



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
March 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, Mike Winkelman, Chuck Rau, Bernie Thole

Other: Gerry Maciej (District Manager), Darren Mayers (Board Conservationist for BWSR) 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), Mike McMillin (District Technician) and Tracy Riedeman (Frandsen Bank).

- I. **Call meeting to order** – The meeting was called to order by Rau at 8:38 a.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – recited.
- III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve agenda. 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 Bastian, second by Thole to approve February 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 February Program Summary Report. Motion by Winkelman, second by thole 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**
 - A. **Rum River Watershed Partnership** – Maciej and Forbord updated the board.
 - 1) Implementation grant application correspondence
 - 2) March 13, Implementation planning committee meeting
 - 3) March 23 (upcoming), Rum River Watershed Partnership board meeting
 - B. **Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**– Maciej and Forbord updated the board.
 - 1) February 22, technical advisory committee meeting
 - 2) March 1, steering committee meeting
 - 3) March 17, implementation organizational arrangement subgroup meeting
 - 4) March 21, technical advisory committee meeting
 - 5) March 24 (upcoming), policy committee meeting

Finish the bank transition items, Tracy Riedeman, Frandsen Bank & Trust Riedeman came into the meeting at this time to have board sign some paperwork and left right after.

McMillin came into the meeting at this time and left after conservation plans.

VIII. **Conservation Plans**

A. FY 2021 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2021 CWF-ERM18, Mark Czech - New Contract for erosion control project - Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve contract FY2021 CWF-ERM18 for cost sharing not to exceed \$15,249.75 or up to 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. 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
- B. 2022 annual report
- C. Poster and essay contest judging
- D. Technician vacancy update – Maciej updated the board.
- E. USDA lease update – Maciej updated the board.

McMillin, Hoheisel, Forbord came into the meeting at this time and left after the program updates.

F. Programs update

- 1) Irrigation RCPP program 2023 priority changes, BWSR and MDH grants - Jessica
- 2) FY22 Buffer implementation grant - Jessica
- 3) FY23 District Capacity grant - Jessica
- 4) BWSR Rum river watershed based implementation funding - Emily
- 5) FY22 and FY23 State cost share grants - Mike
- 6) EQIP “IRA” program and Rum River “CIP” program – Josh
- 7) Programs update wrap up – Gerry

G. Legislative update – Maciej updated the board.

X. **Progress Reports**

A. Staff reports – Sanoski came into the meeting at this time and left after staff report.

Bastian left the meeting at this time. 11:50 am

- B. District Manager report – Maciej updated the board.
- C. NRCS report
- D. BWSR report – Mayer updated the board on 2023 Legislative Priorities.

XI. **Information Items**

A. **Supervisor / Manager Reports**

- 1) March 2, We Are Water exhibit opening ceremony
- 2) March 7 & 8, MASWCD legislative briefing and Day at the Capitol
- 3) March 15, BWSR treasurer training, Sauk Centre
- 4) March 16, DNR groundwater management area public meeting
- 5) March 21, Annual report presentation to Benton County


B. **Calendar of Future Events:**

- 1) March 23, Rum River Watershed Partnership board meeting
- 2) March 24, Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan policy committee meeting
- 3) April 19, Minnesota Association of SWCDs board meeting
- 4) April 26, Benton SWCD board meeting
- 5) April 27 – 28, Benton SWCD tree pickup dates scheduled.

XII. **Supervisor Open Forum**

XIII. **Adjourn-** meeting was adjourn by consensus at 12:36 pm.


Secretary, Board of Supervisors


Date