

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

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

District Employees Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Absent:

Christian Pester, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

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

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

FY24-25 Natural Resource Block Grant/MOU Match

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget Request – Polk County Board meeting

Crookston Community Voice app

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

Soil Health Programming Update - BWSR

2024 Legislative Summary - BWSR

MEETING REPORTS

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

Bernd
 Bernd
 Bernd
 Staff/Supervisors
 Staff

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

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

Staff/Supervisors
Bernd
Bernd
Bernd
Staff/Supervisors

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

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

Other:

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

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 07/18/2024

WCA:

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

CCCS/1W1P:

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

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

Other:

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

Torkelson

No report.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

July 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

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

CSP:

Classic sign-up ended January 12, 2024

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

CRP:

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

Submitted by,

Zach Anderson

District Conservationist

Crookston Field Office

Other:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb