

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 24th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

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

Others Present: Taylor Leback, Farm Bill Biologist II

Absent: Chris Cournia, President
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

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

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

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

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

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Affirmative: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

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

Affirmation: Pester, Sorenson and McWalter

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MASWCD Resolutions

Vehicle purchase

Staff Evaluations

MEETING REPORTS

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

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

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

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

Bernd
Staff
Bernd

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

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

Other:

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

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

Present to the UMC Feedlot Facilities class.

Assisting bookkeeper for 2023 Audit.

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 10/24/2024

WCA:

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

CCCS/1W1P:

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

Other:

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

Torkelson

Technician Report 10/24/2024

Tree Program:

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

Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative:

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

Outreach/Other:

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

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

No report.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

Other:

Farm Bill Biologist

October 2024

Taylor Leback

Meetings/Trainings:

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

CRP:

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

SWCD:

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

Upcoming:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

Conservation Brief

Conservation Views

Crookston Daily Times

MN Department of Labor

Wild Rice Watershed District

MCIT

Shade Tree Advocate

Red Lake Watershed District:

Polk County Board of Commissioners

BWSR

Sand Hill Watershed District

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

EM\nb