

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

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

District Employees Present:

Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician

Others Present:

Chris Bernd

Absent:

Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

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

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

FY24-25 Natural Resource Block Grant/MOU Match correspondence

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

{Motion #62-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve updates to the West Polk SWCD Cost Share Program Policy.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

{Motion #62-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve Resolution West Polk #2024-1.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

{Motion #62-2024} Motion by Pester and seconded by Sorenson to approve the FY2025 BWSR Soil Health Delivery Grant in the amount of \$150,000.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Pester and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

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

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

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

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

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

Other:

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

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

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 08/15/2024

WCA:

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

CCCS/1W1P:

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

Other:

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

Torkelson

No report.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

August 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

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

CSP:

- All FY24 contracts have been obligated.

CRP:

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

Misc.:

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

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

8/14/24

Other:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

EM\nb