Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District Regular Board Meeting
September 24, 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, Dag Knudsen, member.
Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager
Others Present: Bob Walkes, County Commissioner, Frank Klennert, citizen

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

David Brennan JR Amendment# 1 and Voucher moved to New Business E & F.
Treasurers Report – Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual will need corrections.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the agenda with the noted changes.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, 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. David Brennan JR Contract# 26-CC-6 in the amount of $1,428.00 for Practice 612 tree & Shrub Establishment. Installed by date 7/30/2027. (Funding source – FY26 Conservation Contracts)

B. Carl Liffrig Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-14 in the amount of $3,422.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026. (Funding source- FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

C. Mehrkens Family Farms Inc. Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-13 in the amount of $13,500.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 3 years. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027 and 12/1/2028. (Funding source – FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

D. Stelling Farms Inc. Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-11 in the amount of 1,980.00 for Practice 34 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026. (Funding source – FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

E. Jeff Wiskow Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-17 in the amount of $13,500.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 3 years. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027 and 12/1/2028.
(Funding source – FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

F. Alan Miller Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-18 in the amount of $2,389.50 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026.
(Funding source – FY26 - FY27 WAGZ)

G. Contract# 79-4-59 in the amount of $3,360.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026.
(Funding source – FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP - Round 4)

H. Paul Kruger Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-16 in the amount of $2,620.0 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026.
(Funding source – FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

I. Paul Kruger Contract# 26-SHD-1 in the amount of $1,600.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026.
(Funding source – FY 26 Soil Health Delivery)

J. Contract# 79-4-57 in the amount of $1,210.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026.
(Funding source –FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 4)

K. Contract# 79-4-56 in the amount of $4,650.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date 12/1/2026.
(Funding source – FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 4)

L. Hyde Park Holsteins Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-15 in the amount of $15.000.00 for Cover Crops – 3 years. Installed by dates 12/1/2026, 12/1/2027 and 12/1/2028.
(Funding source – FFY26-FY27 WAGZ)

M. Brett Thompson Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-20 in the amount of $5,000.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date is 12/2/2026.
(Funding source – FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

N. Scattered Acres Inc. Contract# 2026WAGZ-WC-19 in the amount of $3,345.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1 year. Installed by date is 12/1/2026.
(Funding source – FY26-FY27 WAGZ)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent Agenda – Contracts.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

ii. Contract Amendment:

A. State of Minnesota Grant Contract Agreement Amendment# 2 for SWIFT Contract Number: 278992. DNR, Division of Forestry addition of $36,000.00 for DNR LFT Funds /Plan Writers and adding $4,000.00 for administrative funds. Effective August 26, 2026, to June 30, 2029.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve the Consent Agenda – Contract Amendment.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

iii. **Vouchers:**

A. Voucher for Contract# 79-25RCPP-06 In the amount of $2,640.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crop – 2nd year of 4-year contract.
(Funding source – FY25 – FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 1)

B. Voucher for Contract# 79-2-41 in the amount of $3,186.00 for Practice 340 Cover Crops – 1st year of 3-year contract.
(Funding source – FY25-FY28 Soil Health RCPP – Round 2)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Consent Agenda – Vouchers
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. August 27, 2026, Meeting Minutes – **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Secretary's Report that was sent out earlier in the month for review and approval.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

A. August District Financial Statements
Included for your review.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the August District Financial Statements to the best of our ability until reviewed by Auditor.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

B. August Program Record – Staff hours not in yet.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the August Program Record to the best of our ability until reviewed by Auditor.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

C. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual – January – December 2026
(Actual is only through current date)
Corrections need to be made to budget amounts and account.
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget, with budget corrections to follow, to the best of our ability until reviewed by Auditor.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

Note: Auditors checked Bank of Alma and the collateral. Minnesota statutes require that all deposits with financial institutions must be collateralized in an amount equal to 110% of deposits in excess of FDIC insurance. Need to transfer money to Peoples State Bank. Possibly set up short term Certificates of Deposit. (CD's.)

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

A. Monthly Bills in the amount of $58,935.11 - **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ros to approve Payment of the Monthly Billis in the amount of $58,935.11.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

B. Note: Southeast Service Cooperative – Health Insurance October premium will be paid on 10/1/2026 in the amount of $6,368.96 by automatic withdrawal.

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Employee turnover. Staffing analysis to see if filling vacated positions ares warranted.
Working on budget, reduce costs for levy. SWCD amount stays the same.
Building study results in Nov.

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
BALMM meeting – speeches on nitrate reduction strategy.
LWG meeting in Little Falls. Training: Leading Effective Meetings.
BWSR Academy presentation – Why & How to Manage and Fund Forestry.
SELC – question on how we can see if we are progressing in expanding forestry.
St. Mary's GIS - See where progress is made.
Small Watershed – Outreach, helping a little or a lot.
Olmsted meeting on Regional Groundwater Grant. Waiting for approval.
Signing cover crop contracts.

D. NRCS Report – Christina Taylor – (In the packet) Terri read the report.

E. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts –
Attended Agroforestry Training with Christina. Well Inventory. RIM crop calls and going out to check them.

F. Soil Health/Nutrient Management Technician Report– Deanna Pomije (in the packet)
Results from WIC sign up program. 1.444 acres cover crops. Will be custom drilled.

G. Conservation Planning & Outreach Technician Report – Ella Schams
Cover crop contracts, No-till and cover crop rotation. Certifying cover crops.

H. District Technician Report – Keaton Tollakson – Gave report at Board Meeting.
Working on Engineering practices. Grade stab designs. WCA notice of decisions.
Marked out conservation boundary.
Matt & I marked tile line for Mehrkens with Kate Bruss. He is putting in manure pit.
Took pictures. Looked at Kennebeck's project with Kate.
Looked at a gully – need to take crop off first and then can survey.

I. BWSR Report – ***Dave Copeland by Zoom***

Kudos to Ella, JA for No-Till, Reduced Till and joining the Nutrient Management cohort.

Beau Kenedy – Fiscal Agent for WAGZ. Got grant extended for 1 year.

Request for info on Soil Health Delivery grants. Some don't use all the funds.

Terri has sent an application for Soil Health Delivery funds.

Reminder that BWRS Academy is– October 20 through October 22. Staff attend with Board approval.

Listening sessions – Envisioning the Future of 1W1P Program. Survey for feedback until 9/28. Julie Westerlund will provide an update on information from survey feedback at BWSR Academy and at the MASWCD Convention in December.

X. OLD BUSINESS

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

B. Safe Drinking Water Grants – TAP-IN Phase II Aug 2026 Update - **Informational** 2024 – 2027 Safe Drinking Water Phase 2 for Private Well Users Grant Program, Amendment II 8/27/2026 Extends End Date to 6/30/2027.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft Sub-Agreement between Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha SWCD, FY2027 Regional Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative – **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the draft sub-agreement between Olmsted SWCD and Wabasha SWCD, FY 2027 Regional Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

i. Approval for Terri to sign the final sub-agreement when it is completed – **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve for Terri to sign the final sub-agreement when it is completed.

Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

B. September Soil Health RCPP 2026 Ranking / Batching - **Board Action**

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve the September Soil Health RCPP 2026 Ranking / Batching.

Affirmative: Ross, Klenert, Knudsen, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

C. MASWCD 2026 Resolution Packet – Online ballots need to be completed on 11/1/2026 – Informational. ***Discussed resolutions to be voted on.***

D. Daniel Miller Contract Amendment# 2 to Contract# 2025WinLaC-Wab002 to change install date to 11/30/2027 from (10/31/2026 Amendment# 1). Amount not changed. – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve Daniel Miller Contract Amendment# 2 to Contract# 2025WinLaC-Wab002 to change install date to 11/30/2027 from (10/31/2026 Amendment# 1). Amount not changed.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

E. Approval for David Brennan JR Amendment# 1 to Contract# 26-CC-6 to change the authorized amount to $1,631.32 from $1,428.00. – **Board Action**
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve David Brennan JR Amendment# 1 to Contract# 26-CC-6 to change the authorized amount to $1,631.32 from $1,428.00.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

F. Voucher for David Brennan JR Contract# 26-CC-6 in the amount of $1,631.32 for Practice 612 Tree & Shrub Establishment – **Board Action**
(Funding source – FY26 Conservation Contracts)
Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve voucher for David Brennan JR Contract# 26-CC-6 in the amount of $1,631.32 for Practice 612 Tree & Shrub Establishment.
Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
Opposed: None
Motion Carried

XII. Board Reports

A. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
B. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn
C. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - Dag
D. County Board Meeting – Sharleen
E. Upcoming Events:
   i. Monday, October 12, 2026, Columbus Day – Office Closed
   ii. Tuesday, October 20-Thursday, October 22, 2026, - BWSR Academy at Cragun's Resort. Registration $95.00 per day + lodging/approx. $400.00. Approval for staff who want to attend – **Board Action**
   Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Ross to approve for Keaton, Katelyn and Terri to attend the BWSR Academy on Tuesday, October 20 – through Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Cragun's Resort.
   Affirmative: Ross, Klennert, Knudsen, Zabel
   Opposed: None
   Moton Carried

iii. Thursday, October 22, 2026, Board Meeting
iv. MASWCD Annual Convention, December 1-2, 2026, Bloomington
Registration is due November 13, 2026.
Lynn and Sharleen plan on going. Terri will do the registration and hotels. Richard Oeckler was nominated for Forest Steward and Dan Wagner was nominated for Outstanding Conservationist.

XIII. **Adjourn – Board Action**
Lynn Zabel, Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Respectively Submitted By:

Chet Ross

Seth Tentis, Secretary