



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
June 28, 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

Other: Gerry Maciej (District Manager),

Josh Bork (NRCS District Conservationist), and Renee Thell (Administrative Assistant).

In for part of the meeting: Scott Johnson (Benton County Commissioner), Jason Weinerman (Board Conservationist for BWSR), Emily Forbord (Watershed and Outreach Specialist), Jessica Hoheisel (District Technician), Megan Tritz (District Technician), Nathan Sanoski (District/Farm Bill Technician) and Mike McMillin (District Technician).

- I. **Call meeting to order**— The meeting was called to order by Winkelman at 8:03 a.m.
 - II. **Pledge of Allegiance**— recited.
 - III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve agenda. 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 Thole, second by Bastian to approve May 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 May Program Summary Report. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole 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 - Maciej presented the Accounts Payable report. Motion by Thole, second by Bastian to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
 - B. WCTSA Bills – no bills for June.
 - VII. **One Watershed One Plan** – Maciej and Forbord informed the board.
 - A. **Rum River Watershed Partnership**
 - 1) June 12, implementation planning committee meeting
 - 2) June 22, board meeting
 - B. **Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**
 - 1) June 7, steering committee meeting
 - 2) June 27, technical advisory committee meeting
 - 3) July 5 (upcoming), steering committee meeting
 - 4) July 6 (upcoming), policy committee meeting
- Tritz, Hoheisel, Sanoski, McMillin came into the meeting at this time.

VIII. Conservation Plans

A. FY 2021 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2021 CWF-ERM19, BS Dairy, New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve contract FY2021 CWF-ERM19 for cost sharing not to exceed \$2,000 or up to 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

McMillin left the meeting at this time.

- 2) FY2021 CWF-ERM27, Terry Pflipsen for wetland restoration – Motion by Bastian, second by Jordan to approve contract FY2021 CWF-ERM27 for cost sharing not to exceed \$20,446.88 or up to 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less and to sign agreement with USFWS. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

B. FY 2022 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2022 CWF-ERM2, Rita Johnson - New Contract for wetland restoration – Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to approve contract FY2022 CWF-ERM2 for cost sharing not to exceed \$15,425.00 or up to 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less and to sign agreement with USFWS. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Sanoski left the meeting at this time.

C. FY 2023 Morrison / Benton Public Water Supply Protection grant

- 1) FY23-CWF-CC1, Schlichting Farms - New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Bastian, second by Jordan to approve contract FY23-CWF-CC1 for cost sharing not to exceed \$7,000.00. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Hoheisel left the meeting at this time.

IX. Other Items

A. Education and outreach update – Forbord updated the board.

B. Northeast St. Cloud underground regional treatment system impromptu tour – Maciej gave an updated.

C. Conservation contest awards – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to up the prize amount for the coloring contest. 1st place - \$50.00, 2nd place - \$25.00, and 3rd place – \$15.00. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Forbord left the meeting at this time.

D. Select the 2023 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator – Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to accept the 2023 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator results. Notification will be made public once winner is notified. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Sanoski came in at this time and left after MDA ag bmp loan discussions.

E. Consider a selection process for the MDA agricultural best management practices low interest loan program funding requests – Motion by Bastian, second by Jordan to use the process as follows, use the 2023 Ag BMP Low Interest Loan Application Ranking Sheet (based on allocation from MDA), highest scoring to lowest scoring approval method. In case there is a tie with ranking, it will go to the board. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

F. Approve the fiscal agent agreement with the West Central Technical Service Area – Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian approve the fiscal agent agreement with the West Central Technical Service. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

G. Finalize a 9-month Certificate of Deposit investment with Frandsen Bank & Trust – cd paperwork was signed.

H. Authorize the District Manager to make Certificate of Deposit investments independently at all Benton SWCD official depositories – Motion by Thole, second by Bastian assign the District Manager a sole signer for Certificate of Deposit investments independently at all Benton SWCD official depositories. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

- I. 2024 Draft budget – Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve 2024 draft budget. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve 2023 budget with changes. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- J. Open sealed bids for the food plot planter – Motion by Bastian, second by Jordan to accept the bid from Ray Novak for the food plot planter. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

X. **Progress Reports**

- A. Staff reports
- B. District Manager report- Maciej reported.
- C. NRCS report – Bork gave his report.
- D. BWSR report – Weinerman gave his report at 11:00 am and left the meeting after his report.

XI. **Information Items**

A. **Supervisor / Manager Reports**

- 1) June 6, MASWCD Area 2 and WCTSA meetings
- 2) June 12, MASWCD board meeting
- 3) June 21, finance committee meeting
- 4) June 21, Foley Fun Days 75th anniversary parade float
- 5) June 22, Rum River Watershed board meeting

B. **Calendar of Future Events:**

- 1) June 28, 11:00 A.M., Benton County local workgroup meeting
- 2) June 29, Benton SWCD 75-year anniversary open house
- 3) July 6, MRSC 1W1P policy committee meeting
- 4) July 13 (5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.), We Are Water Agricultural Field Day – Glen and Brian Kaschmitter Farm
- 5) July 26, Benton SWCD board meeting

XII. **Supervisor Open Forum**

- XIII. **Adjourn**– Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to adjourn the board meeting at 12:10 am. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.


Secretary, Board of Supervisors

7-26-23
Date

