

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 19th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Cournia, Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #66-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve the August 18th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

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
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Travis Nelson, RLC SWCD District Technician
Gabe Olson, RLC SWCD Soil Health Outreach Technician

Absent:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #67-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held August 15th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #68-2024} The August financial reports were reviewed. Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER’S REPORT:

{Motion #69-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the August treasurer’s report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

District Staff us requesting approval for payment of 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 #70-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Pester to approve MSTR1W1P contract 23-MSTR-WS-12 payment in the amount of \$900.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

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

Contract#	Practice	Approved Project Cost	Cost Share Amount	Technical Approval Authority
23-MSTR-WS-15	351	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	Habermehl

{Motion #71-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Pester to approve MSTR1W1P Cost Share contract 23-MSTR-WS-15 in the amount of \$900.00.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter, Sorenson and Pester

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

OLD BUSINESS

Polk County Board meeting, 9/17/2024, Sorenson report

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING REPORTS

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

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

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/McWalter
Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative, Microsoft Teams	Bernd
BWSR Academy, Cragun's Resort Brainerd	Staff

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- SHR 1W1P: Completed an expense tracker for each LGU for projects and time; percent and flat rate cost share contracts with vouchers; Steering Committee agreed to meet as needed; next Policy Committee meeting scheduled for 11/20/24.
- RLR 1W1P: completed funding table for the plan renewal amendment; working on draft priority issues and goals; updating project tracker; next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 10/9/2024. Second round of the BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant is \$100,000.00.
- MSTR 1W1P: Steering Committee was 9/2/2024. FY23 WBIF financials and timeline was discussed; Swift Coulee/RIM update; FY25 WBIF workplan (\$1,620,713). Policy Meeting was 9/11/2024. Motion was made to increase well sealing cost share to 90% up to \$1,250.00. Second round of the BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant is \$135,000.00.
- WRM 1W1P: Second round of the BWSR CRP State Incentive Grant is \$100,000.00.

Other:

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 09/19/2024

WCA:

- WCA 2024 Statute training
- RLWD permits (10), 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.
- Crookston __: delineation concurrence inquiry Houston eng. (follow up/no response).

CCCS/1W1P:

- well inquiry (1), irrigation inquiry
- Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed), 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 (left phone message).

Other:

Crookston 03 inquiry, MSTRWD buffer monitoring/BufCAT, RIM monitoring 2024 (complete), RIM (BWSR meeting), new RIM rules/templates, RIM application Lowell 29.

Torkelson

Technician Report 9/19/2024

Tree Program:

- Ten machine plantings in the works so far
 - One wildlife habitat planting
 - One field windbreak
- Making site visits to plan plantings and assist with windbreak problems/maintenance
- Choosing species from area conservation nurseries
- Earning CEUs for ISA recertification

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Six cost-share contracts approved so far
 - One full-season multi-species planting for grazing (80ac.)
 - CC-24-04 \$3200.00
 - Five fall single-species plantings (380ac.)
 - SH-24-01 \$1600.00
 - SH-24-02 \$1600.00
 - SH-24-03 \$1200.00
 - SH-24-04 \$1600.00
 - SH-24-05 \$1600.00

Working Lands Cover Crop Initiative:

- Steering Committee meetings – 8/29, 9/30
- Talking with interested farmers to discuss their needs and questions
- Ready to begin outreach and applications after 9/30 meeting

Outreach/Other:

- Soil health training webinar 9/23
- Northwest MN Water Festival – 9/24 & 25
- In-field soil health training 9/26
- BWSR Academy – 10/29-31

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

September 2024 District Conservationist Report

9/16/24

EQIP:

- FY 24 Overview
 - 20 applications ranked, 8 funded (40%)
 - Obligation total: \$1,066,835.80

- FY25 Sign Up #1
 - Closed 9/6/24
 - 29 applications eligible to rank

CSP:

- FY24 Overview
 - 2 applications ranked, 100% funded
 - Obligation total: \$600,000

CRP

- No word on new sign up, will likely be waiting on Farm Bill.

Misc.

- Personnel changes
 - Luther Newton has accepted the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in the SE (Faribault, MN) effective 10/7/24.
 - Nico Bennett's acting stint as Team Lead will come to an end Oct. 4th. New details on Team Lead vacancy to be forthcoming.
 - Crookston FO will welcome a new Soil Conservationist 9/23/24.

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 October 17th, 2024, at 7:30 am.

With no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
 EM\nb