



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 1st Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 8, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairperson Williamson called the Thursday, June 8, 2023 meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was held in person at the Historic Courthouse located at 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The board held a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner Rod Erickson.

Call for Introductions.

Board members present in person were: Tom Williamson, Leland Buchholz, Wayne Wendel, Dale Katterhagen and Barb James.

Others present in person were: Deja Anton, District Manager, Adam Ossefoort, Division Director, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Tim Ebnet, Conservation Technician, Dylan Pratt, Conservation Technician, Josh Votruba, Conservation Technician, Kasen Christiansen, Conservation Technician, Josh Hanson, NRCS, Kevin Brown, NRCS, Darren Mayers, BWSR, Randy Neumann, Commissioner, and Barb Becker, Commissioner.

Williamson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Wendel made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to accept the revised agenda for the regular June 8, 2023 meeting with the following of revisions:

- Add – AREA II Summary and State AID Guidelines
- Add – Legislature Updates by BWSR
- Add – Amendment for additional funds for Iliff pit closure funds
- Add – Encumbering Red Eye WBIF funds for Nicholas French pit closure
- Add – Approve date for hosting AREA II Meeting in September 2023
- Add – Approve Chair signature for WCTSA contract for Technical and Engineering (Nutrient Management)

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve April 13, 2023 board meeting minutes with changing Williamson to Buchholz under program summary review as Buchholz was acting chair. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve minutes as disbursed from the May 11, 2023 board meeting. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Williamson asked the board to review May's 2023 Treasurer's Report. Buchholz made a motion, seconded by James to accept May's 2023 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$14,782.22 and disbursements totaling \$33,439.90. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.



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Williamson called for conflict of interest. No conflict of interest reported.

REPORTS:

Director Update: Ossefoort reported Planning and Zoning will be working on Septic Ordinance revisions in the Fall, Solar Ordinance is moving forward, permitting has been slower compared to last year at this time, and recently attended MACPZA conference. Ossefoort noted he also is working on County Budgets and Planning and Zoning was awarded an income based septic replacement cost share grant.

SWCD Manager Highlights and Project Update: See handout from Anton. Anton reported Votruba and Christiansen have been attending meetings, giving presentations and working on wetland violations. Ebnet and Pratt have been working on permitting, pit closure projects and irrigation scheduler program. Anton reported the County Attorney reviewed the Agreement with the County and everything looks good. Anton reminded the board if a situation becomes between the SWCD and County, the Attorney would be representing the County. SWCD Supervisors will be exempted from reporting spousal assets on the Campaign Finance report. Weldon and Didier both accepted SWCD awards for Land Stewardship and Conservationist of the Year. The new funding called SWCD AID will need an approved resolution, and a resolution template was provided to the District Manager. She will bring forward in a future meeting.

Staff Report: Christiansen presented his visual report (Report was handed out at the meeting). He reported he has been busy with wetland requests, wetland violations, SWAG Monitoring program and attending meetings.

NRCS Report: Hanson introduced Kevin Brown as the new Soil Conservationist for the Long Prairie NRCS office. 2023 EQIP projects have been obligated and working on CRP spot checks. The IRA funding will not fund structural projects, but will fund projects like cover crop, nutrient management, no till and prescribed grazing projects.

1W1P SRWD Report: No update. There was miss-communication about if the meeting on or cancelled.

1W1P Red Eye Report: No update.

1W1P Long Prairie Report: No projects have been submitted for funding request. A project on Nelson Lake requested a letter of support from the Policy Committee. The policy committee will not be issuing a letter of support, as that isn't their role.

1W1P Crow Wing Report: A kickoff meeting was held on May 31, 2023. Wendel would like to see a map of the Crow Wing Watershed. Todd SWCD didn't partner in the Planning part, but did join in as a partner for the implementation grant.

1W1P Mississippi Brainerd Report: A policy meeting will be held end of June.

BWSR Report: Mayers reviewed MASWCD Legislature report.



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Celebrations: Successful 2023 Tree Season.

DECISIONS:

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve rescinding Board Action 20230511-3.2 for updates and revisions. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve replacing Board Action 20230511-3.2 with Resolution 20230608-3.2 Establishing Project Assurances through Abstract Record after revisions made collectively between the District Manager and County Attorney.

Discussion: Board consensus not to cost share recording fee. Costs will be on the landowner.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Neumann and Commissioner Becker joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve questionnaire for landowners requiring assurances of no back taxes owned by Cost Share applicants.

Discussion: Wendel expressed concerned about rules changing, for example septic rules, and that would make a person non-complaint. Discussed separation of programs and when people go onsite for feedlot inspection, they put on blinders on other programs; otherwise people wouldn't allow staff onsite.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Katterhagen and James. Opposed: Wendel. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen, made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to nominate Samantha Middendorf from Christ the King, Browerville as recipient Teacher of the Year award. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve amendment requesting additional funds for Iliff in the amount of \$2,916.63 for his pit closure project. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve payment of BWSR Partridge Match cost share funds in the amount of \$8,147.65, and FY20 MPCA Partridge River Phase II cost share funds in the amount of \$29,673.98 for a total of \$37,821.63 to Kevin Iliff for pit closure project (2 pits). Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Neumann left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion: Anton informed the Board that the District didn't know about the change in price for Iliff pit closure project until the invoices came in from landowner. The Board noted, they assumed the office was informed about the increase during the project. The Board noted staff should be transparent with the Board ahead of the decision. Discussion was held on how to prevent unapproved contractor increases in the future. Anton, requested she would like to send a letter to this particular contractor about the cost share process and requirements.



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Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James authorizing District Manager, Anton to send the contractor on the Iliff pit closure project, a letter discussing the protocol for changes during a cost share project. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve encumbering FY2021 and FY2022 Red Eye WBIF cost share funds for Nicholas French, in the amount of \$26,451 for a pit closure located in the Red Eye Watershed, C#20230608-3.7. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Board suggested hosting AREA II Meeting on September 6, 13 or 19. Anton will check with the other AREA SWCD's to see what date works the best.

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve signing WCTSA Contract for Technical and Engineering Services (Nutrient Management) effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Anton left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

DISCUSSION:

Supervisors are responsible for calling their alternative if they are unable to attend a meeting. Ossefoort noted, to let Anton or him know if they are not receiving the notices about meetings.

The Board will report to the office before the meeting date if they want to get paid in a timely matter for per diems and mileage reimbursements.

The DNR is working on a tree replacement policy. *{After the fact correction by Anton due to her leaving the meeting prior to discussion: The DNR does not monitor cost-share per Jennifer Teegarden, DNR. Teegarden stated she does not believe there is any early termination penalty. They would simply "blacklist" landowners who terminated early from future cost-share opportunities. They have no replacement plans.}*

The SWCD will need to determine what type of Tree Planter they want through the LCCMR Grant. Discussed the safety of pulling the planter, need to determine who is pulling the planter down the road, and who is liable if something happens. *{After the fact add in by Anton as she had left the meeting prior to this discussion: The County would be responsible for insuring the planter in the event something happens to the planter. Anton is looking into the legality of signing a waiver form and providing proof of insurance on the part of the landowner who would be hauling the equipment. Chris Pelzer and County John Lindeman have been contacted.}*

Ossefoort reported Katterhagen and James will meet with Anton and him for 2024 budget planning process for 2024. Katterhagen and James both prefer early mornings.

INFORMATIONAL:

The Local Work Group Meeting and Tour will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023. Katterhagen will attend.



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The Annual Enviro Fest will be September 21, 2023.

Board consensus Anton can decide what monument to get in remembrance of Pesta.

Commissioner Report: Becker reported funeral for Commissioner Erickson will be June 17, 2023. A special election is being held in Commissioner District 3 to fill the vacant position.

The next regular Todd Soil and Water board supervisor meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at the Historic Courthouse in the Commissioner's Board room. The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m.

Chairperson Williamson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Sarah Katterhagen
Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Prepare

Deja Anton
Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

Wayne Wendel
Wayne Wendel, Secretary

7/13/2023
Date

7/13/2023
Date

July 13, 2023
Date