

Vouchers Wabasha Soil and Water
Conservation District Regular Board
Meeting
July 23, 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, Seth Tentis, Secretary, Dag Knudsen, Member.

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Chris Schmidt, NRCS Team Lead, Christina Taylor, NRCS Soil Conservationist.

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Add Reiter Living Trust/William Reiter Contract Amendment# 3 to Contract# 2024WinLaC-Wab-008 to Old Business Letter B. for Board approval.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve Agenda as corrected.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, 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. Contracts

- A. Contract# 79-4-26 in the amount of \$7,200.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops. 3-year contract. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027 and 12/1/2028.

(Funding source – FY25–FY28 Soil Heath RCPP – Round 4)

- B. Contract# 79-2-41 in the amount of \$9,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops. 3-year contract. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027 and 12/1/2028.

(Funding source – FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 2)

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent Agenda - Contracts.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

ii. Canceled Contracts:

- A. Canceled Contract# 79-25RCPP-07 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice# 340 Cover Crops. FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP.

Reason for cancellation: Following the standard on fall grazing cover crops did not fit their operation's objectives.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent Agenda - Canceled Contracts.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

iii. Vouchers

- A. Daniel H Miller voucher for Contract# 2026WinLaC-Wab001 in the amount of \$350.00 for Woodland Stewardship Plan.
(Funding source – FY23 WinLaC)
- B. Allen & Janet Rahman voucher for Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-01 in the amount of \$500.00 for Woodland Stewardship Plan.
(Funding source – FY26 WAGZ)
- C. Richard Heil voucher for Contract# 26-CC-2 in the amount of \$454.42 for Practice 314 Brush Management and Practice 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment.
(Funding source – FY26 Conservation Contracts)
- D. Emerald Spring Dairy Inc (Maurice Young) voucher for Contract# 2026-WIC319-2 in the amount of \$1,262.00 for Practice 590 Nutrient Management.
(Funding source – FY26 319 Focus Watershed-West Indian Creek)
- E. Contract# 79-3-11 voucher in the amount of \$5,058.09 for Practice 327 Conservation Cover and Practice 612 Tree & Shrub Establishment.
(Funding source – FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 3)
- F. Stephanie Rivery voucher for Contract# 25-SHD-6 in the amount of \$2,400.00 for Practice 327 Conservation Cover.
(Funding source – FY25 Soil Health Delivery)
- G. Michael Kenneth Graner voucher for Contract# 2026-WIC319-3 in the amount of \$3,390.00 for Practice 590 Nutrient Management -split Nitrogen.
(Funding source – FY26 319 Focus Watershed -West Indian Creek)
- H. Isaac Holst voucher for Contract# 2026-WIC319-4 in the amount of \$1,648.00 for Practice 590 Nutrient Management- - split Nitrogen.
(Funding source – FY26 319 Focus Watershed-West Indian Creek)

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent Agenda - Vouchers.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

iv. Grant

- A. State of MN Joint Powers Agreement Swift Contract No. 292015 between State of MN, acting through its Commissioner of Natural Resources and Wabasha SWCD.

Groundwater level monitoring of four observation wells located within the district. Effective Date 7/1/2026 and Expiration Date 6/30/2027.
Total grant \$960.00.

- B. State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement Amendment 1 to SWIFT Contract No. 249117 adding \$61,883.00 funds and changing expiration date to 6/30/2028. (Nutrient Management Staff Grant)

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent Agenda - Grants.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. June 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Board Action

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Secretary's Report as written.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. June District Financial Statements
Included for your review

- B. Program Record for June.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the Treasurer's Report to the best of our ability until Auditor review.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$39,939.55 - Board Action

- B. Note: Southeast Service Cooperative – Health Insurance August premium will be paid on 8/1/2026 in the amount of \$6,368.96 by automatic withdrawal.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$39,939.55 and the 8/1/2026 payment of \$6,368.96 to Southeast Service Corporation.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
Wabasha County Fair – Soils display. Difference in how water infiltrates in conventional soil and in no-till soil.
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
New staff, one IT and a new Recorder.
Working on budget, which is challenging.
Working on getting \$3,900.00 funds that Whitewater Joint Powers Board used to receive and get it added to SWCD support funds.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
Program records. Quarterly billings. End of year State and Federal reporting.
Grant application with Jen Walhs to request grant for Strengthening Forest Economy. From TNC – using NRCS funding, RCPP eligibility. TSA signs off.
First round of West Indian Creek funding needs to be spent by August. May not be able to bill for all funds left. Looking at monitoring options.
West Indian Creek, 2nd round of funding planning to sign people up for no-till cover crops and hiring a contractor to custom drill. 1,200 acres.
WSB - Environmental Consulting Company, assist setup of new monitoring system.
Organize Fair table schedule.
- D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (in the packet) ***Report given at meeting.***
Sign-Up deadline for Sign-up 1 for 2027 for both CSP and EQIP is September 11, 2026. NRCS office will be closed August 11th and 20th.
- E. NRCS Team Lead – Chris Schmidt
Based out of Faribault office, covering four offices. There are 5 vacant District Technician positions. Potentially will fill two of those. Working as a team concept now, if one office has more to do, one of the other offices can help, digitally.
Eleonor Berg with Pheasant Forever has left. Hope to fill that position.
NRCS Producers Round Table in Zumbrota. 17 attended. Local producers, landowners. Good discussions and feedback. Recording sent to National office.
13 CSP Contracts funded for the team this year.
Received EQIP third round funding. 1 additional EQIP funded. Total of 21 for the team. More Ag Waste funded. Some of the projects have been in the works for years State Conservationist had submitted an application to request \$40 million and received \$40 million. Already spent. Possibly more funding this year.
Staff working on CRP plans, annual status reviews for FSA.
Starting Forestry Cohort. TTCP, BWSR district, NRCS cohort. Brush Management, Forest Stand Improvement and Woody Residue Treatment.
Lost two Foresters that helped with Forestry plans.
Lots of training will be coming up.
CSP and EQIP will be doing more Forestry. Cohorts Christina and John from Goodhue will be attending on different issues, such as: Prep/Trees, Windbreak/Shelterbelt
Building issues- replaced women's and men's toilets, follow up on other items.
- F. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – (In the packet)
- G. Report on 2024 Well Inventory Grant Progress and Status of Well Inventory – Katelyn Abts will present her report at the Board meeting. (Report is in packet)
Katelyn went through report on well inventory at the meeting.

- H. Soil Health/Nutrient Management Technician Report– Deanna Pomije (in the packet)
- I. Conservation Planning & Outreach Technician Report – Ella Schams (In the packet)
- J. District Technician Report – Keaton Tollakson (In the packet)
- K. BWSR Report –

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
- B. Approve Reiter Living Trust (William Reiter) Amendment# 3 to Contract# 2024WinLaC-Wab-008 to change the completion date from 10/31/2026 to 12/1/2026 – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY23-FY24 WinLac)
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve Reiter Living Trust (William Reiter) Amendment# 3 to Contract# 2024WinLaC-Wab-008 to change the completion date from 10/31/2026 to 12/1/2026.
Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Nominations for Outstanding Conservationist/Farmer of the Year Award – **Discussion**
- B. Nomination for Forest Steward Award – **Discussion** (Bill Baxter)
Nominations Due September 4, 2026
Staff will bring in some nominations to the next board meeting. Ella and Deanna have ideas.
- C. 2026 Candidate Prospectus for MASWCD President and Vice President – **Informational**
- D. July RCPP Batching – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the July RCPP batching.
Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Contract# 79-4-50 in the amount of \$18,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops.
3-year contract. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027, 12/1/2028.
(Funding source – FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 4) – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve Contract# 79-4-50 in the amount of \$18,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops. 3-year contract. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027, 12/1/2028.
Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- F. Estimate from seed vendors for West Indian Creek 2026 Cover Crop Seeding Cost-\$25,120.37. Seeking approval to pay the actual billings from Seed Vendors when received. We will need to pay this expense before the August SWCD meeting -**Board Action**
Pilot Program – Drilling has better success than drone application.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve paying actual billings from seed vendors when received. Payment will be before August board meeting. This is for West Indian Creek 2026 Cover Crop Seeding Costs

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- G. MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant Sub-Agreement Between Fillmore SWCD and Wabasha SWCD (sub-recipient) – **Board Action**
Project: Expanding Private Well Nitrate Screening and Tap-In Outreach in Southeast Minnesota. Grant Period: July 17, 2026, to January 31, 2028. Payments will be reimbursement. Grant funding is \$20,000.00 plus events. This will cover some of our staff time.

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to approve the MDH Accelerated Implementation Grant Sub-Agreement between Fillmore SWCD and Wabasha SWCD.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- H. Upcoming Events:

- i. Thursday, August 27, 2026, Board Meeting

XII. Board Reports

- A. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
B. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
C. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Dag

Meeting talked about how budget expenses are on track. Good for next six months. Draft 2027 budget. Staff presented three of their projects.

- D. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Ross and seconded by Tentis to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 am.

Affirmative: Ross, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Seth Tentis, Secretary