



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
March 27, 2024
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, Joe Jordan, Chuck Rau, Bernie Thole
Other: Gerry Maciej (District Manager), Renee Thell (Administrative Assistant) In for part of the meeting: Emily Forbord (Watershed & Outreach Specialist), Mike McMillin (District Technician), and Nathan Sanoski (Farm Bill/District Technician)

- I. **Call meeting to order** – The meeting was called to order by Rau at 8:03 a.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - recited.
- III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to approve February 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 Bastian, second by Thole to approve February 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 February 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 Thole, second by Bastian 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 Bastian, second by Jordan 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.
 - A. **One Watershed One Plan Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**
 - 1) March 14, Multi-benefit analysis subcommittee meeting – Forbord updated the board. McMillin, Sanoski came into the meeting at this time to discuss the process of closing of the meeting then left all staff left the meeting. Closed meeting then started.
- VII. **Conduct a closed meeting to evaluate the performance of the District Manager** - Rau announced the meeting will be closed under Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subdivision 3 at around 8:34 am. Rau opened the meeting back up at 11:17 am.
- VIII. **Other Items**
 - A. Irrigation RCPP proposed grant application letter of commitment - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve the Chairperson to sign irrigation RCPP proposed grant application letter of commitment. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

B. Replacement computer for the accounting software and software upgrade - Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve purchasing computer from Stearns and to upgrade accounting software. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

McMillin and Sanoski came into the meeting at this time.

C. Consider changes to cost share contracts and supporting documents and rates for in-kind services - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve contract as presented in red (see attached). A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Bastian and Sanoski left the meeting at this time.

D. Consider changes to state funded cover crop financial assistance rates and payment caps - Motion by Winkelman, second by Jordan to approve for the FY2022 Elk River Mayhew Lake & FY2023 Benton Soil Health Grant

- Flat Rate Payment based on cover crop type

- Rate

o 1 Cover Crop Type = \$35.00/ac

o 2 Cover Crop Types = \$45.00/ac

o 3+ Cover Crop Types = \$55.00/ac

- Payment Caps

o 1 Cover Crop Type = \$3,000.00

o 2 Cover Crop Types = \$4,000.00

o 3+ Cover Crop Types = \$5,000.00

- Payments are limited to 3 times per acre.

A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

McMillin left meeting at this time.

IX. Progress Reports

A. District Manager report – Maciej updated the board.

X. Other Items

A. Presentation of changes to BWSR funded project administration – did not discuss.

B. Presentation on the conservation contracts program – did not discuss.

C. Poster, essay, mural, coloring contest voting – supervisor completed voting for Poster, essay, mural, coloring contest.

XI. Information Items

A. Supervisor / Manager Reports


1. March 4, MASWCD legislative priorities webinar
2. March 5, Winter conservation day 2024
3. March 6, MASWCD area 2 meeting
4. March 12, MASWCD legislative briefing & networking reception
5. March 13, SWCD day at the capitol
6. March 18, Benton County soil health team meeting
7. March 21, Rum River Watershed board meeting

B. Calendar of Future Events:

- 1) March 27, Education committee meeting
- 2) April 4, Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan policy committee meeting
- 3) April 10, Minnesota Association of SWCDs board meeting
- 4) April 24, Benton SWCD board meeting
- 5) April 25, Mississippi River Sartell watershed "We Are Water" exhibit opening ceremony
- 6) April 25 & 26, Tree pickup dates
- 7) May 21 – June 4, Candidate filing period, SWCD areas 1,4 and 5
- 8) June 26, NRCS Local work group meeting

XII. **Adjourn**– Motion by Thole, second by Winkelman to adjourn the board meeting at 12:52 pm. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.


Secretary, Board of Supervisors


Date

