



# Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

[www.soilandwater.org](http://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  
September 27, 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, Bernie Thole, Joe Jordan, Chuck Rau  
Other: Gerry Maciej (District Manager), Josh Bork (NRCS District Conservationist),  
and Renee Thell (Administrative Assistant).**

**In for part of the meeting: Ed Popp (Benton County Commissioner), Emily Forbord (Watershed and Outreach Specialist), Nathan Sanoski (District/Farm Bill Technician), Mike McMillin (District Technician), Megan Tritz (District Technician) and Jessica Hoheisel (District Technician).**

- I. **Call meeting to order**– The meeting was called to order by Rau at 8:02 a.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – recited.
- III. **Approve Agenda**- Motion by Thole, second by Jordan 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 Jordan, second by Thole to approve August 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 August Program Summary Report. Motion by Thole, second by Bastian to approve reports. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.  
Winkelman came into the meeting at this time.
- VI. **Payment of Bills**
  - A. Benton SWCD Bills - Motion by Bastian, second by Jordan to approve the accounts payable report, pay bills. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
  - B. WCTSA Bills - none
- VII. **One Watershed One Plan** - Maciej and Forbord updated the board.
  - A. **Rum River Watershed Partnership**
    - 1) September 11, implementation planning committee meeting
    - 2) September 28 (upcoming), Rum River Watershed Partnership board meeting
  - B. **Mississippi River St. Cloud 1W1P**
    - 1) September 6, steering committee meeting
    - 2) September 7, policy committee meeting
    - 3) September 19, technical advisory committee meeting
    - 4) September 29, (upcoming) landscape stewardship plan meeting
    - 5) October 4, (upcoming) steering committee meeting
    - 6) October 17, (upcoming) technical advisory committee
    - 7) Implementation agreement update
  - C. **Mississippi River Sartell 1W1P**
    - 1) None

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Forbord left the meeting at this time. McMillin, Tritz, Sanoski entered the meeting at this time.

## VIII. Conservation Plans

### A. FY 2021 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2021 CWF-ERM23 – Mark Helgeson – Contract Amendment and Payment Request - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to increase the financial assistance from \$6,898.75 to \$17,843.45 for FY2021 CWF-ERM23 and to release payment. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) FY2021 CWF-ERM26 – Samuel Schoborg – Contract Amendment and Payment Request – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to increase the financial assistance from \$3,393.75 to \$3,711.75 for FY2021 CWF-ERM26 and to release payment. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

### B. FY 2022 Mayhew Lake / Elk River grant

- 1) FY2022 CWF-ERM1 – Drew and Renee Schefers – Partial Payment Request - Motion by Bastian, second by Jordan to table partial payment request until next meeting for FY2022 CWF-ERM1. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) FY2022 CWF-ERM9 – Max Jacobson – New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to approve contract FY2022 CWF-ERM9 for cost sharing not to exceed \$1,808.20 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.
- 3) FY2022 CWF-ERM10 – Cory Dahler – New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Thole, second by Winkelman to approve contract FY2022-ERM10 for cost sharing not to exceed \$2,000. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 4) FY2022 CWF-ERM11 – Ryan Schmit – New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Bastian, second by Winkelman to approve contract FY2022-ERM11 for cost sharing not to exceed \$2,000. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 5) FY2022 CWF-ERM12 – Brandon Marshik – New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Jordan, second by Bastian to approve contract FY2022-ERM12 for cost sharing not to exceed \$2,000. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.
- 6) FY2022 CWF-ERM13 – Ron Schmidt – New Contract – for cover crops – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve contract FY2022-ERM13 for cost sharing not to exceed \$1,077.96 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.

### C. FY 2023 Soil Health grant

- 1) FY23-BSH1 – Ryan Schmit – Contract Amendment for Cover Crop - Motion by Jordan, second by Wade to discuss contract amendment of pushing the seeding date back for cover crops to 11/15/23 instead of 10/15/23. The concern that was discussed was the seeding was too late in the year to get the full affect of planting a cover crop. The contract amendment fail by a 3-2 vote.

### D. FY 2023 Drinking Water Protection grant

- 1) FY2023 CWF – WS6, Michael Fitzpatrick – New Contract for well sealing – Motion by Bastian, second by Winkelman to approve contract FY2023 CWF-WS6 for cost sharing not to exceed \$1,443.75 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.
- 2) FY2023 CWF – WS7, Richard Dubiel – New Contract for well sealing – Motion by Bastian, second by Thole to approve contract FY2023 CWF-WS7 for cost sharing not to exceed \$1,097.25 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.

3) FY2023 CWF – WS8, Benton County – New Contract for well sealing – Motion by Bastian, second by Winkelman to approve contract FY2023 CWF-WS8 for cost sharing not to exceed \$764.25 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.

E. FY 2023 Rum River Watershed Based Implementation Funding Non-Structural Practices grant

1) RWBIF-FY23-2, Mark Ryberg, New Contract for cover crops – Motion by Bastian, second by Winkelman to approve contract RWBIF-FY23-2 for cost sharing not to exceed \$4,796.00. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

Tritz and Sanoski left the meeting at this time. McMillin left after Septic system discussion.

VIII. **Other Items**

A. Education and outreach update

B. Septic system operation and maintenance spot check – McMillin informed the board about a spot check of a septic system we are having issues contacting the landowner. Informational at this time.

C. Review and approve the 2022 financial statements and audit report – Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve 2022 financial statements and audit report. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

D. MASWCD resolutions – Maciej handed out the resolution packets. Voting will take place at October meeting.

IX. **Progress Reports**

A. Staff reports-Hoheisel came into the meeting to discuss the Soil Health Field Day.

B. District Manager report – Maciej gave his report.

Winkelman left the meeting at this time.

C. NRCS report – Bork gave his report.

D. BWSR report - none

E. U of M Extension Service – none

X. **Information Items**

A. **Supervisor / Manager Reports**

1) September 8, Annual Tour of Conservation Practices

2) September 12, Soil Health Initiative event

3) September 19, MASWCD area 2 and west central technical service area meetings

4) September 20, MASWCD board meeting

B. **Calendar of Future Events:**

1) September 28, Rum River Watershed Partners board meeting

2) October 16, Women in Agriculture event – Hoheisel came into the meeting to update the board.

3) October 25, Benton SWCD board meeting

IX. **Supervisor Open Forum**

Thell left the meeting at this time.

IX. **Adjourn**– Motion by Thole, second by Bastian to adjourn the board meeting at 11:50 a.m. A moment was taken to ask if there were any objections, all were in favor. The motion passed.

  
Secretary, Board of Supervisors

10-25-23  
Date

