

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

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Lynn Zabel, chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Supervisors present: Lynn Zabel, Chair, Chet Ross, Co-Chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Seth Tentis, Secretary and Dag Knudsen, member.

Staff present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Dave Copeland by TEAMS and Frank Klennert, citizen

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Added \$5.79 refund check for Michelle Schulz. Total checks \$59,601.17.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve The Agenda with the total monthly bill's amount \$59,601.17.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

Thank-you notes from MASWCD for FY2026 Dues and NACD for 2026 Gold Level Membership Contribution.

V. CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board. Any item on the Consent Agenda may be removed by any of the Board members for separate consideration

i. Contracts

- A. Contract# 79-3-11 in the amount of \$5,211.05 for Practice 327 Conservation Cover and Practice 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment.
(Funding source- FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP-Round 3)

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

ii. Vouchers

- A. Voucher payment for David A & Catherine K Schmidt Trust Contract# 2025WinLaC-Wab003 in the amount of \$350.00 for Woodland Stewardship Plan.
(Funding source – FY25 WinLaC)

B. Voucher payment for Dennis Probst Contract# 25-CC-6 in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Practice 314 Brush Management.
(Funding source – FY25 Conservation Contracts)

C. Voucher payment for Tom Gerken Contract# 2024WAGZ-WC-06 in the amount of \$4,500.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops. Final payment.
(Funding source: FY24-FY25 WAGZ)

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

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

iii. **Grants**

A. FY2026 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Soil Health Practices Grant Program Grant Agreement
Grant ID# P26-0963 2026 Soil Health Practices-February \$120,000.00.
Expiration date 12/31/2028.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent Agenda - Grant.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A. February 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes – **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Secretary's Report as reviewed.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

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

A. February District Financial Statements
Included for your review

B. January & February Program Records

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Treasurer's Report to the best of our ability, subject to Auditors verification at end of the year.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$59,601.17 - **Board Action**
- B. Note: Southeast Service Cooperative – Health Insurance April premium will be paid on 4/1/2026 in the amount of \$5,234.34 by automatic withdrawal.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$59,601.17 and Southeast Service Cooperative for the April Health Insurance premium, automatically withdrawn 4/1/2026.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel
- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Space Study in April. Selected four firms to evaluate current facilities. See if it is feasible to combine into one facility at CJC. Jim Warner, Chief Deputy resigning April 30th.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
End of year reporting.
Working on project funding with Jeff, WAGZ funding new round.
Working on two feedlot storage projects. Both WAGZ \$200,000 and TSA Funding \$131,500.00 also other multiple funding as projects are expensive.
Deanna is working on Nutrient Management Planning for MPCA for permitting.
Ella picked up Wetland Conservation work. Ongoing WCA violation – Tiling violation. Restoration order has been delivered, timeline to finish is July 31st. If not done, County legal would have to step in. July 16th appointment with County Attorney.
Website Compliance – Timeline we need to get documents ADA compliant. Ella is working on it. Guidelines on how to make a document ADA compliant. MN Statute. We have until 2027
Manager's Meeting. Talked about Soil Health Program that Olmsted has been working on. LCMR Funding to start a regional program. Will work on guidelines and a platform for people to sign up on website.
Working with Darrin Thompson on low-income, septic update program. BWSR requirements for contracting. Report grants.
BALMM meeting, which we organized. State Agency panel. Survey at the beginning of the year. Questions about coordination of state agencies and whether it is beneficial to continue the BALMM.
Legislative Day – later in the agenda.
Job posted for Engineering Technician. 26 applicants. Interviews for three of them on Thursday, April 2nd starting at 11:00 am at the Admin. Conference Room at the County Building. Personnel Committee, Lynn, Chet and Terri and Shawn.
- D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (In the packet)
- E. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – (In the packet)
- 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 – Dave Copeland joined by TEAMS
3/25 was the last day Requests for Proposals for Projects and Practices grants. Competitive grants applied using Clean Water Funds. \$6 million, half could be used for drinking water projects – subgroup. Fillmore submitted on behalf of the 8-county EPA area, regional.
1W1P program is soon turning 10 years old when the first plans were approved
Want to do a tour in the summer to get feedback on the program. What's working, what isn't working. Opportunity to update plan requirements and operating procedures. Executive Director, John Jaske, may attend.
Anne Gusse will be out on FMLA for several months with her 1st baby.
Including Anne's area, Dave has 181 grants to keep his eye on. If unable to make it to our meeting, he will do a report and contact Terri to see if there is something she wants to talk about.
- I. FSA –

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Agreement between SE SWCD Technical Support JPB and Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District utilizing MN Board of Water and Resources Funding for Feedlot Water Quality Improvements.

Sub-Agreements with Wabasha SWCD:

- i. Mazeppa Valley Dairy Inc/Ted Mehrkens \$131,500.00– **Board Action/Signature**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve sub-agreement with Wabasha SWCD for Mazeppa Valley Dairy Inc/Ted Mehrkens \$131,500.00.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- ii. Alan Miller \$131,500.00 – **Board Action/Signature**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve sub-agreement with Wabasha SWCD for Alan Miller \$131,500.00.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- B. Mazeppa Valley Dairy Inc. Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-04 in the amount of \$331,500.00 for Practice 313 Waste Storage Facility. Installed by date 12/31/2026-
Board Action

(Funding sources: WAGZ \$200,000.00, TSA 7 Funds \$131,500.00)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Mazeppa Valley Dairy Inc. Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-04 in the amount of \$331,500.00 for Practice 313 Waste Storage Facility. Installed by 12/31/2026.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- C. Roller Crimper Sale Proposal – **Board Action**
Discussion on Roller Crimper Sale. Check with Olmsted SWCD and Winona SWCD. Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve Sale of Roller Crimper. Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Zabel
Opposed: Knudsen
Motion Carried
- D. March Soil Health RCPP 2026 Ranking/Batching – **Board Action**
Motioned by Ross and seconded by Klennert to approve the March Soil Health RCPP 2026 Ranking/Batching. Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- E. Terri report back on Legislative Day. See attachments.
Wed. night was the Legislative Briefing. Set up visits with Pam Altendorf, Steve Jacobs and Steve Drazkowski. Goodhue joined. SWCD Aid last year went down. General funds for us went down. Promote increasing funding. Doing RIM bonding. Stop the omnibus bill and pull out some bills that can be approved without argument. Gave Legislators a folder that Ella put together for the year in review. Before and after pictures of projects. Included a MASWCD sheet titled “Achieving our shared conservation value through locally led work”.
- F. Approve Jeff Brand Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-05 in the amount of \$9,810.00 for Practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin. – **Board Action**
Installed by date 11/30/2026
(Funding source – WAGZ)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Jeff Brand Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-05 in the amount of \$9,810.00 for Practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin. Installed by date 11/30/2026. Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried
- G. Approve Lawrence H & Eileen M Living Trust Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-06 in the amount of \$36,720.00 for Practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin – **Board Action**
Installed by date 11/30/2026
(Funding source – WAGZ)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Lawrence H & Eileen M Living Trust Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-06 in the amount of \$36,720.00 for Practice 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin. Installed by date 11/30/2026. Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

- H. Upcoming Events:
- i. April 23rd Regular Board Meeting
 - ii. April 24th Tree Pick Up Day
 - iii. May 13th, 5th Grade Conservation Day

XII. Board Reports

- A. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
- B. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
- C. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - Dag
- D. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

Nothing reported on Board Reports

XIII. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Tentis, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted By:



Seth Tentis, Secretary