

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District Regular Board Meeting
February 26, 2026
8:15 am
611 Broadway Ave. Suite 10B**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

*Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Lynn Zabel, Chair
Supervisors Present: Lynn Zabel, Chair, Chet Ross, Co-Chair, Sharleen Klennert,
Treasurer, Seth Tentis, Secretary
Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager
Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Christina Taylor, NRCS,
Collen Pawlenty, FSA*

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Add Fillmore Forestry Committee check for \$500.00.
*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the agenda with the
Addition of Fillmore Forestry Committee check for \$500.00.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried*

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

V. CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action

*Items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board and may be
enacted through one motion. Any item on the Consent Agenda may be removed by any
of the Board members for separate consideration*

i. Contract Agreement

- A.** SE SWCD Technical Support JPB sub-agreement for MAWQCP funds in the amount of \$50,000.00. Contract 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2027.
- B.** Freeborn SWCD sub-agreement for MAWQCP funds in the amount of \$2,500.00. Contract 01/01/2026 -12/31/2027.
- C.** Freeborn SWCD-PT Employee sub-agreement for MAWQCP funds in the amount of \$2,500.00. Contract 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2027.

*Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent
Agenda Contract Agreements.*

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

ii. Contract Amendment

- A.** Contract for Services Amendment to TTT LSR Project Contract with Lindberg Ekola. (Turkey Trout and Timber – Landscape Scale Restoration: Protecting Forestlands in the Driftless Area.) Amend end date to 6/30/2026. \$10,000.00 remaining at amendment.

- B. FY23 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
2023 Competitive Grant – Wabasha SWCD Grant Amendment.
West Indian Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection Grant’s new
expiration date is 12/31/2026. Grant ID# C23-3363. Original agreement
amount of \$178,725.00. **Changing Work Plan. Project for \$59,000.00
will not be completed. Permission to move funds to Alan Miller Slurry
Storage Project.**
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent
Agenda Contract Amendments.**
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

iii. **Vouchers**

iv. **Grants**

- A. FY2026 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Buffer
Implementation Program Grant Agreement. Grant ID# P26-0146 Buffer
Law (Wabasha SWCD) in the amount of \$20,000.00. Expiration date
12/31/2028.
- B. FY 2026 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Soil Health
Delivery Program Grant Agreement. Grant ID# P26-0841 in the amount of
\$30,000.00. Expiration Date 12/31/2028.

**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent
Agenda Grants.**
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VI. **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

- A. January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes – **Board Action**
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Secretary’s Report as
reviewed.**
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VII. **TREASURER’S REPORT – Board Action**

- A. January District Financial Statements
Included for your review
- B. January Program Record
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Treasurer’s Report subject
to Auditor’s approval.**
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VIII. **PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$17,207.63 - **Board Action**
Plus, Fillmore Forestry Committee check# 12607 for \$500.00

- B. Note: Southeast Service Cooperative – Health Insurance March premium will be paid on 3/1/2026 in the amount of \$5,234.34 by automatic withdrawal.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$17,207.63 with addition of Fillmore Forestry Committee check# 12607 for \$500.00 and Southeast Service Cooperative -Health Insurance for March in the amount of \$5,234.34 automatic withdrawal 3-02-2026.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
Lynn received an email from MN Ag Network Station. Looking for places to put their weather stations in Wabasha County. 50 ft towers with sensors in the ground that measure conditions of soil. Working with North Dakota. Information to help farmers know the conditions. Information on the website, submitted proposal.
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Tentative Agreement with Social Services bargaining unit/labor contract. County discussing changing density requirements in the County. A1 requires 80 acres for building sites, considering dropping it to 40 acres. Spur growth. Requests, kids want to build on the farm.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
Completed end of years reports. Reconciling books with reporting. Technical Service meeting in January. Met with Grazing Coalition. Program that puts Mentors & Mentees for grazing together. Watersheds, Zumbro and WinLaC could use funds. Short notice for this year in February. Maybe next year. It costs \$800.00 to sponsor each pair. WinLaC Policy Committee meeting. SELC meeting. Discuss data collected on Pollution Reductions for Watersheds. Different models are being used for Zumbro and WinLaC data. AgBMP Annual Report. Meeting with Planning/Zoning to discuss the Buffer Law process. Our role is to offer Technical Service, if not in compliance. WCA, 1 restoration order in process. This one we have been working on for a couple of years. Well Inventory – Check in with MDH on progress. WAGZ meeting. Requested funding for Alan Miller waste storage project. Use 2023 WIC-319 and request \$200,000 from FY26 WAGZ. Working with Darrin Thompson on an application for Well/Septic for low-income to cost share with BWSR. Manager Meeting – 2/26 afternoon Whitewater dissolution to disburse any leftover funds. Everyone has signed. Forestry Day was 2-13. 117 attendees.
- D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (In the packet)
- E. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – No report

- F. Soil Health/Nutrient Management Tech Report – Deanna Pomije (in the packet)
- G. Conservation Planning & Outreach Technician – Ella Jurgerson (In the packet)
- H. BWSR Report –
- I. FSA – Colleen Pawlenty

**Sign-ups. Continuous CRP's - 50 reenrolls and 12 new. Sign up through 3/20.
General sign-up open 3/9 – 4/17/2026**

**Farmers Bridge Assistance Program. Training on Thursday, opened on Monday,
Eligible for 2025 crop acreage report. Bridges the gap for excess cost, and tariff
issues. Payments being made.**

**Extension of Farm Bill under One Big Beautiful Bill, most programs are written in.
Base updates. 2019-2023 cropping history. Base update acres. End of March, notify
landowners of base update.**

**Dairy Program. DMC deadline 2-26. Rewritten into bill. Goes through 2031.
5 years sign up, annual sign up. \$6 million lbs.**

**Supplemental Disaster Relief Program. Supplemental payments. Indemnity
payments for crop insurance in 2023-2024. Applications through 4/30/26.**

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
Talked about crop diversification on the farm, to keep soil covered.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve Richard Heil Contract# 26-CC-2 in the amount of \$454.42 for Practice 314
Brush Management and Practice 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment.
Installed by date 11/30/2026.- **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY26 Conservation Contracts)
**Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Richard Heil Contract#
26-CC-2 in the amount of \$454.42 for Practice 314 Brush Management and Practice
612 Tree/Shrub Establishment. Installed by 11/30/2026.**
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- B. Southeast Minnesota Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users updated Sub-
agreement between Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha SWCD.
End date 04/01/2027. – **Board Action**
**Olmsted has the grant, Funds for new work recommendations. Sending RFP to
contractors. Technical Assistance funds are available for us to help customers sign
up. Delegate authority to Terri to approve contracts as they come into the office.
They will be on Consent Agenda monthly.**
**Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Southeast Minnesota
Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users updated Sub-Agreement between
Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha SWCD and approve to delegate authority to Terri to
approve contracts as they come into the office and then send to Olmsted. They will
be on the Consent Agenda monthly.**
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- C. Cancel Eversman Brothers Farms Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-2 in the amount of \$6,357.67, for 410 Grade Stabilization. Bringing this to the board's attention that the contract expired on 11/30/2024. No response from the Eversman Brothers Farms – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY23 WIC Watershed Restoration & Protection)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve cancellation of Eversman Brothers Farms Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-2 in the amount of \$6,357.67 for 410 Grade Stabilization.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- D. Cancel Eversman Brothers Farms Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-3 in the amount of \$8,370.38, for 410 Grade Stabilization. Bringing this to the board's attention that the contract expired on 11/30/2024. No response from the Eversman Brothers Farms — **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY23 WIC Watershed Restoration & Protection)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve cancellation of Eversman Brothers Farms Contract# 23-CWF-WIC-3 in the amount of \$8,370.38 for 410 Grade Stabilization.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. February Soil Health RCPP 2026 Ranking/Batching – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the February Soil Health RCPP 2026 Ranking/Batching.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Approval of hiring a replacement for Matt's position. – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve hiring a replacement for Matt Kempinger's position.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- G. Approval for Terri to write Letter of Support for Research Opportunity through University of Minnesota – **Board Action**
Research on grade stabilization and stream restoration.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Terri writing a Letter of Support for a Research Opportunity through the University of Minnesota.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

H. 2026 Budget – **Board Action**

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the 2026 Budget.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

I. Upcoming Events

- i. MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol – March 17-18
- ii. Area 7 Spring Employee Meeting – Tuesday, March 24th
- iii. March 26th Regular Board Meeting

XII. Board Reports

A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn

Dissolved. Needs to be audited.

B. Zumbro 1W1P (WAGZ) -Dag

Dag's report for the Feb. 12th meeting is included in the board packet.

Elected the officers, Board Chair is Ed McNamara. Co-Chair John Allen. Committees assigned, they stayed the same. Presented Alan Miller project, \$200,000.00 approved. Showcased projects with Goodhue.

Bob Walkes mentioned that DMC is sponsoring day at the Capitol. Bob, Dan Springer and Michael Plante will attend. Soil Health, lobbying legislature.

C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn

Working to summarize the annual report. Requesting information. Talked about Well Decommissioning Cap. Once project starts process, costs are unknown, more expensive. Amanda Gentry presented projects they are working on. 2026 Meeting dates. Amanda taking over for Sheilia's position. TA meeting in April.

D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - Dag

E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Meeting adjourned by Chair Zabel at 9:41 am.

Respectfully submitted by:



Seth Tentis, Secretary