

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 20st, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 am by Vice President Peterson, at the Carnegie Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston, MN and via conference call.

Roll Call: Peterson, Pester, and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #01-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the January 20st, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Motion to appoint Eric McWalter for West Polk SWCD Supervisor of District 1.

{Motion #02-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the appointing of Eric McWalter as West Polk SWCD Supervisor for District 1.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: 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: Luther Newton, NRCS Team Lead
Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Absent: Chris Cournia, Chairman

REORGANIZATION FOR 2022:

Officers will as follow:

Chairman – Cournia

Vice Chairman – Peterson

Secretary – McWalter

Treasurer – Pester
PR&I – Sorenson

{Motion #03-2021} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the West Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors positions for the year of 2022.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Representatives for 2022 will be as follows:

- Oversight Com/Personnel (2 members): Sorenson, 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
- Area 1 Meeting (2 members): McWalter, Peterson, Cournia, Pester and Sorenson
- Budget Committee: Cournia and Pester

{Motion #04-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the West Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors committee representatives for 2022.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #05-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held December 16th, 2021.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

The December financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Cournia to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #06-2021} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the treasurer's reports.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff reported the designation of bank accounts as of January 1, 2022 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 #07-2021} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the designation of bank accounts.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

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 #08-2022} Motion by Pester 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: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the 2022 District budget.

{Motion #09-2022} Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the 2022 District budget.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

Motion tabled.

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-20-07	410	6,000.00	4,500.00	Steinbrink
CS-21-05	410	7,500.00	4,627.80	Steinbrink

{Motion #10-2021} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve amendment(s) for the listed State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
BC-18-87	410	6,000.00	1,842.00	Steinbrink

{Motion #11-2021} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve amendment(s) for the listed Buffer Compliance Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Priority cost share practices for state cost money shall be designated for the year 2022. Discussion.

1. Grade Stabilization/Soil Loss
2. Unused Well Sealing/\$5000.00 spending limit
3. Field Windbreak installation and maintenance (matting/tubes)

OLD BUSINESS

Crookston USDA Service Center/West Polk SWCD - COVID update

MN Campaign Finance Board – due after Jan 1st, 2021, no later than Jan 25th, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

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

{Motion #12-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the district manager authorization to sign on grant proposals.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

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 #13-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the district manager authorization to sign grant financial reports subject to audit.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff request approval to pay MASWCD 2022 dues in the amount of \$4,065.63.

{Motion #14-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve payment to MASWCD 2022 dues in the amount of \$4,065.63.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

The District's 2022 insurance premiums from MN County Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) are due in the total amount of \$6,888.00.

{Motion #15-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the payment to Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust in the amount of \$6,888.00

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

IRS Mileage Rate for 2021 is \$.58.5/mile. Effective January 1, 2022.

Board discussed the designation of a district newspaper.

(Motion #16-2022) Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to designate the Crookston Times as the official district newspaper.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

{Motion #17-2021} 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 7:00am and will be held at the Carnegie Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston, MN and via conference call.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Habermehl requests approval for purchase of a ThinkPad T14 Gen 2 AMD (14") laptop in the amount up to \$1,300.00

{Motion #18-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the purchase of a ThinkPad T14 Gen 2 AMD (14") laptop in the amount of \$1,114.50.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

{Motion #19-2022} Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

Motion tabled.

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program.

{Motion #20-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program.

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

Polk County Board meeting	Staff
HOLIDAY, Christmas	OFFICE CLOSED
Ag BMP Low Interest Loan Program, ZOOM	Bernd
WRM 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Ada	Bernd
Locally Led Conservation Ed meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
MACDE Annual Meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
GRLTT CIMSA Meeting, MicTeam	Bernd
SWCD/Watershed District, MicTeams	Bernd
HOLIDAY, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	OFFICE CLOSED
MPCA Grand Marais/Red Lake River Monitoring, WebEx	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Area 1 Planning meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
Area Technical Training Team meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Peterson/Staff
UMN Compaction Conference, ZOOM	Bernd
MACDE Board meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
TSA meeting, Mahnommen	Staff
Natural Resource Work Group, ZOOM	Bernd
NACD Annual Meeting, Orlando Florida	Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

Other:

Newsletter

Elink reporting

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 01/20/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 12/09/2021, 12/15/2021, Polk County: 12/21/2021, WCA County/SWCD delegation agreement and WCA County/SWCD supplemental funding MOU, Local Appeals Process YTD
- Climax Bridge: boundary/type concurrence Joint App. received 10/18/2021, site visit 10/20/2021, NOA issued 11/01/2021, NOD issued 12/01/2021
- CSAH 46 (LGRWRP): Application incomplete- sent LGU attach E 09/13/2021. Resolved (complete) sent 12/20/2021
- Retain on report:
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021
- Crookston 31: PCHS meeting 06/11/2021, bridge inspection/WCA analysis, PCHS Board address
- RLRCEP: EGF projects portfolio. (WP WCA LGU) delineations pending x3. Site visit 07/15/2021

- Epitome Energy: NOA, NOD issued, mitigation pending. AIC: infrastructure proceeding

ECWM/1W1P:

- 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries. PTM App training, NRCS watershed tool installation/training, RI1W1P .shp corridor(s) & boundary, BWSR erosion reduction calculation worksheets

Other:

Volunteer Climatology (complete), BWSR basic survey 01/10/2022, NACDE Director's meeting 01/13/2022, 01/21/2022, BWSR Hydrology training 01/18, 01/20/2022, outfit new computer, Arc Field Maps (tablet), WPSWCD Verizon phones, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 1/20/2022

Buffers:

- Using aerial imagery to check buffer compliance on public waters parcels
- Bringing BWSR Buffer and Soil Loss specialist back up to speed on West Polk buffer monitoring procedure

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to design windbreaks and wildlife plantings
- Taking orders for 2022 tree sale (\$7,661.13 in hand plant sales/reservations so far)
- Working with Jillian Fejszes, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Gary Wyatt (UofM Extension Forestry and Dan Shaw (BWSR Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist) to create a seed mix for windbreak ground cover (have species mix, waiting on price quotes from MNL)
- Using remote imagery and soil analysis to help landowners plan spring plantings

Meetings/other:

- 2/3 KROX radio interview promoting tree program (windbreak planning, species selection, wildlife value, tree sale procedure, machine planting, cost-share)
- 12/13 – 12/16 International Society of Arboriculture annual conference (finished, earned 12 CEUs)
- Prepared four articles for district newsletter (tree species highlights, windbreak longevity/rejuvenation, preparing for tree drought stress, and buffer monitoring)

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

January 2022

Conservation Stewardship Program:

- Currently completing obligations for FY22 renewal applications.
- FY 22 general (Classic) application acceptance deadline – February 4
- Chief lifted the 2-year cooling off period under policy. Awaiting guidance on how to proceed.
- Working to complete FY 21 payments on active contracts.
- Completed CSP modification workload within the team.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program:

- Working with team to generate local ranking questions for FY 22 signup.
- Assessment and ranking deadline for FY 22 applications – March 4, 2022
- McIntosh – 33 applications

- Crookston – 30 applications

Other:

- SINEW employees accepted another position
- Hired new DC for McIntosh, February 28, 2022 start date
- Lance Smith selected for NW ASCFO – effective January 16
- No civil Rights Emphasis in January

Meetings and activities:

- Board Meetings – East Polk, Mahnomen
- Interviewed applicants for McIntosh, Alexandria
- Weekly Conservation Service Team Meetings

Upcoming meetings, trainings etc.:

- Board Meetings - Pennington, West Polk, Red Lake
- Clearwater River Advisory committee – January 26

Respectfully submitted,
Luther Newton IV
NRCS Acting Team Lead

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Other:

January 2022 Report
Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 12/9- Glacial Ridge Prairie Core CISMA Meeting- Teams
- 12/9- Prairie Reconstruction Initiative Virtual Field Day
- 12/15- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 12/16- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 12/24-1/2- Off for Holidays and Vacation
- 1/10- Pennington WRAC Meeting
- 1/12- Glacial Ridge Prairie Core CISMA Meeting- Teams

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 1 landowner
- Completed 2 eligibilities for West Polk and Pennington CRP
- Visited 2 sites for CRP status reviews
- Completed 3 CRP conservation plans- 2 for West Polk and 1 for Marshall
- Completed 117 status reviews for Marshall CRP expiring in 2022. Completed 19 for Pennington, will be completing 21 for West Polk soon.
- Completed 3 courses in AgLearn
- Looking into interseeding methods for mid contract management

- Looking into forbs/legumes to plant between tree rows for Morgan (West Polk staff) gave him guidance based on what I see growing frequently in CRP plantings
- Looking into some areas to target for Pennington CRP outreach, landowners to contact
- Getting some PowerPoint slides and information together on the Bugge CRP diversity seeding that was planted in 2017 for a presentation on private lands projects at the Pheasants Forever state convention.
- Got the 2023 expiring CRP from FSA, will be looking into that in the coming months to prepare for site visits this summer.
- Have around 160 eligibilities to complete for Marshall to check on hydric soils for CRP expiring this year.

Upcoming:

- 1/19- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 1/20- West Polk SWCD and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 1/28-29- Pheasants Forever State Convention- St Cloud

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

The next meeting was scheduled for February 17th , 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Vice Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 4th, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 am by Chairman Cournia at the Carnegie Library and/or conference call.

Roll Call: Peterson, Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #21-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Peterson to approve the February 4th, 2022 special meeting agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

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

District Employees Present:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

MOU with the Polk County Board of Commissioners and West Polk SWCD for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program. Discussion

MOU with Polk County Board of Commissioners and West Polk SWCD for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match. Discussion

Wetland Conservation Act Resolution of Delegation. Discussion

Local Water Management Resolution of Delegation. Discussion

With no further business, Cournia adjourned the meeting at 7:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Pester, Treasurer/Secretary
cp/nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 17th , 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 am by Chairman Cournia, at the Carnegie Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston, MN and via conference call.

Roll Call: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #22-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the February 17th, 2022 agenda with additions.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed:

Motion:

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
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: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Absent: Luther Newton, NRCS Team Lead

Motion to withdraw Motion #20-2022 from the January 20th board meeting.

{Motion #23-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to withdraw motion #20-2022 from the January 20th board meeting.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #24-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held January 20th , 2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

{Motion #25-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the special board meeting held February 4th , 2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the updated 2022 District budget.

{Motion #26-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the updated 2022 District budget.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIAL REPORT:

{Motion #27-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the financial reports.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #28-2021} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the treasurer's reports.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

{Motion #29-2022} Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

Motion tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

MASWCD advocating for SWCD funding as a standing, statutory, general fund appropriation through the Department of Revenue to SWCD. Seeking \$22 million per year for SWCD Aid, which would replace Clean Water Funds as the source of SWCD Capacity Funds going forward, and which would be at a funding level that gets us closer to meeting our chronically unmet funding needs. Governor Walz has included this in his supplemental budget recommendations.

Bernd requests motion to approve the received audit engagement letter for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 from Peterson Company LTD. The year-end audit fee will be \$3,250. The increase in fees is due to continued growth in grant tracking and cost of living increases,

{Motion #30-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the audit engagement letter from Peterson Company LTD in the cost of audit services in the amount of \$3,250.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

Area 1 Planning meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
Area Technical Training Team meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Staff
UMN Compaction Conference, facilitator, ZOOM	Bernd
MACDE Board meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
TSA meeting, Mahnomen	Staff
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
MASWCD Webinar: SWCD Aid, ZOOM	Staff
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
NACD Annual Meeting, Orlando Florida	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Policy/Advisory Committee meeting, Warren	Staff

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

FY23 SWCD Capacity Discussion w/BWSR, ZOOM	Bernd
NACDE Winter Meeting, MicTeams	Staff
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Area 1 NW Cover Crops/Soil Health meeting, Mahnomen	Staff
TSA Board Meeting, Mahnomen	Staff/Peterson
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
Area 1 Meeting, Mahnomen	Supervisors/Staff

Sorenson entered the meeting at 7:42am.

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

MSTR 1W1P: Reviewed Action Table and Implementation Section; Review results of PTMApp Implementation Scenario; Implementation Programs and Plan Administration ; Discuss placeholder items to complete plan section; Approve for Advisory Committee review. Next Policy and Advisory Committee meeting is Feb. 16th at the Warren Courthouse.

SHR 1W1P: Steering Committee meeting; wrapping up MOA, once completed, a meeting needs to be scheduled with the Steering Committee and selected members of the Policy Committee: Homework assigned to start completing the SHR 1W1P workplan; Start discussing with your board appropriate members for the Advisory Committee.

Other:

Met with U of M Anna Cates, NWROC Lindsay Pease, Heidi Reitmeier and Mehmet Ozturk, American Crystal Sugar Todd Cymbaluk and Bruce Mayland to discuss contacting growers for "on-the farm" test plots for cover crops through a grant obtained by the U of M.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 02/17/2022

WCA:

- TEP: TBD, Polk County: 12/21/2021, WCA County/SWCD delegation agreement and WCA County/SWCD supplemental funding MOU, SWCD staff decision delegation, Local Appeals Process YTD
- WCA annual report completed 01/12/2022
- (9) Polk County Tax Forfeiture reviews
- Climax Bridge: boundary/type concurrence Joint App. received 10/18/2021, site visit 10/20/2021, NOA issued 11/01/2021, NOD issued 12/01/2021
- Retain on report:
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials expected

ECWM/1W1P:

- 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries. PTM App training, BWSR erosion reduction calculation worksheets

Other:

- MWPCP training 02/15, 02/16, Volunteer Climatology (complete), legislative briefing 02/10, NACDE Director's meeting 02/24//2022, outfit new computer (received from LCSC), Arc Field Maps (tablet), MSTRW 1W1P advisory 02/16, FY22 capacity, Grade Stabilization (BWSR) training, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 2/17/2022

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to design windbreaks and wildlife plantings
 - 1 hand plant field windbreak rejuvenation
 - 8 machine plantings planned so far
 - 2 machine plant field windbreaks
 - 5 machine plant farmstead windbreaks
 - 1 CSP wildlife habitat planting
- Using remote imagery and soil analysis to help landowners plan spring plantings
- Taking orders for 2022 tree sale (\$30,978.58 in hand plant sales/reservations **so far**)

<i>Year to date</i>	<i># Trees sold/reserved</i>	<i># Hand plant orders</i>	<i>Gross revenue</i>
2019	8653	62	\$19,164.14
2020	6106	62	\$14,211.85
2021	9815	70	\$19,273.89
2022	11391	115	\$30,978.58

Meetings/other:

- 2/2 Area 1 TSA meeting
- 2/3 KROX radio interview promoting tree program
- 2/14 Northern Area 1 TSA meeting

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

January 2022

Conservation Stewardship Program:

- FY 22 general (Classic) application acceptance deadline – February 4
- Working to complete FY 21 payments on active contracts.
- Completed CSP modification workload within the team.
- FY2023 Renewals – March 25, 2022 Application acceptance deadline

Environmental Quality Incentives Program:

- Assessment and ranking deadline for FY 22 applications – March 4, 2022
- McIntosh – 33 applications
- Crookston – 30 applications

Other:

- Hired new DC for McIntosh, March 28, 2022 start date
- Hired new DC for Crookston, April 11, 2022

February is Black History Month

Meetings and activities:

- Board Meetings – East Polk, West Polk
- Weekly Conservation Service Team Meetings
- Clearwater 1W1P
- Polk County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Upcoming meetings, trainings etc.

Board Meetings - Pennington, West Polk, Red Lake, East Polk

Respectfully submitted,

Luther Newton IV

NRCS Acting Team Lead

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Other:

February 2022 Report

Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 1/12- Glacial Ridge Prairie Core CISMA Meeting- Teams
- 1/20- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 1/27-29- PF State Convention- St Cloud
- 2/3- Pennington SWCD Planning Meeting
- 2/8- Pennington CWMA Meeting
- 2/10- Envirothon Meeting

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 8 landowners
- Visited 1 site for a CRP Status Review
- Completed 2 CRP Conservation Plans for Marshall
- Completed 119 eligibilities and hydric maps for Marshall CRP coming out this year
- Working on plan for interseeding for NW MN Foundation CRP mid contract management. Helping to gather information for a grant application due at the end of the month to help cover the costs. They are hoping to burn and interseed- not sure at this time if all 387 acres will be seeded- will have to be done over multiple years regardless due to the size.
- General CRP signup opened on 1/31 and closes 3/11. Looking at guidance for it as well as new soil rental rates. Called a few landowners who had been waiting for signup to open.
- Presented at PF State Convention on some of my habitat projects
- Watched Conservation Desktop training for CRP
- Completed application materials for a Pennington EQIP pollinator planting and planned it in CD
- Starting to work on planning another training day this summer- this one will be on wetland restorations at Glacial Ridge

Upcoming:

- 2/16- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 2/17- Pennington and West Polk SWCD Board Meeting
- 2/23- BWSR Filter Strip Training

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

The next meeting was scheduled for March 17th, 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 17th , 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 am by Chairman Cournia at the Carnegie Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston, MN and via conference call.

Roll Call: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #31-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the March 17th , 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary

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

Others Present: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Absent: Luther Newton, NRCS Team Lead
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
John Sorenson, PR & I

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #32-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held February 17th , 2022.

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #33-2022} The February financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #34-2022} The February Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-20-09	380	613.00	460.00	Torkelson

{Motion #35-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve payment for the listed District Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-22-01	380	1676.00	1257.00	Torkelson
CS-22-02	380	1375.00	1031.00	Torkelson

{Motion #36-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the listed District Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

{Motion #37-2022} Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

Motion tabled.

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program.

{Motion #38-2022} Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

Motion tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

FY18 Buffer Compliance Cost Share and FY19 SWCD Capacity grants are now undergoing reconciliation with BWSR.

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

FY23 SWCD Capacity Discussion w/BWSR, ZOOM	Bernd
NACDE Winter Meeting, MicTeams	Staff
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Area 1 NW Cover Crops/Soil Health meeting, Mahnomen	Staff
TSA Board Meeting, Mahnomen	Staff/Pester
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Area 1 Meeting, Mahnomen	McWalter/Staff

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

SWCD State Managers Meeting, Baxter	Bernd
WRM 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Ada	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Planning Group meeting, RLWD	Bernd
TSA Board Meeting, Mahnomen	Pester/Staff
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD	McWalter/Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

SHR 1W1P:

Staff requests motion for assign Supervisor Cournia as delegate for the SHR 1W1P Policy Committee and Supervisor Pester as alternate.

{Motion #39-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve Supervisor Cournia as delegate for the SHR 1W1P Policy Committee and Supervisor Pester as alternate.

Affirmative: Cournia, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Peterson joined the meeting at 7:32 am.

- SHR 1W1P has completed the needed MOA; currently working on the workplan, budget and timeline in order to send to BWSR and have the planning grant executed by May 1st.

RLR 1W1P:

- Planning Group met and discussed FY2020 funding, an update in the FY2022 funding; project updates; cost share policy, project tracking and preparation for Policy Committee meeting in April.
- RLWD, WPSWCD, Polk County Highway Dept and landowners met to discuss CD99. The County will be replacing the culvert under the road and the remaining of the ditch downstream will be restored/constructed. WPSWCD and RLWD will submit a Project Request to the RLR 1W1P Planning Group for funding consideration.

MSTR 1W1P:

- Implementation structure was discussed. The group would like to move forward as a collaboration instead of a Joint Powers entity.
- Policy Committee meeting, March 16th; committee approved Measurable Goals, Implementation Programs, and Plan Administration and Coordination sections of the plan. Next Policy Committee meeting will be April 20th, 2022, in Warren.

Other:

- The On-the-Farm-Trials meeting was held March 7th. Two landowners verbally agreed to partake in the trials. A second meeting has been scheduled April 11th, to encourage the other landowners to attend and to have more discussion and input.
- TSA: WPSWCD will be invoicing the RRVSCA TSA for the \$12,500 (FY2021); WPSWCD is part of the northern pod that contains 9 SWCDs. This pod has agreed to help cover(each SWCD) the short-fall predicated (~\$212,000/\$~24,000/SWCD) in order to cover the costs of an Engineer and Engineering Tech.
- Bernd has been elected President-elect for the MN Wildlife Society. Her duties are to organize the 2023 Annual Meeting; her goal is to incorporate more conservation awareness and education into the group.
- Staff is working a 2021 West Polk SWCD Annual Report. Completion is targeted for the end of April.

Bernd requests approval for sick leave the week of March 21st – 25th.

{Motion #40-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve sick leave for the week of March 21st – 25th.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Peterson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 03/17/2022

WCA:

- TEP: TBD, WCA County/SWCD delegation agreement and WCA County/SWCD supplemental funding MOU, SWCD staff decision delegation, Local Appeals Process
- BWSR WCA training (4) modules 03/03/2022
- RLWD Permits: (6), two WCA, one WCA/PW
- MEI Engineering/Wild Rice Electric Cooperative: WCA analysis (3) utilities projects
- RLRCEP: status review
- (9) Polk County Tax Forfeiture reviews (8) complete
- Retain on report:
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials expected
- Climax Bridge: boundary/type concurrence Joint App. received 10/18/2021, site visit 10/20/2021, NOA issued 11/01/2021, NOD issued 12/01/2021

ECWM/1W1P:

- 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries. 3 field windbreak CS forms

Other:

- NACDE Director's meeting 02/24//2022, MPCA climate adaptation 03/03/2022, outfit new computer (received from LCSC), Arc Field Maps (tablet) 03/07/2022, TSA 03/08/2022, Area meeting 03/15/2022, staff meeting 03/16/2022, RLR 1W1P advisory 03/21/2022, AIS 03/23/2022, public hearing 03/25/2022, Grade Stabilization (BWSR) training, WPSWCD annual report, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 3/17/2022

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to design windbreaks and wildlife plantings
 - 1 hand plant field windbreak rejuvenation
 - 11 machine plantings planned so far
 - 2 machine plant field windbreaks
 - 8 machine plant farmstead windbreaks
 - 1 CSP wildlife habitat planting
- Talked with Lionel Olson at NWROC about planting windbreaks in 19-Crookston (north of Fisher Ave.). Will meet with NWROC staff next week to discuss plan.
- Using remote imagery and soil analysis to help landowners plan spring plantings

- Taking orders for 2022 tree sale (\$33,887.36 in hand plant sales/reservations so far)

<i>Year to date</i>	<i># Trees sold/reserved</i>	<i># Hand plant orders</i>	<i>Gross revenue</i>
2019	10827	88	\$24,264.38
2020	6900	75	\$18,917.64
2021	11611	106	\$23,443.38
2022	12556	134	\$33,887.36

West Polk Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Talked to Kim Melton (Wilkin SWCD Technician) about how to start a cover crop program in West Polk.
 - Talk to farmers about interest, goals, concerns, risks... Find out what will work to make cover crops approachable. Get insight from crop consultants.
 - Pitch program to county and WD boards – show them interest from farmers, ask for program funding.
 - Sign farmers up for fall cover crop application. Stay flexible and make it work for them and their ground.
 - Get signed: seed tags, planting date, seeding rate. Spot check if needed. Pay.
 - Compile: # of fields, locations, acres, species and report to grantors at board meetings with handout summary.
 - Ask for more money? Grow program?
 - Demonstrate increasing interest to private sector funding sources and ask them for more money?

Meetings/other:

- 3/3 Cover Crops/Soil Health Roundtable
- 3/8 TSA Meeting
- 3/15 Area 1 Meeting

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

March 2022

Conservation Stewardship Program:

- FY2022 Classic – April 15, 2022 Assessment and Ranking Deadline
 - 14 High screened application in the Crookston CST
 - Non in Polk County
- FY2023 Renewals – March 25, 2022 Application acceptance deadline

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- FY2022 Applications – 59 Preapproved applications in the Crookston CST
- McIntosh – 10 applications preapproved
- Crookston – 3 applications preapproved

Other:

- DC for McIntosh, March 28, 2022 start date
- DC for Crookston, April 11, 2022
- Opening to public? – Unknown yet

March is Women's History Month

Meetings and activities:

- Board Meetings – East Polk, West Polk, Red Lake
- Weekly Conservation Service Team Meetings
- Building a Local Soil Health Workshop
- MASWCD Area 1 Meeting

Upcoming meetings, trainings etc.:

- Board Meetings – Pennington, Mahanomen, Norman
- Clearwater 1W1P
- NRCS Principal staff/Team Lead meeting – April 13-14
- LWG meetings – Red Lake, Pennington

Respectfully submitted,
Luther Newton IV
NRCS Acting Team Lead

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

March 2022 Report
Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 2/16- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 2/17- Pennington and West Polk SWCD Board Meeting
- 2/23- BWSR Filter Strip Training
- 3/7- Envirothon Meeting
- 3/12- General CRP signup closes

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 11 landowners
- Completed 2 CRP Conservation Plans for Pennington (land in Marshall County)
- Completed 5 CRP eligibilities for Pennington, and 8 CRP revisions
- Gathered information on seeding requirements, interseeding, seed mixes, prescribed fire, as well as information on the site for NW MN Foundation CRP. Wrote up a narrative and passed on information so they could apply for the BWSR grant.
- Completed 9 trainings online to prepare for Filter Strip training and work towards training goals

- Have a training day planned for a Train the Trainer tour. This will be a tour of wetland restorations at Glacial Ridge on July 28 with NRCS and DNR staff leading the tour
- Working on a landowner list of people to contact for CRP outreach in early April. Targeting Pennington County since enrollments are lower
- Had some emails with West Polk FSA to determine General eligibilities. We should know in a few weeks what contracts we have.
- Working with a Pennington landowner to apply for CRP and working on a seed mix for his site in the floodplain

Upcoming:

- 3/15- Area 1 SWCD Meeting
- 3/16- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 3/17- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 3/28-4/1- Time off to visit family
- 4/4- Grassland CRP signup opens

The next meeting was scheduled for April 21st, 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 21st, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 am by Chairman Cournia, at the Carnegie Library, 110 N Ash Street, Crookston, MN.

Roll Call: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #41-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the April 21st, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary

District Employees Present: Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Luther Newton, NRCS Team Lead

Absent: Nicole Bernd, District Manager
John Sorenson, PR & I

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #42-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held March 17th, 2022.

Affirmative: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #43-2021} The March Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program.

{Motion #44-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the financial relief of incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the Buffer Program.

Affirmative: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

{Motion #45-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the MOU between Polk County Board of Commissioner and the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District for the BWSR Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) County Match.

Affirmative: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of Resolution {#1-2022} for the Administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, in West Polk County.

{Motion #46-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve Resolution {#1-2022} for the Administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, in West Polk County.

Affirmative: Cournia, Peterson, and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Pester joined the meeting at 7:15am.

NEW BUSINESS

SWCD Supervisors to be filled on the 2022 General Election Ballot.
District 3 – 4-year term - John Sorenson, PRI & I

District 4 – 4-year term - Eric McWalter, Secretary

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

SWCD State Managers Meeting, Baxter	Bernd
WRM 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Ada	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Planning Group meeting, RLWD	Bernd
TSA Board Meeting, Mahnomon	Pester/Staff
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

SHR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Fertile	Cournia/Bernd
RRVSCA Phase II, Detroit Lakes	Staff/Supervisors
Envirothon, Crookston Sports Center	Staff
Red River Basin Tour meeting, MicTeams	Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

SHR 1W1P:

Steering Committee meeting: Finalized the MOA, workplan, timeline and budget which has been submitted to the BWSR 1W1P Specialist for approval. These documents will be recommended for approval at the Policy Committee meeting. Contact has been made to HEI for a RFP.

First Policy Committee meeting, April 26th at the SHRWD office. Board positions will be delegated and finalized documents will be recommended for approval.

RLR 1W1P:

Planning Group meeting: New Project Tracking spreadsheet, prepare for Policy Committee meeting, project(s) updated.

Policy Committee meeting, April 14th; updated Cost Share Policy to cost share on projects up to 90%.

MSTR 1W1P:

Steering Committee meeting: internal review and revisions on the draft plan; extended review for the Policy Committee and recommendation for the Formal 60-Day Review
Policy Committee meeting, April 20th, Marshall County Courthouse

WRM 1W1P:

Steering Committee meeting: reviewed workplan for the first round of funding; budget breakdown that indicated LGU's, practices, T&E, Proj. Dev. and Admin.

Other:

There has been two meetings with landowners for On-the-Farm-Trials through NWROC. Both meetings have been productive not only gaining interest and commitment for the trials but the sharing of information between all. West Polk SWCD will reach out to all in July to check-in. Cover crop trials would be initiated in the fall of 2022.

West Polk SWCD has been asked to partake in the planning of the Red River Basin Tour. This includes Red River Basin Commission, BWSR, and the North Dakota Dept. of Water Resources. Tour has been scheduled for Aug. 23rd - 25th, 2022.

Staff is working a 2021 West Polk SWCD Annual Report. Completion is targeted for the end of April.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 04/21/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 04/07/2022 & TBD
- WCA County/SWCD delegation agreement and WCA County/SWCD supplemental funding MOU, **WPSWCD WCA Acceptance 04/21/2022**, SWCD staff decision delegation, Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (4)
- MEI Engineering/Wild Rice Electric Cooperative: WCA analysis (3) utilities projects
- RLRCEP: status review
- Polk County Tax Forfeiture: (1)
- Crookston 09: landowner inquiry, WCA analysis/site visit 03/29/2022, WCA response 04/13/2022.
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA pending.

ECWM/1W1P:

- 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries. Roome 26 (410) acquire construction as-built shots.
- *Other:*
- 2021 West Polk SWCD Annual Report due 03/28/2022., ArcGIS Desktop license re-authorization, volunteer climatology outreach, GNSS training, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 4/21/2022

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to design windbreaks and wildlife plantings
 - 1 hand plant field windbreak rejuvenation
 - 13 machine plantings planned so far
 - 3 field windbreaks
 - 8 farmstead windbreaks
 - 2 wildlife habitat plantings
- Met with NWROC staff & faculty to finalize plans for field windbreaks in 19-Crookston
- Using remote imagery and soil analysis to help landowners plan spring plantings

- Taking orders for 2022 tree sale (\$34,597.08 in hand plant sales/reservations so far)

<i>Year to date</i>	<i># Trees sold/reserved</i>	<i># Hand plant orders</i>	<i>Gross revenue</i>
2019	10827	88	\$24,264.38
2020	6900	75	\$18,917.64
2021	11611	106	\$23,443.38
2022	13581	134	\$33,887.36

West Polk Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Phone calls and meetings (office & field) with farmers about goals, success and failures with cover crops and reduced tillage

Meetings/other:

- 4/6 – EGF Arbor Day celebration planning meeting
- 4/7 – Emerald ash borer update webinar (1.0 ISA CEU)
- 4/11 – Sugarbeet cover crop/strip till on-farm research meeting at NWROC
- 4/12 – Oak wilt update webinar (1.0 ISA CEU)
- 4/14 – Meeting with NWROC staff & faculty to finalize windbreak plans
- 5/4 - Envirothon

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

Civil Rights review.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MPCA Feedlot Update

ENotes for NACD

Waterline

River Monitor

Shade Tree Advocate

Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed

Polk County Board

Wild Rice Watershed

Red Lake Watershed

MCIT

OTHER:

April 2022 Report

Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 3/15- Area 1 SWCD Meeting
- 3/16- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 3/17- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 3/28-4/1- Time off to visit family
- 4/4- Grassland CRP signup opens
- 4/11- Pennington WRAC Meeting

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 13 landowners
- Completed 1 CRP Conservation Plan for Pennington, have one to do for West Polk
- Completed 17 CRP eligibilities for Pennington and West Polk, and 7 CRP revisions for Pennington, Red Lake and Marshall.
- Completed 6 seed certifications for Marshall CRP
- Visited 1 site to check for CRP eligibility
- Updated vendor list
- Completed some more MNC3 Trainings
- Working towards Conservation Planner certification, need to get documents together
- Completed paperwork for EQIP contract for a new monarch habitat planting. Compiled maps, 052, seed mix, and other documents.
- Completed list for landowner outreach for CRP in Pennington. Came up with letter, waiting for comments before I get it sent out.
- Got asked to present on private lands conservation at Minnesota Sharptailed Grouse Society meeting again (presented in 2019). Will be putting presentation together.

Upcoming:

- 4/20-Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 4/21- West Polk SWCD and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 4/27- Envirothon- Lake Bronson State Park
- 4/30-Minnesota Sharptail Grouse Society Meeting- Pine City, MN
- 5/4- Envirothon- Rydell Refuge
- 5/10-12- PF All Team Meeting- Treasure Island Resort, Welch, MN
- Glacial Ridge LTT meeting- Date TBD soon

The next meeting was scheduled for May 19th , 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Treasurer Pester adjourned the meeting at 7:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 19th, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 am by Chairman Cournia, at the FSA Conference Room, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN and via conference call.

Roll Call: Cournia, Sorenson and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #47-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the April 21st, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Cournia, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

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

Others Present: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent: Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #48-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held April 21st, 2022.

Affirmative: Cournia, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #49-2022} The April financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Cournia, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #50-2021} The April Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Cournia, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

Staff requests approval to provide up to 90% cost share to repair approved/completed District and State Cost Share 410 (side water inlets/grade stabilization structures) practice contracts.

{Motion #51-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve providing up to 90% cost share to repair approved/completed District and State Cost Share 410 (side water inlets/grade stabilization structures) practices contracts.

Affirmative: Cournia, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Polk County Emergency Management – FEMA/Flood Damages
Disaster Recovery Assistance Program/Flood Damages (DRAP) - BWSR

Flood damage list

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

Red River Basin Tour planning meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Northern Great Plans Youth Institute, University of MN-Crookston	Bernd
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-Wildlife Society, MicTeams	Bernd
MASWCD Area 1 planning meeting, MicTeams	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Emergency Meeting, Polk County,	Staff
Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting, Ada	Bernd
HOLIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED	

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

SHR 1W1P:

First Policy Committee meeting, April 26th at the SHRWD office. Board positions were delegated, finalized documents were entered into eLINK and grant agreement will be executed within the next month.

RLR 1W1P:

Planning Group met to discuss the following:

- Use WBIF to fix substantially/recently completed projects damaged this spring.
- Cost-share at 90% - consensus among PWG not to amend cost-share policy
- Continue to add new projects to the project tracking spreadsheet that fit within the priority areas and workplan and fund using WBIF
- 2020 WBIF grant expires this year and is a priority to spend as soon as possible
- Pennington SWCD will update tracking spreadsheet to move non-structural funding to streambank/ditch outlet protection activity

Other:

Bernd was recognized by the University of Minnesota Extension for National Volunteer Month (April) for her work and contribution in the Natural Resources Work Group and representation of the West Polk SWCD.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 05/19/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 04/07/2022 & TBD (week of 05/30-/06/04/2022)
- WCA SWCD staff decision delegation, Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (3)
- Small Crookston (Gentilly) 07: parcel split, meet with Polk Planning & Zoning 05/19/2022
- Crookston 09: landowner inquiry, WCA analysis/site visit 03/29/2022, WCA response 04/13/2022, telephone Township representative 05/11/2022, letter (potential violation) to parcel owner/pit operator 05/18/2022, provide gravel group info.
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/0222, notice to TEP 05/12/2022 NOD

Buffers:

- Compose MOA- SHRWD, MSTRWD. 2022 WPSWCD WD monitoring

ECWM/1W1P:

- 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, outreach 05/2022. Roome 26 (410) acquire construction as-built shots.

Other:

- Flood damage inventory, DRAP, field calls, assist tree program, Marshall County SWIs, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 5/19/2022

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to design windbreaks and wildlife plantings
 - 1 hand plant field windbreak rejuvenation
 - 14 machine plantings planned so far
 - 3 field windbreaks
 - 9 farmstead windbreaks
 - 2 wildlife habitat plantings
- Planted as of 5/18:
 - 1 hand plant field windbreak rejuvenation
 - 1 machine plant field windbreak (had been planned for machine planting but customer decided to hand plant due to wet conditions)
- Talking to machine plant customers about the option of hand planting to make use of down time
- Taking orders for extra stock (\$34,914.46 in hand plant sales/reservations **so far**)
- Signed up four landowners to purchase custom West Polk Tree Row seed mix from Minnesota Native Landscapes – will keep in touch with landowners to monitor establishment and tree growth

<i>Year to date</i>	<i># Trees sold/reserved</i>	<i># Hand plant orders</i>	<i>Gross revenue</i>
2019	10827	88	\$24,264.38
2020	6900	75	\$18,917.64
2021	11611	106	\$23,443.38
2022	13837	136	\$34,914.46

West Polk Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Rough-drafting program policy to discuss with BWSR and West Polk board & staff before pitching to Polk County and WD boards
- Phone calls and meetings (office & field) with farmers about goals, success and failures with cover crops and reduced tillage

Meetings/other:

- 5/16 – Prepared and delivered Arbor Day presentation to all four Highland Elementary 4th grade classes

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

May 2022 DC Report

EQIP

- Contract Obligation was May 13th, one contract obligated in our office.
- Next sign up will occur next spring pending new farm bill, currently have one individual who has reached out regarding FY23 EQIP sign up.

CSP

- Classic sign up ended February 4th, we have 8 applications in Crookston. These will not be obligated until December, so there is a lot of time before we know how many will become a contract.
- Renewal sign up ended March 25th, we did not receive any renewal applications.

CRP:

- Grasslands Sign up closed May 13th, a few offers came in at the end. These will all rank low, but most likely will be offered a contract.

Misc.:

- Local work group meeting will need to be held in June following board meeting. If anyone knows they will not be in attendance I would like to send a survey to fill out regarding resource concerns in order to gauge opinions of where you wish to see funding directed in our district.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

May 2022 Report

Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 4/20-Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 4/21- West Polk SWCD and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 4/26- Glacial Ridge LTT Meeting
- 4/27- Envirothon- Lake Bronson State Park
- 4/30-Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society Meeting- Pine City, MN

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 10 landowners
- Completed 4 CRP Conservation Plans for Pennington, 7 for West Polk and 1 for Red Lake
- Completed 13 CRP eligibilities for Pennington and West Polk, and 7 CRP revisions for Pennington, West Polk, and Marshall.
- Completed 5 seed certifications for Marshall and Pennington CRP
- Sent out 24 letters to Pennington landowners for CRP outreach. Didn't get any real response- just one complaint letter.
- Wrote article for future PF newsletter on grazing tour I had last summer
- Heard that NW MN Foundation did get the BWSR grant they applied for so they will have close to \$50,000 to use for a burn and interseeding their CRP in West Polk County. I have been asked to help come up with a seed mix.

- The General CRP offers were ranked and all 12 offers in Pennington and Red Lake made it in. Marshall had 72 accepted and West Polk had 7.
- Completing some trainings and webinars.
- Worked on EQIP paperwork for monarch planting. The landowner ended up backing out.
- Presented at MSGS meeting on 4/30. Had about 40 people in attendance. I think it went well.
- Will be working on maps soon for site visits this summer.

Upcoming:

- 5/18- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 5/19- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 5/24-26- Prescribed Fire Training- Camp Ripley- Little Falls
- 6/7- Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) Training- Glyndon
- 6/16- Plant Materials Workshop- Mahanomen

The next meeting was scheduled for June 16th , 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 16th, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 am by Chairman Cournia, at the FSA conference room, USDA Service Center, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston MN, 56716

Roll Call: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #52-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the June 16th, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

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

District Employees Present:

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

Others Present:

Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent:

Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #53-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held May 19th, 2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #54-2022} The May financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #55-2021} The May Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: All

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-21-07	410 Repair 90% CS	720.00	648.00	Steinbrink
CS-21-08	410 Repair 90% CS	360.00	324.00	Steinbrink

{Motion #56-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve payment for the listed repair State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

RRVSCA/TSA Structure discussion: Model 2B, Option 2

NEW BUSINESS

Staff requests approval to observe Juneteenth Day (June 19th) as a paid federal holiday.

{Motion #57-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve Juneteenth Day (June 19th) as a paid federal holiday.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Disaster Recovery Assistance Program/Flood Damages (DRAP) - BWSR

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

FEMA Emergency meeting, Polk County,	Bernd
Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting, Ada	Bernd
Red River Basin Partner Tour meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
BWSR North Region Tour meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
HOLIDAY, Memorial Day, OFFICE CLOSED	
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

SWCD/NRCS Local Work Group meeting
 MASWCD Area 1 meeting, Mahanomen
 RRVSCA/TSA Board meeting, Mahanomen
 SWCD State Administration Session, Brainerd

Staff/Supervisors
 Staff/Supervisors
 Staff/Supervisors
 Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P:
 - Workplan approved and planning grant awarded June 8th, 2022, (\$226,311). Houston Engineering will be the planning consultant and West Polk SWCD the facilitatory.
- MSTR 1W1P:
 - 60 day comment review period for the plan expires June 24th
 - Public Hearing regarding the plan will be held July 13th, in Warren at the Marshall Courthouse.
 - MSTR 1W1P present the plan for approval to the BWSR Board in August
- RLR 1W1P:
 - West Polk SWCD is looking at several potential projects that may fall under the Watershed Based Implementation Fund.

District Staff is requesting approval of the listed RLR 1W1P Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
RLR1W1P-WP-20-02	410 90% CS	12,100.00	10,890.00	Steinbrink

{Motion #58-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the listed RLR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff is requesting approval of the listed repair RLR 1W1P Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
RLR1W1P-WP-20-03	410 Repair 90% CS	4,100.00	3,690.00	Steinbrink

{Motion #59-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve payment for the listed repair RLR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Other:

- Red River Basin Partner Tour planning
- MN The Wildlife Society - Diverse Equity and Inclusion
- 2022 MACDE Education Grant Awardees
- Conservation Educator Focus Group –conservation financial concerns
- 2021 Annual Report

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 06/16/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 06/14/2022
- WCA SWCD staff decision delegation, Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (4), Tax Forfeitures: (20)
- Liberty 19, 30: SHRWD/HEI WCA Joint Application
- Andover 34: Minnkota Power Cooperative
- Small Crookston (Gentilly) 07: parcel split, meet with Polk Planning & Zoning 05/19/2022
- Crookston 09: landowner inquiry, WCA analysis/site visit 03/29/2022, WCA response 04/13/2022, telephone Township representative 05/11/2022, letter (potential violation) to parcel owner/pit operator 05/18/2022, provide gravel group info.
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/0222, notice to TEP 05/12/2022, NOD extension (60 days) 06/23/2022, schedule meeting with Applicant/Agent(s)/TEP
- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending

Buffers:

- Compose MOA- SHRWD, MSTRWD. 2022 WPSWCD WD monitoring MSTRWD non-compliance

ECWM/1W1P:

- 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, outreach 05/2022. Roome 26 (410) acquire construction as-built shots (transfer apron), Kertsonville 27, Perry Farms, Andover 09 06/02/2022, GNSS test(s)

Other:

- Flood damage inventory, DRAP, field calls, assist tree program, Area 1 meeting 06/21/2022, TSA meeting 06/28/2022, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 6/16/2022

Tree Program:

- 11 out of total of 14 machine plants completed so far
- Two scheduled for today, one TBD (will be done Friday)
- 142 hand plant orders, \$34,465.89 gross hand plant revenue

- Helping landowners identify and treat disease/decline in spruce, oak & other species
- Working with landowners to plan windbreak plantings for spring, 2023

Meetings/other:

- 6/14 – UW-Madison Conservation Educator Focus Group meeting to develop a training program about the financial implications of conservation practices
- 6/20, 21 – Meeting with UofM researchers and district farmers onsite to discuss ongoing sugarbeet strip till/cover crop study
- 6/21 – Area 1 Meeting, Mahnomen
- 6/22 – MNDNR Northern Prairie Native Plant Communities class, Rush WMA - Mahnomen

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

May 2022 DC Report

EQIP:

- Emergency EQIP (sign up #4) was released on 5/31, sign up for batching period 1 ends June 17th. Funds are explicitly for those practices which correct flood damage associated with this spring and must be completed in 2022. If funds allow a second batching period will run until July 15th. Crookston currently has one application in, but the land is located outside of West Polk’s area.

CSP:

- Ranking deadline was June 10th, yet to hear what contracts will be obligated.

Misc.:

- State Conservationist Troy Daniels will be visiting the Crookston Team this coming week. He plans to be meeting with producers to better learn our corner of MN.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

June 2022 Report
Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Trainings/Meetings:

- 5/18- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 5/19- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 5/24-26- Prescribed Fire Training- Camp Ripley- Little Falls
- 6/15- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 6/16- Plant Materials Workshop- Mahanomen

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 8 landowners
- Had 3 site visits to check on CRP
- Completed 5 CRP Conservation Plans for Pennington, 10 for West Polk and 6 for Marshall. Just FYI for CRP in West Polk the 7 General Plans are completed and there's been 4 new continuous plans for contracts to start right away.
- Completed 9 CRP eligibilities for West Polk, 1 CRP revision and 3 seed certifications.
- Started working on General CRP plans. They are due in mid-July and I will be completing over 80.
- Helped to plan project for NW MN Foundation CRP. Lots of talking with NRCS and FSA. Came up with a seed mix and got some quotes.
- Spent some time working on a 5A (Field Windbreak) eligibility for a landowner. Site ended up not being eligible.
- Participated in the filming on a NRCS video about prairie chickens and land management at B & B Ranch in Clay County.
- Preparing to start site visits within the next few weeks.
- Talking with seed vendors, landowners and contractors about seeding

Upcoming:

- 6/22- Prairie Plant ID Training- Mahanomen
- 7/11- Pennington WRAC Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for July 21st, 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JULY 21st, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 am by Treasurer Pester, at the FSA conference room and conference call, USDA Service Center, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston MN, 56716

Roll Call: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #60-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the July 21st, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: None

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

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

Others Present: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Absent: Chris Cournia, Chairman
Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #61-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held June 16th, 2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: None

Sorenson joined the meeting at 7:08am.

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #62-2022} The June financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Eric McWalter and seconded by John Sorenson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: None

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #63-2022} The June Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

MASWCD Area 1 meeting in June: Resolution “policy change for public soil health programs; state agencies to allow SWCD’s to set standards for soil health practices that are applicable for their soil type and geography, i.e. types of cover crops, seeding rate, seeding dates. Resolution passed by the Area 1 Supervisors; will be presented at the annual meeting in December.

SWCD Aid: MASWCD has been advocating for \$22 million per year for SWCD capacity. Due to the legislature running out of time to agree and act on the bill, it’s still unfinished. There has been an agreement of \$6 million per year for SWCD Aid starting 7/2023. This funding would be in addition to the other sources of SWCD funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff requests motion to approve Resolution #2-2022, regarding West Polk SWCD staff decision making authority for the MN Wetland Conservation Act.

{Motion #64-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve Resolution #2-2022 regarding West Polk SWCD staff decision making authority for the MN Wetland Conservation Act.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

IRS mileage rate has increased to 62.5 cents/mile as of July 1, 2022.

Epitome Energy Soybean Processing Facility project notice is out for public comments till August 18, 2022.

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

SWCD/NRCS Local Work Group meeting	Staff/Supervisors
MASWCD Area 1 meeting, Mahnomen	Staff
RRVSCA/TSA Board meeting, Mahnomen	Staff
SWCD State Administration Session, Brainerd	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
WRM 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Ada	Cournia/Bernd
Red River Basin Partner Tour meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
BWSR North Regional Committee meeting, Bemidji	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD	McWalter/Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
NCDEA Regional Meeting, Sioux Falls SD	Bernd

New RRVSCA TSA Civil Engineer, Logan Handyside joined the meeting and gave an introduction.

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P:
 - Bernd met with BWSR, SHWD and the consultant, HEI, to establish a schedule and create a public survey and 60 Day Notice of the Plan. Anticipated Public Kick-off meeting will be early August. Next Steering Committee meeting is Thursday, July 21st, 2022.
- MSTR 1W1P:
 - The MSTR 1W1P was approved by the Policy Committee during the Public Hearing, 7/13/2022. The plan now needs to be approved by the local boards, then submitted for approval by BWSR North Region Committee, 8/3/2022 and lastly presented to the full BWSR Board August 25, 2022.

Staff request a motion to approve the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers One Watershed One Plan for submittal to the BWSR.

{Motion #65-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers One Watershed One Plan for submittal to the BWSR.

Affirmative: Peterson, Pester, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

- RLR 1W1P:
 - Planning group met (7/5/2022) and discussed project updates, Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP), grant reporting and next Policy Committee meeting (8/10/2022).
- WRM 1W1P

- Last Policy Committee meeting was cancelled due to no quorum. Next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 25th, 2022, at the Wild Rice watershed District in Ada starting at 9am. Policy members need to confirm attendance by Friday, July 22nd, 2022.

Other:

BWSR Buffer Cost Share grant financial interim report
 2021 Annual Report
 Polk County Fair
 Red River Basin Partner Tour
 2022 MACDE Grant Awards

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 07/21/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 07/14/2022
- WCA SWCD staff decision delegation, Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (2), Tax Forfeitures: (20) completed 07/06/2022
- Liberty 19, 30: SHRWD/HEI WCA Joint Application
- Andover 34: Minnkota Power Cooperative
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/0222, notice to TEP 05/12/2022, NOD extension (60 days) 06/23/2022, meeting with Applicant/Agent(s)/TEP 07/14/2022.
- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending, new materials 07/14/2022
- Epitome Energy: EAW

Buffers:

- Compose MOA- SHRWD, MSTRWD. 2022 WPSWCD WD monitoring MSTRWD non-compliance

ECWM/1W1P:

- Assist Marshall County (multiple SWIs, submit toward EJAA). Landowner inquiries (site visits 07/12/2022). 6 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, surveyed/design Brislet 31. Roome 26 (410) acquire construction as-built shots (transfer apron), Kertsonville 27, Perry Farms, Andover 09, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 7/21/2022

Tree Program:

- Helping landowners identify and treat disease/decline in spruce, oak & other species
- Working with landowners to plan windbreaks and wildlife plantings for spring, 2023

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Talking & meeting with district farmers to discuss successes/failures with cover crops and taking input from those who are interested in starting cover crops
- Working on proposal for funding from county and watershed districts

RIM:

- Finished onsite evaluations for 11 easements
- Looking at trends in weed coverage to help landowners/WD control spread

Buffers:

- Verifying compliance for farmers/landowners who recently seeded
- Marking proposed buffers for famers/landowners who request help

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

July 2022 DC Report

EQIP "Emergency Fund Pool"

- Crookston had three applications for batching period #1, all were funded. Currently we have three applications for batching period #2.
- Those applications will be ranked and obligated in August.

CSP

- Ranking deadline was June 10th for Classic CSP, 1 contract was funded.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

July 2022 Report
Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 6/22- Prairie Plant Training- Mahnomen
- 7/11- Pennington WRAC Meeting

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 20 landowners
- Had 39 site visits to check on CRP

- Have completed 67 CRP plans in the last month -59 for Marshall, 2 Pennington and 6 for West Polk. I still have around 12 General contracts to work on for the deadline at the end of July.
- Will be working on some continuous CRP contracts once August comes, do not know how many I will have.
- Talked to one landowner with old pasture in Pennington interested in a program- will hopefully be visiting site in next few weeks
- Still waiting to do a majority of my site visits but should be able to in the next few weeks.
- Will be working with Glacial Ridge LTT again to plan another weed workshop.

Upcoming:

- 7/20- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 7/21- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 7/28- Glacial Ridge Wetlands Tour
- 8/1-8/5- Time off to visit Michigan

The next meeting was scheduled for August 18th, 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Treasurer Pester adjourned the meeting at 7:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 18th, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am by Chairman Cournia, at the Carnegie Library, Crookston MN.

Roll Call: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #66-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the August 18th, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: Pass

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Christian Pester, Treasurer
Eric McWalter, Secretary

District Employees Present: Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent: Nicole Bernd, District Manager
John Sorenson, PR & I

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #67-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held July 21st, 2022.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #68-2022} The July financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #69-2022} The July Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: None

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-22-01	380	1,676.00	885.39	Torkelson
CS-22-02	380	1,375.00	1,034.25	Torkelson

{Motion #70-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve payment for the listed repair State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-22-03	351	1,000.00	500.00	Habermehl

{Motion #71-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the listed State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Staff requests approval for the corrected Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) MOU with Polk County.

{Motion #72-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the corrected NRBG MOU with Polk County.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NEW BUSINESS

The district received the 2023 budget request from Polk County. Review, discuss, and recommendation for approval of the presented letter, ROI and propose 2023 budget.

{Motion #73-2022} Board unanimously approval of the letter ROI and proposed 2023 budget to Polk County.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
WRM 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Ada	Bernd
Red River Basin Partner Tour meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
BWSR North Regional Committee meeting, Bemidji	Bernd
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Glacial Ridge CISMA Meeting, MicTeams	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Sand Hill River 1W1P Public Kick Off meetings	Staff
Red River Basin Partner Tour, Grand Forks	Staff
BWSR Board Meeting, East Grand Forks	Staff
RRVSCA TSA Board Meeting, Ada	Staff/Supervisor
BWSR Managers Meeting, Detroit Lakes	Bernd
HOLIDAY, Labor Day, OFFICE CLOSED	
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Glacial Ridge CISMA Meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Advisory/Policy Committee meetings	Staff

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P:
 - Sand Hill River Watershed 1W1P Public Kick Off meeting, Monday 8/22/2022. Locations are Fosston, Fertile and Climax.
 - Information Forum will be Tuesday, 09/13/2022, for the Advisory and Policy Committees.
- MSTR 1W1P:
 - Bernd presented the MSTR 1W1P to the Northern Region BWSR Board, Wed. 8/3/2022. Presentation went well with few questions.
 - Bernd will present the MSTR 1W1P to the full BWSR Board, Thur. 8/25/2022, at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in EGF.
- RLR 1W1P:

- Policy Committee meeting, Wed., 8/10/2022. Discussed 2020 financial report and project updates. Hammond 1, Roome 2 and PCD 99 were mentioned.

Other:

Red River Basin Partner Tour – Bernd is scheduled to be interviewed on KFGO representing WPSWCD, MACDE and MASWCD. Bernd will be presenting with Brett Arne, BWSR at the Tuesday evening dinner about the 1W1P efforts in the basin.

Glacial Ridge CISMA – The group is planning another outreach effort this winter and purchasing educational material. Next meeting in Sept.

Bernd has been assisting WPSWCD Bookkeeper with the 2021 Audit and prepared the budget and other documents for the proposed budget to the County.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 08/18/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 08/15/2022
- WCA SWCD staff decision delegation (complete), Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (7), Tax Forfeitures:
- Liberty 19, 30: SHRWD/HEI WCA Joint Application
- Andover 34: Minnkota Power Cooperative
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/2022, notice to TEP 05/12/2022, NOD extension (60 days) 06/23/2022, meeting with Applicant/Agent(s)/TEP 07/14/2022. MPCA, USACE, BWSR 08/15/2022.
- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending, new materials 07/14/2022
- Epitome Energy: EAW

Buffers:

- Compose MOA- SHRWD, MSTRWD. 2022 WPSWCD WD monitoring MSTRWD non-compliance

ECWM/1W1P:

- Assist Marshall County i/e, design, as-builts (multiple SWIs, submit toward EJAA). Landowner inquiries (site visits 08/10/2022). 8 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, surveyed/design Brislet 31. Roome 26 (410) acquire construction as-built shots (transfer apron), Kertsonville 27, Perry Farms, Andover 09, etc.

Other: TSA North meeting, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 8/18/2022

Tree Program:

- Visiting landowners to help plan windbreak maintenance and pick species for longevity
- Helping landowners identify and treat disease/decline in spruce, oak & other species
- Working with landowners to plan windbreaks and wildlife plantings for spring, 2023
- One machine planting plan approved, three others in the works
- Planning species for 2023 tree sale offerings

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Talking with farmers to get feedback on proposed WPSHIP policy
- 8/15 -Met with local farmers, MN Wheat VP of Research and Mustang Seed rep onsite at Craig LaPlante's field (2022 pp cover crop) to get feedback on West Polk SHIP policy
- Shaping WPSHIP policy with farmer's feedback to fit within state C-S constraints
- Writing proposal for 2023 CWF competitive grant to fund next year's WPSHIP

Staff requests a motion to approve the presented West Polk SWCD Soil Health Incentive Policy.

{Motion #74-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the West Polk SWCD Soil Health Incentive Policy.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester, Peterson, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

August 2022 DC Report

EQIP

- Emergency Sign up
 - Sign up #2 ended July 15th
 - Crookston fully funded 6 applications total, 3 from each sign up
- General FY23 Sign Up
 - Currently have 4 applications for FY23 EQIP

CSP

Renewals

- Ranking deadline is September 16th, Crookston currently has no applications for renewal

Classic

- Waiting on directive for sign up, this will be post farm bill passage

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

August 2022 Report

Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 7/20- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 7/21- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 7/28- Glacial Ridge Wetlands Tour
- 8/1-8/5- Time off to visit Michigan

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 21 landowners
- Had 26 site visits to check on CRP
- Have completed 15 CRP plans in the last month - 4 for Marshall, 2 for Pennington, 3 for West Polk, and 6 for Red Lake. Got contracts signed and General contracts are done!
- Started working on some continuous contracts. Don't think there will be too many and I will have NRCS working on Marshall plans with me.
- Met with landowner on site in Star township- he has a degraded pasture that is remnant. Some invasive species issues. Would like to do RIM or other easement I am trying to get ball rolling on that.
- Will hopefully be doing more site visits soon- have 80+ left to do.
- Will be working with Glacial Ridge LTT again to plan another weed workshop.

Upcoming:

- 8/17- Marshall SWCD Board Meeting
- 8/18- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 9/9- Continuous CRP plans due

The next meeting was scheduled for September 15th, 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15th , 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 am by Chairman Cournia, at the FSA conference room, USDA Service Center, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston MN, 56716

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Pester, Cournia

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #75-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the September 15th 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
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: Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent: John Sorenson, PR & I

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #76-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held August 18th, 2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #77-2022} The August financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester, Cournia

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

John Sorenson joined the meeting at 7:25am.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #78-2022} The August Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester, and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

No report

OLD BUSINESS

RRVSCA TSA/Pennington SWCD Engineering Agreement - discussion

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

Sand Hill River 1W1P Public Kick Off meetings	Staff
Red River Basin Partner Tour, Grand Forks	Bernd
BWSR Board Meeting, East Grand Forks	Bernd
BWSR Managers Meeting, Detroit Lakes	Bernd
HOLIDAY, Labor Day, OFFICE CLOSED	
MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
Glacial Ridge CISMA Meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Advisory/Policy Committee meetings	Bernd/Cournia

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

MACDE Board meeting, Little Falls MN	Bernd
The Wildlife Society planning meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
NW MN Water Festival, Warren and Fertile MN	Staff
Red River Basin Partners Tour post meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
BWSR Academy, Cragun's Resort	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P SC meeting, MicTeams	Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: Public Kick-off meetings were held in Fosston, Fertile and Climax, 8/22. All meetings were attended well (~15-20/each); 43 survey responses (paper/online). Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. 9/13. State agencies

gave a brief summary of their priority issues; Policy Committee approved the Advisory Committee members.

Bernd requests approval for the resolution to adopt and implement the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

{Motion #79-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve for the resolution to adopt and implement the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester, and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

- MSTR 1W1P: Bernd presented the MSTR 1W1P Plan to the BWSR Board August 25th, EGF. Board approved with unanimous approval. Steering Committee will now be working on prioritizing projects and practices for implementation.
- RLR 1W1P: Bernd has been monitoring wells for the PCD 99 project approved for RLR 1W1P funding.

CWL: Glacial Ridge CISMA: Two meetings will be conducted. First meeting will be this fall for Land Management Agencies “Agency Invasive Species Coordination” and second meeting will be during the winter for Right-of-Way entities. The first meeting will give those agencies a chance to discuss about their weed management efforts and strategies within the identified Glacial Ridge Prairie Core (GRPC) CISMA.

Bernd requested an extension of the grant in order to fund the second meeting this winter

Other:

- MN Wildlife Society Annual Meeting: “Save the Date” out to members and others (SWCD/DNR/TNC/USFWS) by Oct. 1st.
 - Theme: “Resilience in the Human and Natural Landscape Dimensions”
 - 3-4 Plenary Speakers (2-human/2-natural landscape)
DEI/Political/Social Sciences and land management practices/conservation
- NW MN Water Festival 9/27-28th; Warren and Fertile. Crookston and Climax/Shelly will be attending.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 09/15/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 09/19/2022 MPCA
- WCA SWCD Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (4), Tax Forfeitures: (0)
- Liberty 19, 30: SHRWD/HEI WCA Joint Application SCOPE
- Andover 34: Minnkota Power Cooperative (utility exemption)
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk

Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/2022, notice to TEP 05/12/2022, NOD extension (60 days) 06/23/2022, meeting with Applicant/Agent(s)/TEP 07/14/2022. MPCA, USACE, BWSR 08/15/2022., follow-up 09/19/2022.

- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending, new materials 07/14/2022
- Epitome Energy: EAW mitigation pending

Buffers:

- Compose MOA- SHRWD, MSTRWD. 2022 WPSWCD WD monitoring MSTRWD, SHWD non-compliance (track mileage)

ECWM/1W1P:

- Assist Marshall County /e, design, as-builts (multiple SWIs, submit toward EJAA). 9 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, surveyed/designed (sent) Brislet 31. Kertsonville 27, Perry Farms, Andover 09 w/TSA

Other: BWSR IDP due 09/23/2022 NW H2O fest 09/27,09/28, TSA GIS specialist WPSWCD 10/11/2022, WCA training Bemidji 10/08, BWSR Academy?, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 9/15/2022

Tree Program:

- Visiting landowners to help plan windbreak maintenance and pick species for longevity
- Helping landowners identify and treat disease/decline in spruce, oak & other species
- Working with landowners to plan windbreaks and wildlife plantings for spring, 2023
- One machine planting plan approved, four others in the works
- Planning species for 2023 tree sale offerings

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Wrote and submitted Nonstructural Land Management Practices Implementation Plan request form to BWSR (allows WPSWCD to use state C-S money for soil health incentive program)
- Working on promotions (KROX Valley Talk, newspapers, WPSWCD website) for WPSHIP and winter café chats/meetings for farmers, industry reps and research/outreach professionals

Buffer Program:

- Field checking 2021 enforced parcels to check for compliance before Polk County issues APOs
- Monitoring county ditch and public water parcels in southern two tiers of townships

Meetings/Other:

- BWSR Academy 10/25-27

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

September 2022 DC Report

End of the federal fiscal year is September 30th

Crookston Field Office 2022 Breakdown

General EQIP: 31 applications, 15 were ranked, 5 selected for funding
totaling: \$986,607.00

Beginning Farmer	Social Disadvantaged	General
\$174,671	\$127,500	\$684,436

Emergency EQIP: 6 of 6 contracts selected for funding **totaling: \$164,735**

Sign Up #1	Sign Up #2
\$10,266	\$154,469

CSP: 9 applications, 2 selected for funding **totaling: \$516,272**

Socially Disadvantaged	General
\$116,272	\$400,000

The USDA Service Center will be moving the first week of October. Our new location will be in the strip mall in front of the Crookston Inn. Below is our address.

2215 Sahlstrom Dr., Suite D
Crookston, MN 56716

If the board could assist the service center in passing along information to the public, it would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes
Conservation Brief
Conservation Views
Crookston Daily Times
MPCA Feedlot Update

ENotes for NACD
Waterline
River Monitor
Shade Tree Advocate
Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:
BWSR

Wild Rice Watershed

OTHER:

September 2022 Report

Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 8/18- Pennington and West Polk SWCD Board Meetings
- 9/1- Pennington CWMA Meeting
- 9/9- CRP deadline
- 9/12- Glacial Ridge LTT Meeting
- 9/14- Outdoor Ed Day

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 22 landowners
- Completed 55 site visits to check on CRP and projects.
- Completed 33 CRP plans in the last month. May have 1 or 2 more. Don't have final numbers yet but a pretty good signup across all the counties. With some new contracts, Pennington has about 500 acres more enrolled than what came out even with some people not renewing. I have completed 154 plans so far- including 4 CRP Grasslands contracts for West Polk
- Spent some time on paperwork- completed 8 seeding certifications for cost share, completed 19 contract revisions and many eligibilities that went with plans or for possible new CRP. Lots of contracts being transferred to Pennington FSA.
- Visited a few project sites for higher diversity CRP seedings and a pollinator and things are looking pretty good.
- After the CRP signup closes, I hope to finish my site visits and work on status reviews for sites coming out in 2023.

Upcoming:

- 9/15- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings
- 9/27 & 9/28- Waterfest

The next meeting was scheduled for October 20th , 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:02am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 20th, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 am by Chairman Cournia, at the FSA conference room, USDA Service Center, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston MN, 56716

Roll Call: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #80-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the October 20th, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, Chairman
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: Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent: John Sorenson, PR & I

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #81-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held September 15th, 2022.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #82-2022} The September financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #83-2022} The September Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
DF(LSF)12	410 Repair 90% CS	4,900.00	4,329.00	Steinbrink

{Motion #84-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve payment for the listed repair State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

District Staff is requesting approval of payment for the listed RLR 1W1P Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
RLR1W1P-WP-20-03	410 Repair 90% CS	4,100.00	3,635.63	Steinbrink

{Motion #85 -2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve payment for the listed RLR1W1P Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Staff requests approval for “Agreement for Engineering Services” between West Polk SWCD and 9 other NW MN, SWCDs (see agreement). The purpose of this agreement is to define responsibilities and obligations of each party for engineering services provided by Pennington SWCD for non-point source engineering assistance.

{Motion #86-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the “Agreement for Engineering Services” between West Polk SWCD and 9 other NW MN, SWCDs for engineering services rendered by Pennington SWCD.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NEW BUSINESS

Staff requests a motion to approve the FY2023 BWSR Soil Health Cost Share Grant in the amount of \$14,175.00.

{Motion #87-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the payment for the approve the FY2023 BWSR Soil Health Cost Share Grant in the amount of 14,175.00. Grant will expire 12/31/2024.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests a motion to approve the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Implementation Agreement between Marshall SWCD, Marshall, and Polk County and the MSTR Watershed District.

{Motion #88-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the approve the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Implementation Agreement between Marshall SWCD, Marshall, and Polk County and the MSTR Watershed District.

Affirmative: Pester, Peterson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

MACDE Board meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
The Wildlife Society planning meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
NW MN Water Festival, Warren and Fertile MN	Staff
Red River Basin Partners Tour post meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
MASWCD Awards Committee meeting, ZOOM	Bernd
MSTR 1W1P SC meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
TSA Board Meeting, Mahnomen	Staff
Glacial Ridge Prairie Core Area CISMA meeting, Mentor	Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

BWSR Academy, Brainerd	Staff
MACDE Annual meeting, Brainerd	Staff
FDRWG Communications meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
RRVCSA/TSA Board meeting, Mahnomen	Staff/Supervisor
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD, TRF	Bernd
Area 1 meeting, Mahnomen	Staff/Supervisors
RSDP Natural Resources Work Group, UMC	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Advisory/Policy Committee meeting, Fertile	Staff/Supervisor

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: next meeting, 10/19/2022; discussing logo, PTMApp decisions (planning regions, priority resources points), issue statements and prioritization by planning region, upcoming Advisory Committee meeting
- MSTR 1W1P: next meeting, 10/19/2022; discussing projects per planning region, identifying, and prioritizing those projects for the workplan
- RLR 1W1P: next meeting, 11/9/22, Policy Committee; continue monitoring wells for project CD99; request for repair cs 90% payment for project Roome 2
- WRM 1W1P: submitted invoice for reimbursement

CWL:

CISMA: Agency Invasive Species Coordination meeting, 10/18/22; each agency rep discussed their weed management efforts and strategies success and defeats; group will continue to meet and accomplish goals set forth in the CISMA Strategic Plan.

Other:

Submitting information for audit and review of draft audit report.

Presented at UMC for the Soil and Water class.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 10/20/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 09/19/2022 MPCA, 10/24/2022
- WCA SWCD Local Appeals Process. New BSWR WCA WS
- RLWD Permits: (5), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Merjent Pipeline Joint App.: pre-Application inquiries 10/18/2022.
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/0222, notice to TEP 05/12/2022, NOD extension (60 days) 06/23/2022, meeting with Applicant/Agent(s)/TEP 07/14/2022. MPCA, USACE, BWSR 08/15/2022., follow-up 09/19/2022. Recorded correspondence (Applicant to DNR, MPCA) 3rd WP WCA LGU extension, next meeting 10/24/2022.
- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending, new materials 07/14/2022 (BWSR)
- Epitome Energy: EAW, Negative Declaration, mitigation pending

Buffers:

- MSTRWD, SHWD non-compliance (track mileage)

ECWM/1W1P:

- Assist Marshall County i/e, as-builts (multiple SWIs). 9 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, surveyed/designed (sent) Brislet 31. TSA engineering

(5) WPSWCD projects on-site 10/13, 10/19/2022 Andover 14, 15, 22 Fisher 27, 34, 35 Fanny 04 Roome 01 Kertsonville 27
Other: NW H2O fest 09/27,09/28, TSA GIS specialist WPSWCD 10/18/2022 (cancelled), WCA training Bemidji 10/05, 10/06, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 10/20/2022

Tree Program:

- Visiting landowners to help plan windbreak maintenance and pick species for longevity
- Helping landowners identify and treat disease/decline in spruce, oak & other species
- Working with landowners to plan windbreaks and wildlife plantings for spring, 2023
- Three machine planting plan approved, three others in the works
- Finished tree availability list, ordered trees from Schumacher's

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Working on promotions (KROX Valley Talk, newspapers, WPSWCD website) for WPSHIP and winter café chats/meetings for farmers, industry reps and research/outreach professionals

RIM:

- Working with local landowner to protect 80ac of former cropland RIM wetland easement

Ag BMP:

- Working on applications for two producers for conservation farm machinery (spray rig with Y-tubes, variable rate spreader for in-season fertilizer application)

Buffer Program:

- Sent five NONs for noncompliant parcels to Polk County Planning & Zoning
- Field checking 2021 enforced parcels to check for compliance before Polk County issues APOs (23 brought into compliance out of 29 sent to P&Z for enforcement last fall)
- Monitoring county ditch and public water parcels in southern two tiers of townships

Meetings/Other:

- BWSR Academy 10/25-27

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

October 2022 DC Report

EQIP:

- General Sign up for FY23 Ends Friday November 18th.
- Staff must do some preplanning prior to taking an application so if you
- know of anyone interested encourage them to get in contact with our
- office.

CSP:

- No word on classic sign up.

CRP:

- Continuous enrollment on going.
- No word yet on general sign up.

Misc:

- We will move at some point, supply chain and vendor coordination has pushed it back into late November.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD
Conservation Brief	Waterline
Conservation Views	River Monitor
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

October 2022 Report
Jillian Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Trainings/Meetings:

- 9/15- West Polk and Pennington SWCD Board Meetings

Ongoing Work:

- Talked to 15 landowners
- Completed 44 site visits to check on CRP and projects.
- Completed 3 seeding certifications
- Completed 4 CRP plans for West Polk at the end of the month. In total I did 162 CRP plans this year. Pennington- 20 plans- 1450 ac, Marshall- 90 plans-6337 ac, West Polk- 39 plans- 1133 ac and Red Lake- 13 plans- 671 ac.
- Had to complete status reviews for CRP expiring in 23 and 24 for Pennington and half of Marshall. Had a week of site visits at the end of September, and another week or so doing the status reviews. I completed 127 total status reviews, counting the vegetation inventory sheets for Marshall.

This is my last board report! I have accepted a position with NRCS in Kittson County and will be starting there the 24th. My last day is the 14th. It has been a great experience moving out here to work this job, and I have really enjoyed the work and field work especially. It's been fun working with everyone! I have learned a lot and I thank you all for the opportunity to do this job. My husband and I have been talking about moving back to Michigan in the future and decided going back as an NRCS employee would be a good choice later on.

I have been spending time putting information together on things I've done to make it easy for the next person to pick up where I have left off!

The next meeting was scheduled for November 17th, 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 8:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17th , 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 am by Vice Chair Peterson, at the FSA conference room, USDA Service Center, 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN 56716.

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #89-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the November 17th , 2022 amended agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: 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: Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent: Chris Cournia, Chairman
John Sorenson, PR & I

NEW BUSINESS

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 2023 wages of:

- District Manager - \$34.00/hr., health tax fringe benefit - \$12,000/yr., totaling \$82,929
- District Technician 1 - \$26.50/hr., health tax fringe benefit - \$12,000/yr., totaling \$67,332
- District Technician 2 - \$23.50/hr., health tax fringe benefit - \$12,000/yr., totaling \$61,068

{Motion #90-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the recommendation of 2023 wages.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #91-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held October 20th ,2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Sorenson joined meeting at 7:30am.

FINACIALS REPORT:

{Motion #92-2022} The October financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #93-2022} The October Treasurers Report was reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the treasurer's report.

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-22-03	351	1,000.00	500.00	Habermehl

{Motion #94-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve payment for the listed State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Staff requests a motion to approve the FY2020 BWSR 2020 Cooperative Weed Management grant amendment. Expiration date has been moved from Dec. 31, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2023.

{Motion #95-2022} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the FY2020 BWSR 2020 Cooperative Weed Management grant amendment

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests a motion to approve the Amended Joint Powers Agreement for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area.

{Motion #96-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by McWalter to approve the Amended Joint Powers Agreement for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area

Affirmative: McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Report on the 2021 audited financial statement of the District.

Copier Proposal Options: Discussion

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

BWSR Academy, Brainerd	Staff
MACDE Annual meeting, Brainerd	Staff
FDRWG Communications meeting, MicTeams	Bernd
RRVCSA/TSA Board meeting, Mahnomon	Staff/Supervisor
RLR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, RLWD, TRF	Bernd
Area 1 meeting, Mahnomon	Staff/Supervisors
RSDP Natural Resources Work Group, UMC	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Advisory/Policy Committee meeting, Fertile	Staff/Supervisor
MSTR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, Warren	Bernd/Supervisor

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

HOLIDAY, Thanksgiving, OFFICE CLOSED 11/24/22 & 11/25/22	
FDRWG Meeting, Alerus, Grand Forks, ND	Bernd
MASWCD Convention/Annual Meeting, Bloomington	Bernd
SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile	Bernd
HOLIDAY, Christmas, OFFICE CLOSED	
HOLIDAY, New Year's Day, OFFICE CLOSED	

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: Advisory and Policy Committee meetings, 11/8/2022; reviewed issues statements and Steering Committee priorities; brainstormed on vision statement; next meeting Jan. 10, 2023 at 10 am, SHWD office
- RLR 1W1P: Policy Committee meeting, 11/9/2022; FY2020 financials, project updates, 2023 annual workplan and FY2020 grant extension requested and approved. Next Policy Committee meeting placeholder Feb. 9th 2023.
- MSTR 1W1P: Policy Committee meeting, 11/16/2022; Election of Officers; Appointment of Fiscal Agent-MSTRWD; Appointment of Plan Administration Coordinator-Marshall SWCD; Approval of Work Plan
- WRM 1W1P: Next Steering Committee meeting, 12/19/2022

CWL:

The district was approached by the Agassiz Audubon to apply for a new BWSR Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) grant. This grant supports pollinators and other at-risk wildlife. Bernd plans on meeting with the Agassiz Audubon board and contracted employee for further discussion/planning. Application due Feb. 23, 2023.

Other:

- NWROC Advisory Committee meeting; operations update; terms-Bernd agreed to 2 more years; Cournia agreed to 3 more years; met Interim Associate Dean of CFANS and Ronald Faber, ROC Systems Operations Manager
- Site visit with DNR Area Hydrologist at the 401 Jefferson Str/Ave where riverbank was lost due to spring flooding. Seeking engineering and funding
- Presented to the Livestock Facilities class at UMC
- Presented to the County Board requesting an extension of the Polk County Comprehensive Local Water Plan which expired May 2022
- BWSR contacted Bernd to be part of the interview panel for the hiring of the northern BWSR Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist. Interviews will at the end of this month

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 11/17/2022

WCA:

- TEP: MPCA, 10/24/2022 cancelled
- WCA SWCD Local Appeals Process.
- RLWD Permits: (3), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Merjent Pipeline Joint App (Viking Transmission).: pre-Application inquiries 10/18/2022, NOA issued 11/14/2022
- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials received 03/04/2021, 03/11/2021- TEP 05/06/2021, sent TEP Findings to Agent 05/17/2021, clay borrow Replacement 06/02,06/11, 06/14/2021. Meet with Polk Environmental Admin. & Stantec Global 12/20/2021: supplemental materials (revised Application) received 04/04/2022, TEP and Applicant/Agent communications, MPCA correspondence, NOA issued 04/25/2022, MPCA 05/11/0222, notice to TEP 05/12/2022, NOD extension (60 days) 06/23/2022, meeting with Applicant/Agent(s)/TEP 07/14/2022. MPCA, USACE, BWSR 08/15/2022., follow-up 09/19/2022. Recorded correspondence (Applicant to DNR, MPCA) 3rd WP WCA LGU extension, next meeting 10/24/2022 cancelled.
- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending, new materials 07/14/2022 (BWSR)
- Epitome Energy: EAW, Negative Declaration, mitigation pending

Buffers:

- MSTRWD (2022 monitoring complete; enter on BuffCAT), SHWD non-compliance (track mileage).
- ECWM/1W1P:
- Assist Marshall County I&E, as-builts (multiple SWIs +11/01/2022), 8 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, surveyed/designed (sent) Brislet 31. TSA engineering (5) WPSWCD projects on-site 10/13, 10/19/2022 Andover 14, 15, 22 Fisher 27, 34, 35 Fanny 04, Roome 01, Kertsonville 27. Crookston 27, Andover 10 (RLWD project), Andover 24 (complete?), Hammond 01.
- Other: WCA training Bemidji 10/05, 10/06, TSA meeting 11/03/2022, evaluations 11/07/2022, Area 1 meeting 11/15/2022, Verizon work phone appt., etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 11/17/2022

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to plan windbreaks and wildlife plantings for spring, 2023
- Two machine planting plans approved, four others in the works

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Held first WPSHIP meeting
- Working on promotions (KROX Valley Talk, newspapers, WPSWCD website) for WPSHIP and winter roundtable meetings for farmers, industry reps and research/outreach professionals

RIM:

- Working with local landowner to protect 80ac of former cropland RIM wetland easement

Ag BMP:

- Completed and got approved one application for variable rate spreader for split fertilizer application
- Working on application for one producer for conservation farm machinery (spray rig with Y-tubes)

Buffer Program:

- Field checking 2021 enforced parcels to check for compliance before Polk County issues APOs (23 brought into compliance out of 29 sent to P&Z for enforcement last fall)
- Monitoring county ditch and public water parcels in southern two tiers of townships

Meetings/Other:

- RIM wetland easement training 11/1
- EPA IPM for noxious weed control webinar 11/15
- WPSHIP roundtable meeting 11/16

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

November 2022 DC Report

November is Native American History Month

- EQIP:
 - General Sign up for FY23 Ends Friday November 18th.
 - 18 total apps/ 3 new apps all others were from previous years
- CSP:
 - No word on classic sign up.
- CRP:
 - Continuous enrollment on going.
 - No word yet on general sign up.
- Misc:
 - We will move at some point; supply chain and vendor coordination has pushed it back into late November.

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

ENotes for NACD

Waterline

River Monitor

Crookston Daily Times
MPCA Feedlot Update

Shade Tree Advocate
Minnesota Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed

Polk County Board

Wild Rice Watershed

Red Lake Watershed

MCIT

OTHER:

The next meeting was scheduled for December 15th , 2022 at 7:00 am.

With no further business, Vice Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
em\nb

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 15th, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 am by Chairman Cournia, at the Irishman's Shanty, 1501 S. Main Street, Crookston, MN.

Roll Call: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #89-2022} Motion by Pester and seconded by Peterson to approve the December 15th, 2022 agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

Chris Cournia, Chairman
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

Others Present:

Absent:

Morgan Torkelson, District Technician
Zach Anderson, NRCS District Conservationist

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #90-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held November 17th, 2022.

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #91-2022} The November financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Peterson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #92-2022} The November Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Sorenson to approve the treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff is requesting approval of cancellation of the listed District Cost Share Contract(s).

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
CS-20-02	351	\$500.00	\$250.00	Habermehl
CS-20-03	351	\$4,000.00	\$500.00	Habermehl
CS-20-08	351 (2)	\$3,150.00	\$1,000.00	Habermehl

{Motion #93-2022} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve cancellation for the listed corrected amount State Cost Share contract(s).

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval to submit the remaining FY20 State Cost Share grant in the amount of \$2,907.75 to BWSR.

{Motion #94-2022} Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve submitting the remaining FY20 in the amount of \$2,907.75 to BWSR.

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

Motion tabled.

OLD BUSINESS

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area/TSA update

No till drill equipment inquiry – discussion

Carnegie Library

Office renovation/re-opening update

NEW BUSINESS

The District's Bookkeeping contracted services, Myhre Tax Service, is requesting an increase of \$200/month starting in 2023. Discussion.

{Motion #95-2022} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Pester to approve requested increase of \$200.00/month for the District's bookkeeping contracted services, Myhre Tax Service, starting in 2023.

Affirmative: Peterson, Sorenson, McWalter and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

Attended Meetings/Trainings

HOLIDAY, Thanksgiving, OFFICE CLOSED 11/24/22 & 11/25/22

Jenn Whitmer Leadership Skills, Webinar Bernd

Polk County Ditch 99 Project meeting, ZOOM Bernd

MASWCD Convention/Annual Meeting, Bloomington Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

SHR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Fertile Bernd

HOLIDAY, Christmas, OFFICE CLOSED

HOLIDAY, New Year's Day, OFFICE CLOSED

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: Next meeting December 21st, 9-11am, SHWD office in Fertile; finalize Land & Resource narrative; discuss timeline and finalize issue prioritization; Advisory/Policy Committee meeting Jan. 10th, 1-3:30pm, SHWD office in Fertile
- MSTR 1W1P: Steering Committee meeting held December 7th; discussed implementation agreement and local work planning; Discuss Implementation Tracking Systems "BEAST" Spreadsheet, CWMP Implementation Tracker (demo by Brian Fischer, HEI)

Other:

- Office renovation started the week of 12/5. Painting is complete; flooring installation is planned for the week of 12/19. Staff have been working remotely and going into the office for printing and checking the landline.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 12/15/2022

WCA:

- TEP: 10/24/2022 canceled
- WCA SWCD Local Appeals Process
- RLWD Permits: (3), Tax Forfeiture (0)
- Merjent Pipeline Joint App (Viking Transmission).: pre-Application inquiries 10/18/2022, NOA issued 11/14/2022 NOD issued 12/2022.

- Polk County Landfill: revised/modified Application report & supporting materials expected. Correspondence w/Applicant 11/2022. WP WCA LGU 60-day extension 10/23/2022. TEP 01/2023 w/MPCA, USACE.
- Climax Bridge: construction scheduled, WCA mitigation pending, new materials 07/14/2022, 11/29/2022 (BWSR/LGRWRP).
- Epitome Energy: EAW, Negative Declaration, mitigation pending? Application not withdrawn.

ECWM/1W1P:

- Canceled (expired) CS-20, CS-21 contracts, 8 (outstanding) well decommissioning inquiries, Brislet 31 designed. TSA engineering (5) WPSWCD projects Andover 14, 15, 22 Fisher 27, 34, 35 Fanny 04, Roome 01, Kertsonville 27. Crookston 27, Andover 10 (RLWD project), Andover 24 (complete?), Hammond 01 (WSWCD), NRCS 410 materials.

Other: TSA meeting(s) 11/03/2022, 11/30/2022, evaluations 11/07/2022, Area 1 meeting 11/15/2022, Verizon work phone, relocate FO (remote set-up), AIS meeting 12/15/2022, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 12/15/2022

Tree Program:

- Working with landowners to plan windbreaks and wildlife plantings for spring, 2023
- Three machine planting plans approved, three others in the works

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Planning meetings and lining up speakers
 - 1/10/22 – Jodi DeJong-Hughes (Extension): Beginning Conservation Tillage & Cover Crops
 - 1/24/22 – Angie Peltier (Extension): Cover Crop Termination, Weeds & Disease
- Working on promotions (KROX Valley Talk, newspapers, WPSWCD website) for WPSHIP and winter roundtable meetings for farmers, industry reps and research/outreach professionals

Meetings/Other:

- NW MN Ag BMP loan meeting 12/1
- Soil Management Summit 12/15, 16 – St. Cloud
- Ag BMP training 1/4/2023

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

December 2022 DC Report

EQIP

- General Sign Up #1 done, we will take apps for continuously for sign up #2
- 18 total apps/ 3 new apps all others were from previous years for Sign Up #1
- Newest development is flex management is not longer allowed for EQIP contracts, this had previously been allowed on management practices such as nutrient and pest management.

CSP

- Classic Sign Up ends February 10th, 2023.
- Renewal Sign Up ends March 10th, 2023

CRP

- Continuous enrollment on going.
- No word yet on general sign up.

Misc

Ducks Unlimited and the NRCS have partnered to provide a grazing specialist located in TRF to assist area staff and producer with grazing related resource concerns. This is a fantastic new resource for our area!

I realized that I have not shared my contact information with the board and felt this would be even more necessary given our move. Below is the easiest way to get a hold of me. Please board and staff feel free to reach out at any time.

Email: Zachary.Anderson@usda.gov
 Cell Phone: 218-280-5613
 Direct USDA Line: 218-281-2809, Ext. 116

My apologies for missing the December meeting as I am away from the office on business, I wish you all a Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Submitted by,
 Zach Anderson
 District Conservationist
 Crookston Field Office

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes	ENotes for NACD	
Conservation Brief	Waterline	
Conservation Views	River Monitor	
Crookston Daily Times	Shade Tree Advocate	
MPCA Feedlot Update	Minnesota	Environment

Minutes, Agendas, and Annual Reports:

BWSR	Wild Rice Watershed
Sand Hill Watershed	Red Lake Watershed
Polk County Board	MCIT

OTHER:

The next meeting was scheduled for January 19th , 2023 at 7:00 am.
 With no further business, Vice Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
 em\nb