

# WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## MINUTES FROM THE MAY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, Cournia, McWalter, and Pester

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present:

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

District Employees Present:

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

Others Present:

NRCS District Conservationist, NRCS

Absent:

John Sorenson, PR & I

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

### **FINANCIALS REPORT:**

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

**COST SHARE REPORT:**

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

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

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

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

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

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

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

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

Drill/Seeder: Pester

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

West Polk Districts 2-4-5

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

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

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

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Motion:

MASWCD Legislative Update

RCPD Inquiry

**MEETING REPORTS**

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

*Upcoming Meetings/Trainings*

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

## **DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:**

### **Bernd**

#### **1W1P:**

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

#### **Other:**

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

### **Habermehl**

Technician Habermehl Report 05/16/2024

#### **WCA:**

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

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

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

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

### **Torkelson**

Technician Report 5/16/2024

#### **Tree Program:**

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

#### **Soil Health Incentive Program:**

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

## **NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT**

May 2024 District Conservationist Report

#### **EQIP:**

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

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

CSP:

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

CRP:

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

Misc.

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

Submitted by,  
Zach Anderson  
District Conservationist  
Crookston Field Office

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Publications:

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary  
EM\nb