



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
November 22, 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), Josh Bork (NRCS District Conservationist), and Renee Thell (Administrative Assistant). In for part of the meeting: Nathan Sanoski (District/Farm Bill Technician), Mike McMillin (District Technician), Megan Tritz (District Technician), Emily Forbord (Watershed & Outreach Specialist), and Zach Guttormson (BWSR Conservationist)

- I. **Call meeting to order**– The meeting was called to order by Rau at 8:02 a.m.
 - II. **Pledge of Allegiance**- recited.
 - III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Thole, second by Bastian to approve November 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 Jordan, second by Thole to approve October 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 October Program Summary Report. Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian 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 Thole, second by Winkelman 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 - none
 - VII. **One Watershed One Plan** – Forbord and Maciej presented to the board.
 - A. **Rum River Watershed Partnership**
 - 1) November 14, outreach office hour
 - 2) November 20, implementation planning committee meeting
 - B. **Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**
 - 1) November 1, steering committee meeting
 - 2) November 8, landscape stewardship plan meeting (Mike McMillin)
- McMillin came into the meeting at this time and left after landscape stewardship update. Zach Guttormson came into the board meeting at this time and left after Progress Reports part of the meeting.
- 3) November 8, implementation governance (member attorneys) meeting
 - 4) November 13, supporting programs committee meeting (Roxanne Achman)
 - 5) November 21, technical advisory committee
 - 6) To be determined, (upcoming) implementation governance (member attorneys) meeting
 - 7) December 6, (upcoming) steering committee meeting
 - 8) December 7, (upcoming) policy committee meeting
 - 9) December 19, (upcoming) technical advisory committee meeting

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C. Mississippi River Sartell 1W1P

- 1) None

McMillin, Sanoski, and Tritz came into the meeting at this time and left after conservation plans discussion.

VIII. Conservation Plans

A. FY 2021 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2021 CWF-ERM27 – Terry Pflipsen –Contract Amendment and Payment Request for wetland restoration- Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to increase the financial assistance from \$20,446.88 to \$46,126.52 and to release payment for \$46,126.52 for contract FY2021 CWF-ERM27. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

B. FY 2023 Soil Health grant

- 1) FY23-BSH5 – Spencer Hacket –Contract Amendment and Payment Request for cover crops- Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to reimburse the contract holder from one grant instead of two and to release payment for \$2,000.00 for contract FY23-BSH5. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

C. FY 2023 Vulnerable Public Drinking Water grant

- 1) FY23CWF-CC5 – Spencer Hacket –Contract Cancellation - Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to cancel FY23CWF-CC5. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Other Items

A. Education and outreach update

B. Consider an amended Professional Services Agreement Between Benton County and Benton SWCD for Administration of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems – Motion by Thole, second by Winkelman to approve the chair to sign the Professional Services Agreement Between Benton County and Benton SWCD. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

C. Consider Finance Committee recommendations for classification and compensation plan updates – Motion by Bastian, second by Winkelman to approve the recommendations for classifications and compensation from the Finance Committee. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

IX. Progress Reports

A. Staff reports - none

B. NRCS report – Bork presented to the board.

Jordan left the meeting at this time.

C. BWSR report – Zach Guttormson reported to the board.

D. U of M Extension Service

E. District Manager report – Maciej reported to the board.

X. **Information Items**

A. **Supervisor / Manager Reports**

- 1) November 15, Minnesota Association of SWCDs board meeting
- 2) November 16, Finance/Policy committee meeting

B. **Calendar of Future Events:**

- 1) December 8, Soil Health Team meeting
- 2) December 11 – 13, MASWCD Annual Convention and Trade Show
- 3) To be determined, Finance committee meeting
- 4) December 27, Benton SWCD board meeting

XI. **Supervisor Open Forum** - none

XII. **Adjourn**– Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to adjourn the board meeting at 11:09 a.m. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Bonnie Thole
Secretary, Board of Supervisors

12-27-23
Date

