



## MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 21, 2023, BOARD MEETING

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*The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:29 a.m.*

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

**Others Present:** MN Rep. Tom Murphy  
County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz  
OTC Land & Resource: Chris LeClair  
NRCS District Conservationist: Troy Baumgart  
NRCS Rangeland Mgmt Specialist: Lawrence Mettler  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Assistant District Manager: Anne Oldakowski  
Education, Outreach & Admin Asst: Kristi Rorah  
Wadena SWCD Board Liaison: Bruce Juntunen

**Members Absent:** Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards

**Agenda:** Soil Health Summit added to item 12. Meetings and Trainings. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Wayne Enger, to adopt the agenda with addition. 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 Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Wayne Enger, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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

**Cost Share:**

### REDEYE 1W1P

**C21-3238-08** CT Farms, LLC; Woodside Township, Section 31; is requesting a final cost share payment for an irrigation sprinkler system. The total cost of the project was \$29,800.00 with the cost share amount of \$15,120.00. Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.



## IRRIGATION TECH/NITRATE GRANT

**C21-9235-07;** Leaderbrand Brothers; Newton Township, Section 36; is requesting a partial cost share payment for soil moisture sensors. The total cost of the practice to date is \$3,000.00 with the cost share amount of \$2,250.00. Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

## COST SHARE

**P23-5804-01;** Jason Haman; Pine Lake Township, Section 4; is requesting cost share assistance for a well sealing. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,100.00 with cost sharing of \$500.00 which is the maximum allowable. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Wayne Enger to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

***District Manager's Report:*** Presented by Darren Newville.

\* 7:55 a.m. Rep. Tom Murphy joined the meeting

***District Conservationist's Report:*** Presented by Troy Baumgart

- CSP – classic signup, 3 pre-approvals, working on practice certifications
- EQIP – \$750,500 obligated by EOT projects, 8 total contracts (4 grazing, 1 ag waste, 1 forestry, 1 wildlife, 1 cropland)
- CRP – all but one offer accepted and letters have been sent out, continuous offers have a July 15 deadline for technical plan and paperwork to be completed, working on practice certifications and status reviews
- Introduced Lawrence Mettler, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist for Perham office, started May 21.
- New AED for the office installed
- Mitch Neitge has received a tentative job offer with the Grand Rapids NRCS office

***County Commissioner's Report:*** Presented by Dan Bucholz

- Property values increased significantly around several lakes because of a few high dollar sales.
- County has run into issues with the film recycling program.
- Still dealing with several ditch issues.
- DNR will be doing a fish study on Little Pine lake.

***Other Agency Reports:***

OTC Land & Resource – Presented by Chris LeClair

- Working on catching up now that field staff are returning from their leaves.
- Discussed remonumenting grant (to re-survey section lines, locate monuments)

MN Legislature – Presented by Rep. Tom Murphy

- Discussed transportation and energy legislation
- Funds were allocated for MN nursing homes



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### **Old Business**

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**TSA Update:** none

### **New Business**

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

- CAI Short Course, \$420.00 total cost/person: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Bruce Albright to approve staff attending the CAI Short Course. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- NACD summer meeting, July 15-19, \$375/person: Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve attendance for staff/supervisors who are interested in attending. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- Irrigation Technical Training will be July 17-18 in Staples, no cost for attendance
- MASWCD Leadership Training: Liz Wiese, cost is \$5800/person: Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Wayne Enger to approve staff attending the MASWCD Leadership Training. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- Soil Health Summit: scholarships for producers to cover registration have been provided in the past. Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Wayne Enger to approve five scholarships for producers for the Soil Health Summit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

\* 8:45 a.m. Lawrence Mettler left the meeting

#### **Lakes Country Service Cooperative:**

Service Renewal Agreement: Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve signing of the service agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

#### **Joint EOT/WOT SWCD County Tour:**

Tour will be September 11, 2023. EOT SWCD is planning the tour this year.

#### **MASWCD Resolutions:**

Discussed which resolutions passed and which did not.

#### **2023 Legislative Update Overview:**

- SWCD Aid was passed, future funding will come directly from the Dept. of Revenue/general fund rather than the Clean Water fund
- Natural Resources Block Grant was increased

#### **Personnel Committee:**

Nathan Wiese has submitted his letter of resignation, accepted position with CLC and Aug. 11, 2023 is last day. Motion made by Wayne Enger, second by Terry Greenwaldt to accept Nathan's letter of resignation. Opposed: none, motion carried.

\* 9:12 a.m. Chris LeClair left the meeting



***Public Comments:***

Wadena SWCD board report by Bruce Juntunen: Area 8 meeting is this Friday, June 23. Wadena County is also having property valuation issues.

***Adjourn:*** Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.