absent: Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman

REORGANIZATION FOR 2024:

Officers will as follow:

Chairman – Cournia
Vice Chairman - Peterson
Secretary – McWalter
Treasurer – Pester
PR&I – Sorenson

{Motion #02-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the West Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors positions for the year of 2024.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Representatives for 2024 will be as follows:

- Oversight Com/Personnel (2 members): McWalter, Peterson
- Equipment Committee (2 members): Sorenson, Pester
- RRVCSA/TSA Rep (1 member): Peterson, Alternate-Pester
Red River Valley Conservation Service Area/Technical Service Area
- Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan (1 member with alternate): McWalter, Alternate Peterson
- Wild Rice-Marsh One Watershed One Plan (1 member with alternate): Cournia, Alternate Sorenson
- Middle Snake-Tamarac Rivers One Watershed One Plan (1 member with alternate): Peterson; Alternate Pester
- Sand Hill River One Watershed One Plan (1 member with alternate): Cournia, Alternate Pester
- Area 1 Meeting (2 members): McWalter, Peterson, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson
- Budget Committee: Cournia and Pester

{Motion #03-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the West Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors committee representatives for 2024.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #04-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held December 21st, 2023.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #05-2024} The December financial reports were reviewed. Motion by and seconded by Sorenson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #06-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff reported the designation of bank accounts as of January 1, 2024, as follows:

Checking Accounts:	United Valley Bank	Acct. #XXX224
Savings Account:	United Valley Bank	Acct. #XXX569
Certificates of Deposits:	American Federal Bank	
	24 Month	Acct. #XXXXXXX6360
	Money Market	Acct. #XXXXXXX6310
Safe Deposit Boxes:	Bremer Bank	

{Motion #07-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the designation of bank accounts.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests a motion to approve the Board of Supervisors and District Manager the power to transact business at United Valley Bank, American Federal Bank and Bremer Bank of Crookston MN.

{Motion #08-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Board of Supervisors and District Manager the power to transact business at United Valley Bank, American Federal Bank and Bremer Bank of Crookston MN

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff is requesting approval for payment of the listed repair District Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
DF(LSF) 23-02	410	\$15,699.50	\$2,8000.00	NRCS

{Motion #09-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve amendment(s) for the listed District Funds Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Priority cost share practices for Conservation Contract funding shall be designated for the year 2024. Discussion.

1. Grade Stabilization/Soil Loss

2. Unused Well Sealing/\$5400.00 spending limit
3. Field and Farmstead Windbreak installation and maintenance (matting/tubes)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Staff request approval of the West Polk SWCD Cost Share Policy document.

{Motion #10-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the policy document.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval for the District Manager to have authority to sign governmental and non-governmental grant proposals and applications.

{Motion #11-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the district manager's authorization to sign grant proposals.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval for the District Manager to have authority to sign Board of Water and Soil Resources grant financial reports subject to audit.

{Motion #12-2023} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the district manager's authorization to sign grant financial reports subject to audit.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Motion to delegate District Manager to have signing authority for BWSR Grant Agreements. Grant agreements must be presented at the next board meeting.

{Motion #13-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to authorize District Manager to have signing authority for BWSR Grant Agreements. Grant agreements must be presented at the next board meeting.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Motion to approve the district staff to be authorized to approve and sign flat and percent rate cost share contracts for sealing decommissioned wells and cover crop establishment (WPSHIP).

{Motion #14-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to authorize District staff the capability to approve and sign cost share contracts.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

The district's 2024 insurance premiums from MN County Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) are due in the total amount of \$6,887.00.

{Motion #15-2023} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the payment to Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust in the amount of \$6,887.00.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff request approval to pay MASWCD 2024 dues in the amount of \$5,193.42.

{Motion #16-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve payment to MASWCD 2024 dues in the amount of \$5,193.42.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

The board discussed the designation of a district news publication.

{Motion #17-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to designate the Crookston Times as the official district news publication.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

IRS Mileage Rate is \$.67/mile. Effective January 1, 2024.

The board made the following motion to designate the day of the month, time of day and location of the monthly board meetings.

{Motion #18-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to designate the third Thursday of each month as the official board meeting day. The meetings shall start at 7:30 am and will be held at District office, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests a motion to approve the Local Match for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area for FY24 ESS/NPEA requirements in the amount of \$2,313.00.

{Motion #19-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Local Match for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area for FY24 ESS/NPEA requirements in the amount of \$2,313.00.

Affirmative: Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile HOLIDAY, Christmas,	Bernd
HOLIDAY, New Year's Day,	OFFICE CLOSED
BWSR North Regional Committee meeting, D.L.	OFFICE CLOSED
NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, Valley Tech Park	Bernd/Cournia
	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

HOLIDAY, Dr. Martin Luther King Day,	OFFICE CLOSED
Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference	Bernd
BWSR Board Meeting, virtual	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
West Polk SHIP Soil Health Workshop, Valley Tech Park	Torkelson

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P – request for supplemental funding was submitted in the amount of \$688,120.00. Part of the request is for a feasibility report on Polk County JD 60 for \$156,631; next Policy Committee meeting, Feb. 14, 2024
- SHR 1W1P – Bernd presenting the SHR 1W1P at the BWSR Board meeting, Jan. 24, 2024; next Steering Committee meeting, Jan. 25, 2024
- MSTR 1W1P – working on finalizing the project ranking sheet and the CCRP State Incentives; next Steering Committee, Feb. 7, 2024
- WRM 1W1P – request for supplemental funding was submitted in the amount of \$1,371,970.

Other:

Elink reporting
Newsletter
MNTWS Annual Meeting
Houston Ave

Habermehl

WCA:

- TEP: YTD
- BWSR WCA annual reporting due

- RLWD Permits: (4), Tax Forfeiture (19).
- Polk County Landfill: NOD w/conditions issued 03/22/2023. RNC mitigation, T/E takings pending. USACE meeting 07/12/2023, DNR meeting 07/13/2023. Monetary RNC and T/E compensation only (no easement). Re-write NOD w/conditions after Polk letter of intent. Telephone w/agent 10/27/2023, 12/12/2023- new bank, notice TEP.
- Nielsville bridge?
- WP 23-03 LaFave park EGF: Joint Application received 06/06/2023. On-site TEP 06/29, boundary/type NOD issued 07/06/2023, replacement plan application pending.

RIM: Lowell 15 into BWSR 01/2024 batching period; review training materials
ECWM/1W1P: well decommissioning (1). Reis 15 PW. Roome 01? North Pod training 03/06/2024. Investigate Angus 01 11/13/2023, survey spring. Engineering request Crookston 24, 18 sent/received. Received Fisher 35 (27, 34 pending) preliminary designs (WASCOB, drop) 12/06/2023 sent to client/telephone conversation meet w/engineers.

Other: update ArcPro/computer, mail Climatology packets 01/16, newsletter USPS, etc.

Torkelson

Tree Program:

- Receiving tree orders

Soil Health Incentive Program:

Winter 2024 Soil Health Panel Workshop Schedule

- Tuesday, January 29th 3-5 pm – Strip-Till
- Tuesday, February 20th 2-4 pm – Strip-Till and Local Research Projects
- Tuesday, March 12th 2-4 pm – Cover Crops

Scheduled to speak on KROX 1/31/2024 about the district's spring tree sale and soil health panels.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

No report.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for February 15th, 2024 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 15th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am by Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #20-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the February 15th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Absent:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #21-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held January 16th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #22-2024} The January financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #23-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

West Polk SWCD Wildlife Habitat Tree Planting Program cost share policy: Discussion

OLD BUSINESS

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

NEW BUSINESS

Staff request approval of the Sand Hill River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Implementation Agreement.

{Motion #24-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve Sand Hill River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Implementation Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests approval of the audit engagement letter for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. The audit fee will be \$4,500.00.

{Motion #25-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the audit engagement letter for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests a motion to approve West Polk SWCD as fiscal agent and coordinator for the Sand Hill River Watershed Based Implementation Funds. WBIF reimbursements must be approved by the West Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors prior to submittal.

{Motion #26-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve West Polk SWCD as fiscal agent and coordinator for the Sand Hill River Watershed Based Implementation Funds and that WBIF reimbursements need to be approved by the West Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors prior to submittal.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Polk County 2024 allocation

MN Department of Revenue: Notification of tax rate change

Policy Handbook revision/update – discussion

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

HOLIDAY, Dr. Martin Luther King Day,	OFFICE CLOSED
Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference	Bernd
BWSR Board Meeting, virtual	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
West Polk SHIP Soil Health Workshop, Valley Tech Park	Torkelson
SHR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd/Cournia
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD, Thief River Falls	Bernd/McWalter

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Polk County Board meeting, Crookston	Bernd
SWCD Supervisor Training, Crookston	Bernd
WPSHIP Panel Discussion, Bede Ballroom, UMC, Crookston	Staff
MNTWS Annual Meeting, Bemidji	Bernd
North POD meeting, Mahanomen	Staff
RRVSCA Board Meeting, Mahanomen	Peterson/Staff

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P – Received supplemental funds, \$457,509; Plan Assessment (5 yr); Plan update process and visioning; Plan amendment; 2024 Annual Plan; Planning regions and new data
- SHR 1W1P – BWSR approval Jan. 24, 2024; approved work plan for Watershed Based Implementation Funding; Implementation MOA; anticipated funds in April.
- MSTR 1W1P – CCRP incentives Policy; WBIF Supplemental Funds; project tracking; next PC meeting is March 13, 2024, in Warren.

Other:

Polk County Board meeting topics

Envirothon Sponsor Letters

Hwy 75 Soil Health Tour

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 02/15/2024

WCA:

- TEP: YTD
- BWSR WCA annual reporting due March

- RLWD Permits: (2), Tax Forfeiture (19, ½ complete)
- Polk County Landfill: NOD w/conditions issued 03/22/2023. RNC mitigation, T/E takings pending. USACE meeting 07/12/2023, DNR meeting 07/13/2023. Monetary RNC and T/E compensation only (no easement). Re-write NOD w/conditions after Polk letter of intent. Telephone w/agent 12/12/2023, 01/17/2024, 02/07/2024 emails- expected addendum.
- WP 23-03, 23-05, 24-01 LaFave park EGF: On-site TEP 06/29, boundary/type NOD issued 07/06/2023, No-Loss NOD issued 07/20/2024, Replacement Plan application received 01/29/2024. Replacement NOD issued 02/08/2024.
- WP 24-02 Crookston 16 Enbridge: Joint App. received 02/14/2024.

RIM: AMH signed BWSR JPA/work order (effective 02/2024), meet with (4) potential applicants (+NRCS/CRP), review training.

ECWM/1W1P:

- well decommissioning (3/\$900.00 = \$2700.00) +(1) new, Roome 01 (trash guard installed/reimbursement).
- North Pod training 03/06/2024.
- Investigate Angus 01+, survey this spring.
- Engineering request Crookston 24, 18 received/sent to engineers.
- Received Fisher 35, 34, 27 (Faugstad) preliminary designs (WASCOB, drop options) sent to client/telephone conversation meet w/engineers 02/22/2024.
- Received Fanny 04 (Radi) preliminary designs (flexamat), sent to client 02/14/2024, meet w/engineers.
- Received Kertsonville 27 (Engelstad) preliminary designs, send to client, meet w/engineers.

Other: WCA training 02/05, 02/06, h2o meeting, staff CCCS meeting, RRVCSA meeting 02/29 (maybe Teams) etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 2/15/2024

Tree Program:

- Planning windbreak plantings for spring 2024 – four deposits paid, seven more in the works
- 62 hand plant orders so far, 6474 trees reserved
- Drafted new policy to define West Polk Wildlife Habitat Tree Planting policy
 - New windbreaks/block plantings
 - Additional rows for existing windbreaks/woodlots
 - Hand plants to fill gaps/add understory to overmature windbreaks/woodland

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Hosting soil health discussions with panels of farmers, academics & industry
 - 1/29/24 Travis Ross, Bryan Boll, Andrew Johnstad, Jodi DeJong-Hughes, Dorian Gatchell
 - 2/20/24 Andrew Johnstad, Bryan Ryberg, Anna Cates, Todd Cymbaluk
 - 3/12/24 Craig LaPlante, Chad Knutson, Dan Aakre, Paul Wilder, Angie Peltier
- Planning Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour for summer, 2024 (7/9/2024)
- In the process of signing up two more fields for soil health incentive (for cover crops)

Outreach:

- Wrote newsletter articles:
 - WPSHIP, Buffer Reminder, Tree Program Update, Tree Species Highlights,
- KROX Valley Talk 1/31/24 – WPSHIP and tree program promo

Meetings/other:

- Session 4 of MASWCD Leadership Program in Alexandria – January 16, 17th

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

January/February 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- Fiscal year 24, sign up #1 deadline: Friday October 6th, 2023.
- Currently taking applications for sign up #2
 - No ranking deadline yet. (7 applications, so far)
- Sign up #1 (50%) fund allocation.
 - 20 applications ranked.
 - 4 Beginning Farmers, 1 Socially Disadvantaged, 3 Veteran Farmers
 - Obligations so far
 - High Tunnels (3 apps) – 100% funded.
 - Socially Disadvantaged (1 app) – 100% funded.
 - Pasture Pool (1 app) – 100% funded.
 - Cropland Pool (15 apps) – No obligations yet.
- More contracts will be obligated following the March fund assessment, STC Daniels is likely to request further funding for IRA related practices.

CSP (No Change)

- Classic sign up ended January 12, 2024
 - 10 applications
 - All screened high and will continue to rank/assessment.
- Crookston will have one eligible CSP renewal in FY24.

CRP

- Continuous sign up is open.
 - Month to month on length of sign up.

*Agency is currently funded through March 1st, 2024, by continuing resolution.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for March 21st, 2024 at 7:30 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 11th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 am by Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #27-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the April 11th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #28-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held February 15th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #29-2024} The March financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #30-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the February and March treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

Staff request approval of the West Polk SWCD Wildlife Habitat Tree Planting Program cost share policy.

{Motion #31-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the West Polk SWCD Wildlife Habitat Tree Planting Program cost share policy.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff is requesting approval for payment of the listed RLR1W1P Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
RLR1W1P-WP-22-01	410	\$16,000.00	\$14,030.23	Habermehl

{Motion #32-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve payment for RLR1W1P Cost Share Contract RLR1W1P-WP-22-01 in the amount of \$14,030.23.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Polk County Transit Sales tax
Property tax

NEW BUSINESS

CD – United Valley Bank

{Motion #33-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve 7-month CD.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the of the Minnesota Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) policy

{Motion #34-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Minnesota Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) policy.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff request a motion to approve a letter of support for the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District's Working Land Cover Crop Initiative.

{Motion #35-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Working Land Cover Crop Initiative.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NRBG Match Reimbursement invoice.

Staff request approval to purchase the older RRVCSA/TSA survey equipment, VRS System 3 in the amount of \$2,700.00.

{Motion #36-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the purchase of the VRS System 3 for \$2,700.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Envirothon meeting, Fertile	Bernd
WRM1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Ada	Bernd
WPSHIP Farmer Panel Discussion, Crookston	Torkelson
SHR1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
MSTR1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Warren	Bernd
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
SHR1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd/Cournia

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Polk County JD60 Landowner meeting, office	Bernd
RSDP Statewide Board meeting, New York Mills	Bernd
Envirothon, Rydell Refuge	Staff
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
MSTR1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P – Boundary amendment process; PRAP; JD60 landowner meeting
- SHR 1W1P – Submitted implementation workplan in eLINK; 50% (\$352,634.00) of the WBIF will be submitted to WPSWCD by the end of May.
- MSTR 1W1P – Project ranking sheet; cost share pooling agreement (CCRP).
- WRM 1W1P – FY25 WBIF grant workplan; next Policy Committee meeting Nov 25, 2024

Other:

- Well Aware NW MN Ground Water Initiative: Strategic Plan, established a Steering Committee and Advisory Committee; anticipate the first screening clinic this coming fall.
- Crookston Area Community Fund – Adam Parnow Memorial Inc. grant application awarded
- Envirothon Sponsorships

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 04/11/2024

WCA:

- TEP: YTD
- BWSR WCA annual reporting due March (complete/sent to BWSR 03/12/2024)
- RLWD Permits: (3 WCA), Tax Forfeiture (19 complete)
- Polk County Landfill: NOD w/conditions issued 03/22/2023. Monetary RNC and T/E compensation only (no easement). Addendum received 02/14/2024, TEP findings signed, (modified) NOD issued 03/27/2024.
- WP 24-02 Crookston 16 Enbridge: Joint App. received 02/14/2024, NOD issued 02/22/2024.
- WCA inquiries (x2) Crookston 15.

RIM: AMH signed BWSR JPA/work order (effective 02/2024), (4) potential applicants, met w/(2), (CRP), training, send application materials to BWSR.

ECWM/1W1P: CS 22-06 Schulz, Richard 351 (x3) \$200.00, CS 22-07 Knutson, Scott 351 900.00. 4 (new) outstanding well decommissioning inquiries. Met with engineers & Faugstad 02/22/2024 final designs, met with Radi 04/03/2024 preliminary design modifications, met with Engelstad 04/10/2024 preliminary design modifications, met with Perry 04/10/2024 preliminary design modifications.

Other: WCA training, load construction stakeout files to controller, field test GNSS unit 2024, ArcOnline reorganization, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 4/11/2024

Tree Program:

- Planning windbreak plantings for spring 2024 – 14 deposits paid, 1 PIF
- 118 hand plant orders so far - 12,754 trees reserved
- Drafted new policy to define West Polk Wildlife Habitat Tree Planting policy
 - New windbreaks/block plantings
 - Additional rows for existing windbreaks/woodlots

- Hand plants to fill gaps/add understory to overmature windbreaks/woodland
- Three wildlife habitat tree planting projects planned – one block planting, one corridor/field windbreak, one stand improvement

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Finished hosting three soil health panel discussions (1/29/24, 2/20/24 & 3/12/24)
- Planning Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour for July 9th, 2024)
- One incentive contract signed (2023), three more awaiting signatures (2024)

Outreach:

- KROX Valley Talk 1/31/24 – WPSHIP panel discussions and tree program promo
- KROX Valley Talk 3/7/24 – WPSHIP panel discussions and tree program promo
- KROX Valley Talk 4/19/24 – tree program promo and Hwy 75 Tour promo

Meetings/other:

- NW MN Ag BMP Loan Area meeting 3/20/24
- Wrote letter of support to NACD for Wash County Three Rivers SCD’s Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative (for Climate-Smart Commodities grant)

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

March/April 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- FY24 Applications Total: 20
 - 5 Funded so far (25%)
- More funds coming, Crookston FO should fund a few more applications before the end of FY24.

(NEW) 1W1P RCPP EQIP sign up announced.

Signup Number	Date	Activity
1	April 26, 2024	Application Deadline
1	May 24, 2024	Assessment and Ranking Deadline
1	May 28, 2024	Application Pre-Approvals
1	August 30, 2024	Contract Obligation

Priority points are awarded to the following practices. Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Prescribed Grazing (528), Farmstead Windbreak (380), Water & Sediment Control Basin (638), and Pasture/Hay Plantings (512).

Other practices are still eligible for this program, but do not receive priority points.

CSP:

Classic sign up ended January 12, 2024

- 10 Apps total, 5 will be ranked, two deferred, and two canceled.
- All screened high and will continue to rank/assessment.
- Assessment deadline is April 12th, we will begin preapproving applications shortly after.
- (No Change) Crookston will have one eligible CSP renewal in FY24.

CRP:

- Continuous sign up is open.
 - Month to month on length of sign up.
- General Sign Up Ended March 29th.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes
Conservation Brief
Conservation Views
Crookston Daily Times
MN Department of Labor
Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT
Shade Tree Advocate
Red Lake Watershed District
Polk County Board of Commissioners
BWSR
Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for May 16th, 2024, at 7:30 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 16th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, Cournia, McWalter, and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #37-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the May 16th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

NRCS District Conservationist, NRCS

Absent:

John Sorenson, PR & I

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #38-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held April 11th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #39-2024} The April financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #40-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the April treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff is requesting approval for payment of the listed WPSHIP Cover Crop Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Incentive Payment Amount	Technical Approval Authority
DF(LSF) 11	WPSHIP	1,600.00	1,600.00	Torkelson

{Motion #41-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve payment for the WPSHIP Cover Crop Contract in the amount of \$1,600.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff is requesting approval for payment of the listed State Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Approved Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-22-06	351	7,025.00	2,700.00	Habermehl

{Motion #42-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve payment for the State Cost Share Contract in the amount of \$2,700.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff is requesting approval for an amendment of the listed RLR1W1P Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Approved Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
RLR1W1P-WP-22-02	410	47,120.00	42,408.00	Habermehl

{Motion #43-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the amendment for the RLR1W1P Cost Share Contract of the approved project cost of \$47,120.00 and cost share of \$42,408.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Drill/Seeder: Pester

NEW BUSINESS

Notice of Office to be Filled at the 2024 State General Election. Candidates must file between 8:00 A.M., May 21, 2024, and ends at 5:00 P.M., June 4, 2024, with the Polk County Auditor Treasurer.

West Polk Districts 2-4-5

MASWCD Resolutions deadline for Area 1 is July 21, 2024.

Staff requests approval for the agreement for Soil Health Outreach Shared Services that defines responsibilities and obligation.

{Motion #44-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the Soil Health Outreach Shared Services agreement.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

MASWCD Legislative Update

RCPD Inquiry

MEETING REPORTS

Polk County JD60 Landowner meeting, office	Bernd
RSDP Statewide Board meeting, New York Mills	Bernd
Envirothon, Rydell Refuge	Staff
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
MSTR1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

HOLIDAY, Memorial Day. Office Closed	
MACDE State Managers meeting, Baxter	Bernd
Red River Basin Commission Sheyenne River Tour, Fargo	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams (MT)	Bernd
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, MT	Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P – Next Policy Committee meeting June 12th, 2024, at the RLWD
- SHR 1W1P – FY2024 Sand Hill River Watershed Based Implementation Fund request for funding has been approved and the workplan for funding has been completed and submitted.
- MSTR 1W1P – established a cost share pooling agreement that needs approval along with a CRP incentive policy; next meeting 5/16/2024

Other:

- Highway 75 Tour: Soil Health Field Days Joint Powers Agreement, Area Technical Training Team
- BWSR HELP grant application: Agassiz Audubon Society
- Northwest Research and Outreach Center Crops and Soils Day
- BWSR Phase II Soil Health grant

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 05/16/2024

WCA:

- TEP: YTD
- RLWD Permits: (7 WCA), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Angus 01: WCA analysis, site visit

RIM: (3 or 4) potential applicants, training, schedule landowner meeting, send application materials to BWSR.

ECWM/1W1P: CS 22-06 Schulz, Richard 351 (x3) \$2700.00 payment, CS 22-07 Knutson, Scott 351 900.00. 5 (new) outstanding well decommissioning inquiries. Met with engineers & Faugstad 02/22/2024 final designs, met with Radi 04/03/2024 preliminary design modifications, sent plans to DNR (PW), met with Engelstad 04/10/2024 preliminary design modifications, schedule resource meeting, met with Perry 04/10/2024, 05/15/2024 preliminary design modifications. Michaelson, Crookston 18, 24 survey, Samuelson, Andover 05 survey, Sorenson, Bygland 01 i/e, etc.

Other: MSTRWD buffer monitoring, WCA training, load construction stakeout files to controller, field test GNSS unit 2024, ArcOnline reorganization, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 5/16/2024

Tree Program:

- Planting trees – 6 machine plantings down, 8 to go
- 145 hand plant orders so far - 13,543 trees sold/reserved for planting

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Planning Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour for July 9th, 2024)

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

May 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- FY24 Applications Total: 20
 - Funded so far (25%)

- (NEW) MN has received an additional 22 million to spend in EQIP across the state, local offices are still waiting for preapproval notification. Crookston should get at a minimum 1 additional contract out of this new funding.

CSP:

- Classic sign up ended January 12, 2024
 - 10 Apps total, 5 will be ranked, two deferred, and two canceled.
 - (NEW) 1 Contract Preapproved so far, two are likely to be funded as more funding becomes available.
- (No Change) Crookston will have one eligible CSP renewal in FY24.

CRP:

- Continuous sign up is open.
 - Currently operation “batching periods” of three/four-week intervals

Misc.

- Soil Conservation Technician Jessica Tiedemann’s final day in the Crookston Field Office is Friday May 17th, she has accepted a position with the Compliance Team. We wish he best of luck moving forward!
- Team Lead Luther Newton will begin as acting Assistant State Conservationist for the Southeast Area in June, this is a 120-day assignment. The Team Lead role will also have an acting position, Field Office awaits notification of who will be taking that role.
- Pheasants Forever has a new biologist for the TRF position, no word on a start date currently

Submitted by,
 Zach Anderson
 District Conservationist
 Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	MCIT
Conservation Brief	Shade Tree Advocate
Conservation Views	Red Lake Watershed District
Crookston Daily Times	Polk County Board of Commissioners
MN Department of Labor	BWSR
Wild Rice Watershed District	Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for June 20th, 2024, at 7:30 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
 EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 20th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #45-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the June 17th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

District Employees Present: Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Absent: Christian Pester, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #46-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held May 16th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #47-2024} The May financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #48-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the May treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Area 1 Resolutions

Bernd requests approval for the FY24 BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grant Agreement for the Sand Hill River WBIF 2024 in the amount of \$705,267.00.

{Motion #49-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the FY24 BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grant Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests approval for the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and West Polk SWCD for the Soil Health Field Day (Hwy 75 Tour) July 9, 2024. Expenses will be reimbursed by the State, not to exceed, \$11,591.00

{Motion #50-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Peterson to approve the Joint Powers Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests approval for the Joint Implementation Agreement for the Middle-Snake-Tamarac CRP State Incentive Program through the MSTR 1W1P.

{Motion #51-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the Joint Implementation Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the Lakes Country Service Cooperative Services Agreement.

{Motion #52-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Cooperative Services Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

HOLIDAY, Memorial Day. Office Closed

MACDE State Managers meeting, Baxter

Bernd

Red River Basin Commission Sheyenne River Tour, Fargo

Bernd

MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams (MT)

Bernd

Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, MT

Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

MACDE Administration Conference, Baxter

Bernd

Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, MT

Bernd

Polk County JD 60 meeting, ZOOM

Bernd

HOLIDAY, 4th of July, Office Close

Hwy 75 Soil Health Tour, 7/8-7/12; Crookston 7/9

Staff/Supervisors

Polk County Fair, 7/10-7/14, Fertile

Staff

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P - Policy and Advisory Committee meeting June 12th, 2024, at the RLWD; updated planning regions; revised issue statements; project updates
- SHR 1W1P – FY2024 Share Hill River Watershed Based Implementation Fund was awarded 6/11/2024. Next Steering Committee meeting 7/9/2024.
- MSTR 1W1P – FY25 Budget worksheet and workplan;

Other:

- Highway 75 Tour: Soil Health Field Days Joint Powers Agreement, Area Technical Training Team
- BWSR HELP grant application: Agassiz Audubon Society
- BWSR Soil Health Program update

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 06/20/2024

WCA:

RLWD permits (4) RIM resolution Esther 22, Tax Forfeiture (0)

SHWD (1W1P?) Project 17: Houston Eng. to submit Joint App.

Belgium __: WCA inquiry (culvert, pond, etc.)

CCCS/1W1P:

Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (survey status inquiry), Bygland 01 Sorenson (sent request for engineering, I&E), Gentilly 14 Langlois (send request for engineering, I&E), Angus 15 Judowsky (request for engineering sent by Marshall SWCD).
Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (contractor?), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required/conversation w/engineer 06/18/2024/discussion), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad (SWCD policy?).

Other:

Engineering/Construction meeting with Lyle Wilkens, MSTRWD buffer monitoring/BufCAT, (2) new RIM inquires Hammond, Huntsville (current CRP-work w/PF employee)-acquire deed for Lowell 29, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 6/20/2024

Tree Program:

- Completed all 14 machine plantings (7 miles total)
- 145 hand plant orders - 13,568 trees sold/planted
- Helping landowners diagnose/mitigate “fungus weather” diseases

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Planning Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour for July 9th, 2024
 - Lining up vendors/help
 - Met with MN SHC and took soil samples for rainfall simulator 6/5/24

Outreach:

- 5/30/24 Arbor Day presentation for Highland Elementary 4th graders
- 6/21/24 Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour promo with WDAY Ag Director Bridgette Readel

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

June 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- FY24 Applications Total: 20
 - (New) 8 Funded so far (40%)
- (New) RLWD 1W1P RCPP: all applications from Crookston FO were funded.

CSP:

Classic sign up ended January 12, 2024

- 10 Apps total, 5 will be ranked, two deferred, and two canceled.
 - (NEW) 2 Contract Preapproved
- (No Change) Crookston will have one eligible CSP renewal in FY24.

CRP:

- Continuous sign up is open.
 - Currently operation “batching periods” of three/four-week intervals
- (New) General rankings have been released, 5 of 8 offers will be granted a contract.

Misc.

Nico Bennett is acting team for Crookston CST, he will hold this position for no longer than 120 days.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

Other:

West Polk SWCD SHIP policy/RCPP/rate per acre: Discussion

{Motion #50-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve board meeting time to 7:00am for the summer months.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

MCIT

Conservation Brief

Shade Tree Advocate

Conservation Views

Red Lake Watershed District

Crookston Daily Times

Polk County Board of Commissioners

MN Department of Labor

BWSR

Wild Rice Watershed District

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for July 18th, 2024 at 7:30 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JULY 18th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #53-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the July 18th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Brett Arne, BWSR Board Conservationist
Jared House, BWSR Soils Programming Coordinator

Absent:

Christian Pester, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #54-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held June 17th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #55-2024} The June financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #56-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the June treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff us requesting approval for the listed MSTR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
23-MSTR-WS-12	351	\$1,400.00	\$900.00	Habermehl

{Motion #57-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve MSTR1W1P contract 23-MSTR-WS-12 payment in the amount of \$900.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

FY24-25 Natural Resource Block Grant/MOU Match

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget Request – Polk County Board meeting

Crookston Community Voice app

A request was received from the MSTRWD to inform them on planned projects with hydrologic impacts within the shared boundary of WPSWCD and MSTRWD.

Soil Health Programming Update - BWSR

2024 Legislative Summary - BWSR

MEETING REPORTS

MACDE Administration Conference, Baxter
 Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, MT
 Polk County JD 60 meeting, ZOOM
 HOLIDAY, 4th of July, Office Close
 Hwy 75 Soil Health Tour, 7/8-7/12; Crookston 7/9
 Polk County Fair, 7/10-7/14, Fertile

Bernd
 Bernd
 Bernd
 Staff/Supervisors
 Staff

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

RRVCSA Board Meeting, Mahnomon
BWSR Managers Meeting, Fertile
MSTR SC Meeting, Microsoft Teams
SHR SC Meeting, Fertile
County Board Meeting, Crookston

Staff/Supervisors
Bernd
Bernd
Bernd
Staff/Supervisors

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P – Met with Polk County Highway Dept., Red Lake County Environmental Services Officer and RLWD regarding feasibility study on JD 60; working with WPSWCD bookkeeper to finalize invoices with billable rate changes.
- SHR 1W1P – 50% of WBIF was received 6/11/2024. July Steering Committee (SC) meeting was cancelled. Planning grant is now expired and spent. Next SC meeting is August 13th; working with WPSWCD bookkeeper to finalize invoices with billable rate changes.
- MSTR 1W1P – July SC meeting was cancelled. Next SC meeting is August 7th; working with WPSWCD bookkeeper to finalize invoices with billable rate changes.
- WRM 1W1P - working with WPSWCD bookkeeper to finalize invoices with billable rate changes.

Other:

- A HELP grant was submitted on behalf of the Agassiz Audubon Society Center. The requested amount is \$50,000. WPSWCD will manage the grant.
- A request for funding was submitted to the Clearwater WBIF planning group for the consideration of utilizing \$4,000 for 50 water test kits. These kits will be used for the free testing clinic planned this Oct through the NW MN Groundwater Initiative.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 07/18/2024

WCA:

- WCA 2024 Statute training 07/22/2024
- RLWD permits (8), RIM resolution Esther 22, Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Belgium __: WCA inquiry (culvert, pond, etc.)
- Rhinehart 24: WCA (ditch) inquiry
- WP WCA 24-03 SHWD Project 17 Joint App. Received 07/11/2024
- Polk County landfill expansion: DNR permit received (from applicant) & BWSR wetland credit withdrawal. Conversation w/Polk Environmental Services Admin.

CCCS/1W1P:

- WP 23-01 Dufault, David 351 \$878.00 (new), WP 22-07 Knutson, Scott 351 \$1475.00 (old/proceed).
- Angus 01: conversation w/MSTRWD manager- WP CS policy, etc. Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (survey status inquiry), Bygland 01 Sorenson (sent request for engineering, I&E), Gentilly 14 Langlois (send request for engineering, I&E), Angus 15 Judovsky (request for engineering sent by Marshall SWCD).

- Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (contractor?), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required/conversation w/engineer 06/18/2024/discussion), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad (SWCD policy?)- BWSR policy (neutral) no contract/no CS materials.

Other:

Soil loss reduction calculations Roome 01, Hammond 01. Vehicle maintenance x3. MSTRWD buffer monitoring/BufCAT, (2) new RIM inquires Hammond, Huntsville (current CRP-work w/PF employee), UMC event 07/09, etc.

Torkelson

No report.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

July 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- (NEW) End of sign up for applications to be considered in FY25 will be September 6th.
- FY24 Applications Total: 20
 - 8 Funded so far (40%)
- RLWD 1W1P RCPP: all applications from Crookston FO were funded.

CSP:

Classic sign-up ended January 12, 2024

- 10 Apps total, 5 will be ranked, two deferred, and two canceled.
 - 2 Contract Preapproved
- (No Change) Crookston will have one eligible CSP renewal in FY24.

CRP:

- Continuous sign up is open.
 - Currently operation “batching periods” of three/four-week intervals
- General rankings have been released, 5 of 8 offers will be granted a contract.
- Held status review training day for PF & Pennington SWCD staff members.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

Other:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for August 15th, 2024, at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #58-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the August 18th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I
Christian Pester, Treasurer

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician

Others Present:

Chris Bernd

Absent:

Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #59-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held July 18th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #60-2024} The July financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #61-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the July treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff is requesting approval for payment of the listed Conservation Contracts contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CC-24-03	380	\$2,270.00	\$1,703.00	Torkelson

{Motion #62-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve Conservation Contracts contract CC-24-03 payment in the amount of \$1,703.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

FY24-25 Natural Resource Block Grant/MOU Match correspondence

District staff is requesting approval for the West Polk SWCD Cost Share Policy updates as presented.

{Motion #63-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve updates to the West Polk SWCD Cost Share Program Policy.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

2025 Budget Request – Polk County Board meeting 8/20/2024

NEW BUSINESS

West Polk SWCD District Board of Supervisors Resolution West Polk #2024-1

{Motion #64-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve Resolution West Polk #2024-1.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District staff is requesting approval for the FY2025 BWSR Soil Health Delivery Grant in the amount of \$150,000.

{Motion #65-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the FY2025 BWSR Soil Health Delivery Grant in the amount of \$150,000.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

RRVCSA Board Meeting, Mahanomen	Staff/Supervisors
BWSR Managers Meeting, Fertile	Bernd
MSTR SC Meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
SHR SC Meeting, Fertile	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Polk County Board meeting, Crookston	Staff/Supervisors
HOLIDAY, Labor Day, OFFICE CLOSED	
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Warren, Tentative	Bernd/Peterson

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: Submit time invoices on a quarterly basis; project invoices submit as needed; WPSWCD will approve invoices at their monthly board meetings; Project requests; cost share contacts; do not create a cost share policy, each district use their own; Google Drive; no Steering Committee meeting scheduled; tentative Policy Committee meeting in November
- MSTR 1W1P: 2023 WBIF Financials/Timeline (Grant Expires 12/31/25) (Progress Report Attached); County Ditch 45 Feasibility Study; State Ditch 3 Stabilization Project; Swift Coulee/RIM Update; 2025 WBIF Proposed Workplan (\$1,620,713); next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for September 4th.

Other:

NW MN GWI: first free testing clinic will be held this coming mid-October-early November at the community center in Mentor MN. \$4000.00 was secured (through reimbursement) from the Clearwater 1W1P for 50 test kits; Request has been submitted to MDA for a nitrate testing machine to have available at the clinic;

Working Lands Initiative with Walsh County SCD; 3-yr grant/commitment; \$9,000/yr will be allocated to WPSWCD as a sub-awardee for admin/technical time; Target for West Polk is 900 acres (1.5 sections), 40 acres min; total of \$4.25 mil of cost share to producers throughout the entire 5 county area. Counties are Cass, West Polk, Walsh, Grand Forks and Kittson.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 08/15/2024

WCA:

- WCA 2024 Statute training 07/22/2024
- RLWD permits (14), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Belgium __: WCA inquiry (culvert, pond, etc.)
- Rhinehart 24: WCA (ditch) inquiry
- WP WCA 24-03 SHWD Project 17 Joint App. Received 07/11/2024. NOA issued 07/24/2024.
- Crookston __: delineation concurrence inquiry Houston eng.

CCCS/1W1P:

- WP 23-01 Dufault, David 351 \$878.00 (signed, proceed), WP 22-07 Knutson, Scott 351 \$1475.00 (proceed).
- Angus 01: conversation w/MSTRWD manager- WP CS policy, etc. Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (survey status inquiry), Bygland 01 Sorenson (sent request for engineering, I&E), Gentilly 14 Langlois (conversation w/North Pod/request for engineering, I&E), Angus 15 Judovsky (conversation Marshall SWCD; status check 08/13).
- Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (contractor?), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad (SWCD policy?)

Other:

Soil loss reduction calculations x3. MSTRWD buffer monitoring/BufCAT, RIM monitoring 2024, (2) RIM inquires Hammond, Huntsville (conversation RLWD), new RIM rules templates, RIM application Lowell 29.

Torkelson

No report.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

August 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- **(NEW)** End of sign up for applications to be considered in FY25 will be September 6th.
- All FY24 contracts have been obligated.
- Pre-planning for FY25 sign up has begun.

CSP:

- All FY24 contracts have been obligated.

CRP:

- Training PF staff on conservation contract requirements and processes.
- Non-Emergency Haying and Grazing interest has been substantial.

Misc.:

- NRCS State Soil Health Specialist and Area Point of Contacts will be conducting Soil Health Assessment training for NRCS and Partner staff in late September in the Crookston area, and early October in the Glenwood & Park Rapids area.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

8/14/24

Other:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for September 19th, 2024, at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 19th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Cournia, Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #66-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the August 18th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I
Christian Pester, Treasurer

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Travis Nelson, RLC SWCD District Technician
Gabe Olson, RLC SWCD Soil Health Outreach Technician

Absent:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #67-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held August 15th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #68-2024} The August financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #69-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the August treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff us requesting approval for payment of the listed MSTR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
23-MSTR-WS-12	351	\$1,400.00	\$900.00	Habermehl

{Motion #70-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve MSTR1W1P contract 23-MSTR-WS-12 payment in the amount of \$900.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff is requesting approval for the listed MSTR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
23-MSTR-WS-15	351	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	Habermehl

{Motion #71-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve MSTR1W1P Cost Share contract 23-MSTR-WS-15 in the amount of \$900.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Polk County Board meeting, 9/17/2024, Sorenson report

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING REPORTS

Polk County Board meeting, Crookston	Staff/Supervisors
HOLIDAY, Labor Day, OFFICE CLOSED	
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Warren, Tentative	Bernd/Peterson

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

FDRWG Communication meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
Northwest Minnesota Water Festival, Warren and Fertile, MN	Staff
Cover Crop Initiative meeting, ZOOM	Staff
Facilitation Training, ZOOM	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Thief River Falls	Bernd/McWalter
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
BWSR Academy, Cragun's Resort Brainerd	Staff

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: Completed an expense tracker for each LGU for projects and time; percent and flat rate cost share contracts with vouchers; Steering Committee agreed to meet as needed; next Policy Committee meeting scheduled for 11/20/24.
- RLR 1W1P: completed funding table for the plan renewal amendment; working on draft priority issues and goals; updating project tracker; next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 10/9/2024. Second round of the BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant is \$100,000.00.
- MSTR 1W1P: Steering Committee was 9/2/2024. FY23 WBIF financials and timeline was discussed; Swift Coulee/RIM update; FY25 WBIF workplan (\$1,620,713). Policy Meeting was 9/11/2024. Motion was made to increase well sealing cost share to 90% up to \$1,250.00. Second round of the BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant is \$135,000.00.
- WRM 1W1P: Second round of the BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant is \$100,000.00.

Other:

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 09/19/2024

WCA:

- WCA 2024 Statute training
- RLWD permits (10), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- WP WCA 24-03 SHWD Project 17 Joint App. Received 07/11/2024. NOA issued 07/24/2024. NOD issued 09/03/2024.
- Polk landfill (north) expansion: Joint App. received 08/22/2024. NOA issued 09/11/2024 (complete), site visit 09/13/2024.
- Crookston __: delineation concurrence inquiry Houston eng. (follow up/no response).

CCCS/1W1P:

- well inquiry (1), irrigation inquiry
- Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (I&E), Bygland 01 Sorenson (I&E), Gentilly 14 Langlois (I&E), Angus 15 Judovsky (I&E, status check 08/13).
- Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (FO 09/13 + contacted DNR), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad (left phone message).

Other:

Crookston 03 inquiry, MSTRWD buffer monitoring/BufCAT, RIM monitoring 2024 (complete), RIM (BWSR meeting), new RIM rules/templates, RIM application Lowell 29.

Torkelson

Technician Report 9/19/2024

Tree Program:

- Ten machine plantings in the works so far
 - One wildlife habitat planting
 - One field windbreak
- Making site visits to plan plantings and assist with windbreak problems/maintenance
- Choosing species from area conservation nurseries
- Earning CEUs for ISA recertification

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Six cost-share contracts approved so far
 - One full-season multi-species planting for grazing (80ac.)
 - CC-24-04 \$3200.00
 - Five fall single-species plantings (380ac.)
 - SH-24-01 \$1600.00
 - SH-24-02 \$1600.00
 - SH-24-03 \$1200.00
 - SH-24-04 \$1600.00
 - SH-24-05 \$1600.00

Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative:

- Steering Committee meetings – 8/29, 9/30
- Talking with interested farmers to discuss their needs and questions
- Ready to begin outreach and applications after 9/30 meeting

Outreach/Other:

- Soil health training webinar 9/23
- Northwest MN Water Festival – 9/24 & 25
- In-field soil health training 9/26
- BWSR Academy – 10/29-31

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

September 2024 District Conservationist Report

9/16/24

EQIP:

- FY 24 Overview
 - 20 applications ranked, 8 funded (40%)
 - Obligation total: \$1,066,835.80

- FY25 Sign Up #1
 - Closed 9/6/24
 - 29 applications eligible to rank

CSP:

- FY24 Overview
 - 2 applications ranked, 100% funded
 - Obligation total: \$600,000

CRP

- No word on new sign up, will likely be waiting on Farm Bill.

Misc.

- Personnel changes
 - Luther Newton has accepted the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in the SE (Faribault, MN) effective 10/7/24.
 - Nico Bennett's acting stint as Team Lead will come to an end Oct. 4th. New details on Team Lead vacancy to be forthcoming.
 - Crookston FO will welcome a new Soil Conservationist 9/23/24.

Submitted by,
 Zach Anderson
 District Conservationist
 Crookston Field Office
 8/14/24
 Other:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes
 Conservation Brief
 Conservation Views
 Crookston Daily Times
 MN Department of Labor
 Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT
 Shade Tree Advocate
 Red Lake Watershed District:
 Polk County Board of Commissioners
 BWSR
 Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for October 17th, 2024, at 7:30 am.

With no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
 EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 24th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 am by Vice Chair Peterson, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #72-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the September 19th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I
Christian Pester, Treasurer

District Employees Present: Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician

Others Present: Taylor Leback, Farm Bill Biologist II

Absent: Chris Cournia, President
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #73-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held September 19th, 2024.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #74-2024} The September financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #75-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the September treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff are requesting approval for payment of the listed Conservation Contracts Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CC-24-04	327	\$1,622.00	\$500.00	Bernd

{Motion #76-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff are requesting approval for the listed RLR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
RLR1W1P-WP-24-01	410	\$70,401.00	\$63,361.00	Habermehl

{Motion #77-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

MOA Local Match (1/4) for the Farm Bill Biologist Position in the NW Area
{Motion #78-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve one fourth of the MOA Local Match in the amount of \$1,625.00.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff request a motion to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioners and West Polk SWCD, BWSR NRBG County Match reimbursement.

{Motion #79-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve Polk County Board of Commissioners and West Polk SWCD, BWSR NRBG County Match reimbursement

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NEW BUSINESS

Staff requests a motion to approve the Resolution to submit, Adopt and Implement the Wild Rice-Marsh Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan(CWMP/1W1P).

{Motion #80-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Wild Rice-Marsh Watershed CWMP (1W1P).

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests approval to pay BNSF Railway Company in the amount of \$3,251.00 for the leasing of the land for the tree shed.

{Motion #81-2023} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve payment to BNSF in the amount of \$3,251.00.

Affirmation: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MASWCD Resolutions

Vehicle purchase

Staff Evaluations

MEETING REPORTS

FDRWG Communication meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
Northwest Minnesota Water Festival, Warren and Fertile, MN	Staff
Cover Crop Initiative meeting, ZOOM	Staff
Facilitation Training, ZOOM	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Thief River Falls	Bernd
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative, Microsoft Teams	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Facilitation Training, ZOOM	Bernd
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
NW MN Sustainability Networking meeting, ZOOM	Bernd

Empowering Small Communities, meeting ZOOM
Cover Crop Initiative meeting, ZOOM
BWSR Academy, Cragun's Resort

Bernd
Staff
Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: East Polk SWCD has two projects (shoreline restoration and WASCOB) seeking SHR WBIF funding. Next Policy Committee meeting scheduled for 11/20/24.
- RLR 1W1P: PRAP performance review is completed. Survey will be sent out to the planning group and Policy Committee.

Other:

Farm Bill Biologist, Taylor Leback will be assisting WPSWCD to seek landowners who are eligible for the BWSR CCRP/CRP Incentive Program in the Red Lake River watershed.

WPSWCD has been invited to be a partner for the Empowering Small Communities, City of Crookston, Tree and Pollinator Planting Initiative.

Present to the UMC Feedlot Facilities class.

Assisting bookkeeper for 2023 Audit.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 10/24/2024

WCA:

- RLWD permits (14), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- WP WCA 24-03 SHWD Project 17 Joint App. Received 07/11/2024. NOA issued 07/24/2024. NOD issued 09/03/2024.
- Polk landfill (north) expansion: Joint App. received 08/22/2024. NOA issued 09/11/2024 (complete), site visit 09/13/2024. NOD issued 10/16/2024.
- Crookston Industrial Park (Andover 01): Joint Application received 10/14/2024.
- Hwy 75: (3) bridges, Joint Application received 10/09/2024.

CCCS/1W1P:

- well inquiries (2)
- Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed/landowner conversation 10/09/2024), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (I&E), Bygland 01 Sorenson (I&E), Gentilly 14 Langlois (I&E), Angus 15 Judovsky (I&E, status check 08/13).
- Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (FO 09/13 + contacted DNR), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad

Other:

MN DNR records assist, SHR1W1P GIS, RIM (BWSR training), new RIM rules/templates.

Torkelson

Technician Report 10/24/2024

Tree Program:

- Twelve machine plantings in the works so far
 - One wildlife habitat planting
 - One field windbreak
- Ordered trees 10/1
- Making site visits to plan plantings and assist with windbreak problems/maintenance
- Earning CEUs for ISA recertification

Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative:

- Invited Christina Bacon (teaches Grain and Livestock Marketing at UMC) to sit on advisory committee
- Steering Committee meeting – 10/21
- Helping put interested farmers and cattlemen in touch with each other for grazing partnerships
- Coordinating after-harvest meeting for farmers and cattlemen to discuss acreage, partnerships, infrastructure etc.

Outreach/Other:

- Invited to talk about SHIP and WLCCI at UofM Extension “Pasture Renovation and Cover Crops for Ruminant Nutrition” workshop 11/21

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

No report.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

Other:

Farm Bill Biologist

October 2024

Taylor Leback

Meetings/Trainings:

- August 15th NRCS NW All Employee Meeting
- August 21-22nd Private Land Summit
- September 10-12th Pheasants Forever All Staff Meeting
- September 17-18th AcrGIS Pro Training
- September 23-27th Pheasants Forever New Employee Orientation
- October 11th Aspen Parkland LTT Meeting

CRP:

- Wrote 37 CRP Plans for Marshall, Pennington, and West Polk
- 80 Status Reviews done for West Polk, Pennington, Marshall, and Kittson Counties

SWCD:

- Assisting Pennington and West Polk SWCD with BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant Program

Upcoming:

- BWSR Academy October 29-31st
- Assist Marshall County SWCD with Outreach

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for November 21, 2024, at 7:30 am.

With no further business, Vice Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21st, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:56 am by Vice Chairman Peterson, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #82-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the October 24th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
Christian Pester, Treasurer

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist
Luke Klawitter, NRCS Acting Team Lead

Absent:

Chris Cournia, President
John Sorenson, PR & I
Taylor Leback, Farm Bill Biologist II

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #83-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held October 24th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #84-2024} The October financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd is requesting approval to submit a reimbursement in the amount of \$85,670.82 to the Sand Hill River Watershed District. These expenses were accrued for implementation activities of the FY24 SHR Watershed Based Implementation Fund.

{Motion #85-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve reimbursement to the Sand Hill River Watershed District in the amount of \$85,670.82.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #86-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the Octobers treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff are requesting approval for payment of the listed State Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-22-07	351	\$1,185.00	\$900.00	Habermehl

{Motion #87-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the listed cost share contract(s).

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff us requesting approval for payment of the listed MSTR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
23-MSTR-WS-15	351	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	Habermehl

{Motion #88-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the listed cost share contract(s).

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Bernd is requesting approval of the management representation letter, adjusting entries and draft 2023 audit from Peterson Company Ltd.

{Motion #89-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the management representation letter, adjusting entries and draft 2023 audit from Peterson Company Ltd.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NEW BUSINESS

The Personnel committee presented their recommendations to the board for the following employee evaluations of District Manager and District Technicians.

Motion made by the Personnel Committee to approve 2025 wages of:

District Manager - \$38.00/hr., health tax fringe benefit - \$12,000/yr., totaling \$91,344/yr

District Technician 1 - \$31.00/hr., health tax fringe benefit - \$12,000/yr., totaling \$76,728/yr

District Technician 2 - \$29.75/hr., health tax fringe benefit - \$12,000/yr., totaling \$74,118/yr

{Motion #90-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the recommendation of 2025 wages.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FY24 BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant Program applicants:

(\$10/acre for 10 years)

WP-CCRP-24-01; 40.18 acres = \$4,081.00

WP-CCRP-24-02; 2.75 acres = \$275.00

Strip-till discussion

MEETING REPORTS

Facilitation Training, ZOOM

Bernd

Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative, Microsoft Teams

Bernd

NW MN Sustainability Networking meeting, ZOOM

Bernd

Empowering Small Communities, meeting ZOOM	Bernd
Cover Crop Initiative meeting, ZOOM	Staff
BWSR Academy, Cragun's Resort	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
HOLIDAY Veterans Day, OFFLICE CLOSED	
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Planning Group meeting, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
FDRWG Board meeting, Ada	Bernd
NRCS Conservation Planning/JAA training, Thief River Falls	Torkelson

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

NW Research and Outreach Center Advisory meeting, UMC	Bernd
Project Team Training, Red Lake Watershed District,	Bernd
HOLIDAY Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED Thurs.-Friday	
WRM 1W1P Policy Committee meeting	Bernd/Cournia
Well Aware NW Mn Groundwater Initiative meeting,	Bernd
MASWCD Convention, Bloomington	Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

RLR 1W1P – collecting funding information for the Red Lake River Baseline Funding Levels; Reconciliation of FY22 RLR WBIF is completed; Policy and Advisory Committee meeting December 18th at 1pm.

MSTR 1W1P – creating a platform to track and share plan implementation.

SHR 1W1P – will be sending a letter of invitation to the White Earth Tribe; each entity is to use a tracking system for time and projects; there will be a PTMApp and Pollution Control Estimator demonstration at the Feb. 2025 meeting; there will be a MS4 demonstration by HEI in December; next Policy meeting will be Feb. 2025.

Other:

Empowering Small Communities in MN-Crookston; Tree and Pollinator Initiative West Central Regional Water District
 Polk County Source Water Protection – MN Dept. of Health
 WPSWCD Policy Handbook review/update

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 11/21/2024

WCA:

- RLWD permits (10), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Polk landfill (north) expansion 24-04: Joint App. received 08/22/2024. NOA issued 09/11/2024 (complete), site visit 09/13/2024. NOD issued 10/16/2024.
- Crookston Industrial Park 24-05 (Andover 01): Joint Application received 10/14/2024. NOA issued 10/28/2024.
- Hwy 75: (3) bridges, Joint Application received 10/09/2024.
- Utilities exemption/USACE permit inquiry.

CCCS/1W1P:

well inquiries (2), new contract CCCS 24-05, payment CS 22-07
 Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed/landowner conversation 10/09/2024), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (I&E), Bygland 01 Sorenson (I&E,

surveyed 11/06/2024, Gentilly 14 Langlois (I&E, surveyed), Angus 15 Judovsky (I&E, status check 08/13).

Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (FO 09/13, contacted DNR, onsite contractor + engineer 11/13/2024), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad

Other:

MN DNR records assist, SHR1W1P GIS, RIM (BWSR training), ditching inquiries, ArcPro reset, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 11/21/2024

Tree Program:

- 14 machine plantings in the works so far
 - Three wildlife habitat plantings
 - One field windbreak
- Finalized order form and tree guide
- Taking payments for hand plant orders and machine plant deposits
- Earning CEUs for ISA recertification

Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative:

- Hosting landowner information/signup meeting – 11/26
- Helping put interested farmers and cattlemen in touch with each other for grazing partnerships

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Fall field checks on five (out of 6 total) contracts

Outreach/Other:

- Planner certification JAA training 11/20
- Invited to talk about SHIP and WLCCI at UofM Extension “Pasture Renovation and Cover Crops for Ruminant Nutrition” workshop 11/21
- KROX Valley Talk – tree program, WPSHIP, WLCCI 12/4
- Improving Restorations webinar
 - Restoring Oak Savannas 11/21
 - Soils and Restorations 12/5

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

October/November 2024 District Conservationist Report
11/20/24

EQIP:

- Payment Schedules and Practice Scenarios are available on MN NRCS website
- Office is starting to plan for FY25 applications
- FY25 Sign Up #1 ○ Closed 9/6/24
 - 29 applications eligible to rank

CSP:

- Crookston funded the single renewal application for FY25
- FY25 Sign Up #1 ○ Closed 11/15/2024
 - Five applications eligible to rank

CRP:

- No word on new sign up, will likely be waiting on Farm Bill.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

Other:

Farm Bill Biologist

November 2024

CRP/SWCD

- CRP Outreach in Mud River Watershed

Meetings/Trainings

- October 21st 590/595 Admin Technical Training
- October 29-31st BWSR Academy
- November 6th Pheasants Forever Meeting
- November 20th Planner Certification/ JAA Training

Upcoming

- November 22nd Pheasants Forever Meeting
- November 25th Successful Outreach Strategies Training

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for December 19th, 2024, at 8:00 am at the Irishman's Shanty, Crookston, MN.

With no further business, Vice Chair, Peterson adjourned the meeting at 9:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 19th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by Chairman Cournia, at Irishman's Shanty 1501 South Main Street, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: McWalter, Pester, Cournia and Peterson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #90-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the November 21st, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
Christian Pester, Treasurer

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent:

John Sorenson, PR & I
Taylor Leback, Farm Bill Biologist II

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #91-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held November 21st, 2024.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #92-2024} The November financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #93-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the Octobers treasurer's report.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff are requesting approval to cancel State Cost Share contract CS-22-08 in the amount of \$878.00.

{Motion #94-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the cancellation of State Cost Share contract CS-22-08 in the amount of \$878.00.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff are requesting approval to return State Cost Share funds to BWSR in the amount of \$3,350.70 for FY22 and \$13,414.00 for FY23.

{Motion #95-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the return of State Cost Share funds to BWSR in the amount of \$3,350.70 for FY22 and \$13,414.00 for FY23

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff are requesting approval for an amendment to the RLR1W1P Cost Share Contract RLR1W1P-WP-22-02 to change the contract expiration date from 12/31/2024 to 12/31/2025.

{Motion #43-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the amendment to the RLR1W1P Cost Share Contract RLR1W1P-WP-22-02 to change the contract expiration date from 12/31/2024 to 12/31/2025.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

MASWCD Resolutions from Annual Convention

Strip-till letter

Staff request approval for the purchase of a vehicle in the amount of \$53,870.00 from Brost Chevrolet, Crookston MN.

{Motion #96-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the purchase of a vehicle in the amount of \$53,870.00 from Brost Chevrolet, Crookston MN.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Polk County Board meeting agenda Dec. 17, 2024/NRBG Match MOU approved

NEW BUSINESS

Bernd requests approval to open a checking account at United Valley Bank, Crookston, MN, for the FY24 Sand Hill River Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant in the amount of \$352,633.50.

{Motion #96-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve opening a checking account at United Valley Bank, Crookston, MN, for the FY24 Sand Hill River Watershed Based Implementation in the amount of \$ \$ 352,633.50. The SWCD Board of Supervisors, C. Cournia, D. Peterson, E. McWalter, C. Pester, J. Sorenson and District Manager, N. Bernd will be listed on the signature card.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

NW Research and Outreach Center Advisory meeting, UMC	Bernd
Project Team Training, Red Lake Watershed District,	Bernd
HOLIDAY Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED Thurs.-Friday	
WRM 1W1P Policy Committee meeting	Bernd/Cournia
Well Aware NW Mn Groundwater Initiative meeting,	Bernd
MASWCD Convention, Bloomington	Bernd
SHR 1W1P MS4 training, virtual	Bernd
RLR 1W1P MS\$ training, virtual	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

HOLIDAY Christmas OFFICE CLOSED	
Red River Basin Conference, Moorhead	Bernd
Outreach Strategies, BWSR, training, virtual	Bernd
NRCS/BWSR RCPP meeting, virtual	Bernd/Torkelson
NRCS/SWCD Communication Pathway meeting, virtual	Bernd
Area Technical Team Training meeting, virtual	Bernd
Soil Management Summit, Mankato	Torkelson

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P – MS4 tracking tool training by HEI; Policy Committee meeting, 12/18/24 that covered 2022 financial report and mid-point grant amendment, 319 workplan and project updates. Contract RLR1W1P-WP-22-02, Andover 14-15-22 was presented for an amendment to the contract date.
- MSTR 1W1P – Steering Team Meeting was on 12/11/24; discussed 2023 WBIF Financials/Timeline (Grant Expires 12/31/25); Well Sealings Update; Ag Practices Update; Swift Coulee/RIM Update; County Ditch 45 Assessment; CCRP Incentives Program; 2025 WBIF; Next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 12/18/2024
- SHR 1W1P – Bernd is working on revamping the reimbursement invoices to align the activities in eLINK. MS4 tracking tool training by HEI; Next Steering Committee and Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 2025.

Other:

- Employee Aaron Habermehl recognition
- NRCS/SWCD Communication Pathway
- Training survey for local SWCD staff; District staff working with Red Lake County SWCD Soil Health Outreach Technician
- NRCS/SWCD Communication Pathways is a new local effort; NRCS Team Leads from Roseau and Crookston and SWCD Staff from West Polk and Kittson
- The final 2023 audit was sent to BWSR in November
- Bernd has reached out to those who received free water test kits to ask for their return by 12/31/2024 if they haven't been used.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 12/19/2024

WCA:

- RLWD permits (6)
- Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Crookston Industrial Park 24-05 (Andover 01): Joint Application received 10/14/2024. NOA issued 10/28/2024. NOD issued 12/11/2024.
- Hwy 75: (3) bridges, Joint Application received 10/09/2024 (LGRWRP).
- Utilities exemption/USACE permit inquiry. LGU responded (x2) 11/14, 12/16/2024.

CCCS/1W1P:

- well inquiries (3), new contract CCCS 24-05 Page 351 Gentilly 24
- payment CS 22-07 11/18/2024-
- **CANCEL CS 22-08 \$878.00 Dufault 351**, send cancellation letter.
- Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed/landowner conversation 10/09/2024)- designs received/sent to client 12/11/2024.
- Andover 05 Samuelson (I&E, surveyed)
- Crookston 27 Gasper (I&E, surveyed)
- Bygland 01 Sorenson (I&E, surveyed 11/06/2024)
- Gentilly 14 Langlois (I&E, surveyed),
- Angus 15 Judovsky (I&E, status check)

- Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (FO 09/13, contacted DNR, onsite contractor + engineer 11/13/2024) -S15 SWI install 11/18/2024- NRCS/client meeting 12/17/2024
- Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?)
- Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required)
- Eng. request sent 12/12/2024 Gentilly 05 sinkhole

Other:

volunteer climatology packets, MN DNR records assist, SHR1W1P GIS, RIM (BWSR training), RIM inquiries, ArcPro reset, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 12/19/2024

Tree Program:

- 14 machine plantings in the works so far
 - Two wildlife habitat plantings
 - One field windbreak
- Taking payments for hand plant orders and machine plant deposits

Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative:

- Helping put interested farmers and cattlemen in touch with each other for grazing partnerships
- Meeting with interested farmers to discuss options/plans

Outreach/Other:

- Hosted Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative farmer informational meeting 11/26
- Hosted Haney soil test informational session with Ray Archuleta 12/11
- ESMC meetings – advising committee about municipal ash tree replacement
- Writing articles for district newsletter
- NRCS basic cover crop training (recorded webinars)
- EPA webinar Integrated Pest Management for Oak Wilt, Oak Decline (ISA CEUs)

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

December 2024 District Conservationist Report

12/18/24

EQIP:

- General sign up #1 rank & assessment deadline is January 10th
 - 29 applications
- EQIP-CIC:
 - New fund pool
 - Red Lake Watershed only
 - Max 5-year contracts
 - Limited to cover crop, tillage practices, and livestock practices
 - RCPP #2888 1W1P “Red Lake Watershed”
 - 19 applications within priority area
 - 12 from Crookston

CSP:

- All renewal applications funded

- General sign up is closed for FY25
 - 5 applications in Crookston
 - Rank & assessment date typically in March

CRP:

- No talk of CRP sign up, likely awaiting a new farm bill.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

Other:

Farm Bill Biologist

CRP/SWCD:

- CRP Outreach in Mud River Watershed

Meetings/Trainings:

- November 22nd Pheasants Forever Meeting
- November 25th Successful Outreach Strategies Training

Upcoming:

- January 16th – 19th Minnesota Pheasants Forever State Convention

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for January 16th , 2025, at 8:00 am.

With no further business, Chair Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

EM\nb