



Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

www.soilandwater.org

It is the mission of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District to protect and enhance Benton County's soil, water, and other natural resources; to nurture a conservation ethic by educating county residents on conservation and environmental issues.

Benton SWCD
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday
December 27, 2023
8:00 A.M.

Chair, Chuck Rau
Vice Chair, Mike Winkelman
Secretary, Bernie Thole
Treasurer, Wade Bastian
Member, Joe Jordan

Attendance: Supervisors—Wade Bastian, Mike Winkelman, Bernie Thole, Joe Jordan, Chuck Rau

Other: Gerry Maciej (District Manager) and Renee Thell (Administrative Assistant). In for part of the meeting: Nathan Sanoski (District/Farm Bill Technician), Mike McMillin (District Technician), Josh Bork (NRCS District Conservationist), Emily Forbord (Watershed & Outreach Specialist), Michelle Meyers (Benton County Attorney), and Scott Johnson (Benton County Commissioner)

- I. **Call meeting to order**— The meeting was called to order by Rau at 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**- recited.
- III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to approve December agenda with suggested changes. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- IV. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**- Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to approve November minutes. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- V. **Treasurers' Monthly Report**- Maciej presented November Program Summary Report. Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to approve reports. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- VI. **Payment of Bills**
 - A. Benton SWCD Bills - Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve the accounts payable report, pay bills. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
 - B. WCTSA Bills - Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to approve the WCTSA accounts payable report, pay bills. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.Michelle Meyers came into the meeting at this time and left after MRSC 1W1P #3 part A.
- VII. **One Watershed One Plan** – Maciej, Forbord, and Meyers update the board on the 1W1P plans.
 - A. **Rum River Watershed Partnership**
 - 1) December 12, outreach office hour
 - 2) January 8 (upcoming), implementation planning committee meeting
 - 3) January 9 (upcoming) outreach office hour
 - 4) January 25 (upcoming), Rum River Watershed board meeting
 - B. **Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**
 - 1) November 29, citizen advisory committee meeting
 - 2) December 1, St. Cloud committee meeting
 - 3) December 4, governance (member attorneys) meeting
 - A. Discuss draft joint powers entity agreement (enclosed)
 - 4) December 6, monitoring implementation committee meeting
 - 5) December 6, steering committee meeting
 - 6) December 7, policy committee meeting

- 7) December 19, technical advisory committee meeting
- 8) January 3 (upcoming), steering committee meeting
- 9) January 4 (upcoming), policy committee meeting
- 10) January 16 (upcoming), technical advisory committee meeting
- 11) January 17 (upcoming), governance (member attorneys) meeting

McMillin came into the meeting at this time and left after landscape stewardship plan meeting.

- 12) February 5 (upcoming), landscape stewardship plan final meeting

C. Mississippi River Sartell 1W1P

- 1) None

VIII. Conservation Plans

A. Northeast St. Cloud underground regional treatment system project presentation and payment request - Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve payment for Northeast St. Cloud underground regional treatment system project. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Forbord and Johnson left the meeting at this time. Sanoski and McMillin came into the meeting at this time and left after 2023 cover crop results.

B. FY 2021 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2021 CWF-ERM24 – Ronald Lavigne –Contract Amendment and Payment Request for wetland restoration- Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to increase the financial assistance from \$3,697.50 to \$4,770.00 and to release payment for \$4,770.00 for contract FY2021 CWF-ERM24. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

C. 2023 cover crop results report – McMillin updated the board.

VIII. Other Items

A. Conduct the District Manager Performance Evaluation –Meeting was closed to conduct the District Manager performance evaluation. Rau announced the meeting will be closed under Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subdivision 3 at around 10:20 am. Rau opened the meeting back up at 12:39 pm.

B. Education and outreach update – in board packet

C. District Technician vacancy update – Maciej updated the board we are going to repost the position.

Mike Winkelman left the meeting at this time.

D. Approve the 2024 budget - Motion by the Finance Committee, second by Bastian to approve the 2024 budget. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

D. Designate official depositories for 2024 – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to authorize Frandsen Bank & Trust, Falcon National, and Bremer Bank to be designated official depositories for Benton SWCD. All were in favor. The motion passed.

E. Reaffirm the District Manager’s authority to issue cost share and incentive payments – Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to reaffirm the District Manager’s authority to issue cost share and incentive payments. All were in favor. The motion passed.

E. Reaffirm Wetland Restoration Technical Approval Authority to USFWS staff – Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to reaffirm Wetland Restoration Technical Approval Authority to USFWS staff. All were in favor. The motion passed.

F. Earned Sick and Safe Time Policy and Employee Notice – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve the earned sick and safe time policy and employee notice. All were in favor. The motion passed.

IX. Progress Reports

A. Staff reports

B. NRCS report

C. BWSR report

D. U of M Extension Service

E. District Manager report

X. **Information Items**

A. **Supervisor / Manager Reports**

- 1) December 7, 1W1P policy committee meeting
- 2) December 8, Soil Health Team meeting
- 3) December 11 – 13, MASWCD Annual Convention and Trade Show
- 4) December 20, Finance committee meeting

B. **Calendar of Future Events:**

- 1) January 4, Mississippi River policy committee meeting
- 2) January 22, Soil Health Team meeting
- 3) January 24, Benton SWCD board meeting
- 4) January 25, Rum River Watershed board meeting
- 5) March 6 or 13 (tentative), MASWCD area 2 meeting (Benton SWCD hosts)

XI. **Supervisor Open Forum**-none

IX. **Adjourn**– Motion by Rau, second by Bastian to adjourn the board meeting at 1:04 pm. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.



Secretary, Board of Supervisors

1-24-2024
Date

