



## MINUTES FROM THE JULY 21, 2021 BOARD MEETING

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Pursuant to MN Statutes 13D.021 the regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom or Teleconference due to the Public Health Pandemic Emergency declared under Chapter 12 by the Governor. A notice of the meeting was posted on the door of the SWCD Office Location (801 Jenny Ave SW, #2) explaining how the public was able to participate in the meeting. The meeting followed all the requirements for an electronic meeting as spelled out in MN Statutes 13D.021 Subdivision 1, 1-4.

*The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:30 a.m.  
Reviewed the Public Health Emergency Remote Public Meeting Guidance.*

**Members Present:**

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann  
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards  
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt  
Treasurer: Dennis Reynolds  
Public Relations: Wayne Enger

**Others Present:**

County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz  
Wadena SWCD Liaison: Nancy Benson  
Land & Resource: Chris Le Clair  
BWSR Board Conservationist: Pete Waller  
NRCS Soil Conservationist: Bob Guetter  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Asst District Manager: Anne Oldakowski (Zoom)  
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas  
Admin, Ed, & Outreach Asst: Kristi Rorah

**Agenda:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to adopt the Agenda. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the previous month 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 Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt, to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.



## COST SHARE

**PL6/LP;** Robert & Mary Ellen Jahn; Perham, Section 2, are requesting payment for their shoreline restoration. The total estimated cost of the project was \$2168.37 with cost sharing of \$1626.28 which is 75%. Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve payment. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**2021-03;** Mary Springer; Oak Valley, Section 1, is seeking cost share assistance for a well sealing. The total estimated cost of the project is \$300.00 with cost sharing of \$150.00 which is the maximum allowable or 50% whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve payment. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**2021-04;** Brian Pettow; Butler, Section 24, is seeking cost share assistance for a well sealing. The total estimated cost of the project is \$901.00 with cost sharing of \$300.00 which is the maximum allowable or 50% whichever is less. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve payment. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**District Manager's Report:** Report written by Anne Oldakowski and presented by Darren Newville.

- \* Tanner Schmitz will be starting 7/28.

**District Conservationist's Report:** Report presented by Bob Guetter.

### **County Commissioner Report:**

Presented by Dan Bucholz.

- \* How to address spotted knapweed in the county. It is landowners' responsibility, they can call Aimee to consult.
- \* Calls have been received regarding starting emergency haying early – cannot hay CRP before Aug 2.
- \* Fair is in town this week. Vaccinations will be offered at the fair.
- \* Bridge on Hwy 8 may not be open before school starts.

### **Land & Resource:**

Presented by Chris Le Clair

- \* Planning committee for Kerbs/Little McDonald channel was approved.
- \* Clitheral has nitrate problem in private wells. \$50k grant is being offered to study the problem.

8:14 am – Julie Welter (FSA) entered

**FSA:** Presented by Julie Welter

- \* Emergency haying/grazing - drought monitor is updated weekly Thursday mornings. Currently in D2 which allows haying/grazing 100% of field in any practice. D3 limits grass practices to 50% of field
- \* Livestock forage program – urging producers to certify pasture in case drought moves to D3
- \* Newsletter is online for information on FSA/NRCS programs that are available. USDA has link for info on understanding the drought monitor.

8:35 am – Julie left the meeting



**BWSR:**

Presented by Pete Waller

- \* Review of 2021 legislative session summary

8:53 am – Chris left the meeting

## Old Business

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**Water Planning:** Information included in District manager's report. 1W1P policy meeting tomorrow.

**Department of Ag Update:** RCPP – Dept of Ag working to get agreement in place. Valley Irrigation and CLC to get irrigation system set up, either upgrading or new system. RCPP will have kick off meeting this fall.

**TSA Update:** Lyle attended meeting. Option 1 voted, Lyle voted Option 6. Passed for one year.

## New Business

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**Meetings:**

Otter Tail 1W1P meeting is tomorrow, July 22.

Board/Staff retreat will be Thursday, August 12.

Breakfast on the Farm is August 14.

County Board tour is August 17, WOT will be taking the lead.

Cover crop field day is August 18, following EOT board meeting.

Otter Tail 1W1P policy meeting & bus tour is August 26.

CLC field day is August 27.

**Supervisor Per Diem:** Per diem may be increased up to \$125/day. Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to increase per diem from \$75 to \$125 starting in August. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**2022 Budget:** 2022 draft budget presented by Darren Newville. Motion to adopt draft budget made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: None, motion carried.

9:40 am – Dan left the meeting

**Esser Maintenance Agreement:** Maintenance agreement with Esser will be \$676.00/year. Motion to approve maintenance agreement made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: None, motion carried.



***Public Comments:***

- \* Discussion of future staffing and facility needs.
- \* Trimble upgrade needed, will cost \$4938.50. Motion to purchase upgrade made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: None, motion carried.

***Adjourn:*** Motion to adjourn was made at 10:00 am by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: None, motion carried.