



## MINUTES FROM THE MAY 15, 2024, BOARD MEETING

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*The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:25 a.m.*

**Members Present:** Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann  
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards  
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt  
Public Relations: Wayne Enger  
Treasurer: Bruce Albright

**Others Present:** County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz  
OTC Land and Resource: Chris LeClair  
NRCS District Conservationist: Troy Baumgart  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Ass't District Manager: Anne Oldakowski  
Administrative Assistant: Chantal Tougas

**Agenda:** Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Wayne Enger to adopt the agenda as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Bills Paid & Bills Payable:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt, to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

### LOCAL CAPACITY – P22-6134

**P22-6134-01;** Allen Lubitz; Corliss Township, Section 22; is requesting cost share assistance for an ag waste pit closure. The total estimated cost of the project is \$7,920.00 with cost sharing of \$5,940.00 or 75%, whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

### REDEYE 1W1P – C21-3238

**C21-3238-30;** Mark Christensen; Girard Township, Section 12; is requesting cost share final payment for his ag waste pit closure. The total estimated cost of the project was \$18,000.00 with a cost share payment of \$13,500.00 or 75%. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.



### REDEYE 1W1P 2.0 – C22-7830

**6-C22-7830-06;** Ryan Peppersack; Parker’s Prairie Township, Section 10, 29; is requesting cost share assistance for an Irrigation Water Management practice. The total estimated cost of the flat rate three-year contract is \$1500.00 with cost sharing of \$500.00/year. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Wayne Enger to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

### OTTER TAIL WBIF – C23-4546

**6-C23-4546-25;** Richard Saffrin; Dead Lake Township, Section 5; is requesting cost share assistance for his forest stewardship plan. The total estimated cost of the project is \$375.00 with cost sharing of \$281.25 or 75%, whichever is less. (Consultant written plan, 79 acres) Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

### BLUFF AND OAK CREEK 319 – P22-3257

**P22-3257-03;** Henry Dykhoff; Bluffton Township, Section 8,30; is requesting cost share assistance for a multi-species cover crop practice. The total estimated acres are 18 acres with flat rate cost sharing of \$35/acre or \$630.00. Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

***District Manager’s Report:*** Presented by Anne Oldakowski.

#### ***District Conservationist’s Report:***

- CSP – 11 contracts total. Of those, 7 were forestry and 4 were cropland.
- EQIP – 11 contracts total. Received an additional 2 contracts with the first-round unobligated funds. We are set to receive an additional \$22 million. It is unclear when or how it will be divided. There could potentially be 3 or 4 more contracts here in EOT.
- CRP – Batching period 2 ended April 12, 2024. 7 offers were accepted.
- Other – Attended Conservation days May 6-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 530 students were in attendance from 9 different schools. Ag in the Classroom was April 30, 2024 in New York Mills and approximately 50 students were in attendance.
- Meetings/Trainings – MN Grazing Lands Conservation Association and MN Soil Health Coalition.

#### ***County Commissioner’s Report:***

- Tomorrow (May 16, 2024) @ 6 p.m. there will be a meet and greet held at the Perham High School in an attempt to encourage people to run for office.
- EMS is a real problem. Township supervisors will be meeting soon to brainstorm for solutions.
- The fair board held a meeting last night (May 14, 2024). Discussion was held on plans to build on the fair grounds property, however, build is halted until the arsenic is located and removed.

#### ***Other Agency Reports:*** OTC Land and Resource: Chris LeClair

- VHR (Vacation Home Rental) Ordinance final adoption is being considered. The county has received multiple calls. This only applies to short term rentals, it does not apply to rentals of 30 consecutive days or more. Subdivision Ordinance public hearing coming soon.



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### ***Old Business***

***TSA Update:*** nothing to report at this time.

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### ***New Business***

#### ***Meetings/Trainings:***

- Area Meeting in June. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Wayne Enger to approve those who wish to attend. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- Administrative Conference in June. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve those who wish to attend. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- SWCD Governance. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Wayne Enger to approve those who wish to attend. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- MASWCD Leadership. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Wayne Enger to approve sending someone. Opposed: none, motion carried.

***USDA Lease Agreement:*** Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Steve Inwards to approve signing the new lease agreement from USDA for rental space in our building. Opposed: none, motion carried.

***Fairgrounds Storage Shed Demo:*** We will be losing our storage at the Fairgrounds due to the demolition of the building. We have been in discussion with the City of Perham about a location on the fairgrounds available for us to build on. Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Steve Inwards to start the process. Opposed: none, motion carried. A planning committee was formed with Wayne Enger and Bruce Albright volunteering to sit on this committee with a couple of EOT SWCD staff.

***Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture:*** Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve Darren to sign the agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

***MASWCD Resolutions:*** Information only. If board members think of any resolutions, they should bring them to attention.

***Supervisor Filing Dates:*** Bruce, Terry and Steve are up for re-elections. The filing dates are May 21<sup>st</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>.

***JAA Approval:*** Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Steve Inwards to approve Tanner Schmitz's JAA for Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, Filter Strip (just to name a few). Opposed: none, motion carried.

***Public Comments:*** none.

***Adjourn:*** Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.