



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
February 22, 2023
8:00 A.M.**

**Chair, Chuck Rau
Vice Chair, Mike Winkelman
Secretary, Bernie Thole
Treasurer, Wade Bastian
Member, Joe Jordan**

**Attendance: Supervisors—Wade Bastian (in at 8:43 am), Mike Winkelman, Chuck Rau,
Joe Jordan, Bernie Thole**

Other: Gerry Maciej (District Manager) and Renee Thell (Administrative Assistant)

**In for part of the meeting: Nathan Sanoski (District/Farm Bill Technician),
Emily Forbord (Watershed and Outreach Specialist), Jessica Hoheisel (District Technician),
and Scott Johnson (Benton County Commissioner)**

- I. **Call meeting to order** – The meeting was called to order by Rau at 8:01 a.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - recited
- III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Thole, second by Winkelman to approve agenda with added suggestions. 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 Jordan, second by Thole to approve January 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 January 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 - Maciej presented the Accounts Payable report. Motion by Thole, second by Winkelman to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
 - B. WCTSA Bills - Maciej presented the Accounts Payable report for the WCTSA. Motion by Thole, second by Winkelman to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- VII. **One Watershed One Plan** – Forbord presented to the board regarding the 1W1P.
 - A. **Rum River**
 - 1) January 26 board meeting summary
 - 2) Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) proposal
 - B. **Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**
 - 1) Priority concerns letter
 - 2) Land and water resources narrative review
 - 3) January 7 technical advisory committee meeting
 - 4) January 30 open house
 - 5) February 1 steering committee meeting
 - 6) February 22 technical advisory committee meeting (scheduled)
 - 7) To be determined, policy committee meetingJohnson left the meeting at this time.

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VIII. Conservation Plans

A. MDA Ag. BMP Low Interest Loan Program

- 1) Shawn Pollard – Low interest loan application - Motion by Jordan, second by Winkelman to accept the withdrawal of Low Interest loan application for Pollard. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

IX. Other Items

A. Education and outreach update – Forbord present the Education and outreach update.

Forbord left the meeting at this time.

B. Update authorized representatives on the bank accounts and consider investing in certificate of deposits – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to remove Jake Scherer from Frandsen checking account and Bremer bank accounts (money market and checking) and add Michael Winkelman to all banking accounts along with Joe Jordan, Wade Bastian, Chuck Rau and Bernie Thole. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

C. Bank accounts - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to have Maciej move funds to different banking establishment for both Benton SWCD and WCTSA and consider investing in a certificate of deposit as he sees fit. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

D. Technician vacancy update – Maciej updated the board. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to hire as many qualified candidates for technician position as the manager sees fit. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

E. Little Rock Creek update – Maciej updated the board.

Hoheisel came into the meeting at this time.

F. Consider purchasing a drone – Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to approve purchasing a Mavic 3 Multispectral drone for \$8,027.00. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Sanoski came into the meeting at this time.

G. Programs update

- 1) FY 2023 Drinking Water Protection Grant, approve scoring sheet and cost sharing rates - Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve FY2023 Drinking Water Protection Grant scoring sheet. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) BWSR statewide RIM – Sanoski updated the board.

Sanoski left meeting at this time.

- 3) FY23 Soil health cost share program, approve program docket - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve FY23 Soil health cost share program docket. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 4) BWSR cover crop grant (partnership grant with Morrison SWCD) – Hoheisel updated the board.
- 5) MDA Soil health equipment grants – Hoheisel updated the board.
- 6) Benton County farming sustainability initiative presentation – Hoheisel updated the board.

Hoheisel left the meeting at this time.

- 7) FY23 MPCA SSTS grant - Amend agreement with Benton County to administer the SSTS low-income upgrade programs – Motion by Jordan, second by Winkelman to amend agreement with Benton County for administer the SSTS low-income upgrade programs.

- 8) BWSR LCCMR Forest restoration (Rum River watershed) – Maciej informed the board.

H. Legislative update – Rau gave an update.

X. Progress Reports

- A. Staff reports**
- B. District Manager report**
- C. NRCS report**
- D. BWSR report**

XI. **Information Items**

A. Supervisor / Manager Reports

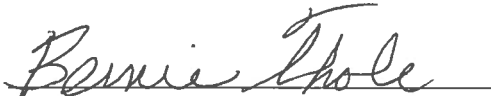
- 1) January 24, Minnesota Association of SWCDs board meeting
- 2) January 25, SWCD Legislative Advocacy Webinar
- 3) January 26, Rum River Watershed JPB meeting
- 4) January 31, Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan Kickoff Event
- 5) February 7, MASWCD Area 2 and West Central Technical Service Area meetings

B. Calendar of Future Events:

- 1) February 22, Minnesota Association of SWCDs board meeting
- 2) March 2, We Are Water exhibit opening ceremony
- 3) March 7 & 8, MASWCD legislative briefing and Day at the Capitol
- 4) March 15, BWSR treasurer training, Sauk Centre
- 5) March 16 (tentative), DNR groundwater management area public meeting
- 6) March 22, Benton SWCD board meeting
- 7) March 23, Rum River Watershed board meeting
- 8) To be determined (March), Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan policy committee meeting
- 9) April 27 – 28, Benton SWCD tree pickup dates scheduled

XII. **Supervisor Open Forum**

- A. Adjourn** - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to adjourn meeting at 12:21 pm. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.


Secretary, Board of Supervisors

3-22-23
Date

