

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JUNE 6, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board Meeting was called to order at 3:00p.m. by Chair, John Rheinberger.

Members Present: John Rheinberger, Chair
Tim Behrends, Vice Chair
Diane Blake, Treasurer
Bob Rosenquist, Secretary
David Nuccio, Public Relations and Information

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin

Other Agencies: Matt Lundberg, NRCS
Chris Schmidt, NRCS

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There are no additions or deletions to the Agenda. A motion to approve the Agenda was made by David Nuccio, seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Items to approve this month are the 2023 MDNR Workshop on the Water Agreement in the amount of \$500; the 2023 Metropolitan Council CAMP Agreement in a variable amount; the FY23 BWSR HELP Grant Agreement in the amount of \$59,915; and the 2023 UofM Extension LSCP No-Cost Extension. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes was made by Bob Rosenquist and seconded by David Nuccio. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Items to note are MN Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$5,527.00 for trees for the tree sale; More Belief in the amount of \$2,500.00 for an installment of payment for a new groundwater display; Schumacher's in the amount of \$9,559.00 for trees for the tree sale; University of Minnesota in the amount of \$9,276.93 for the Agronomist position; Washington County in the amount of \$1,754.40 for the special street work assessment; Viking Industrial Center in the amount of \$1,207.79 for water monitoring expenses; Happy's Stillwater Automotive in the amount of \$929.34 for vehicle repairs; The Food Group Minnesota, Inc. in the amount of \$1,900.00 for a NACD Grant expense; Metropolitan Council in the amount of \$612.50 for a BCWD water monitoring expense; Sparks Affordable Automotive in the amount of \$1,001.25 for vehicle repairs; and University of Minnesota in

the amount of \$9,342.35 for the Agronomist position. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel – At an upcoming Board meeting, we will recognize the two employees that have surpassed 20 years of employment with the WCD. A motion to approve the 20-year recognitions was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by David Nuccio. Motion carried.

Budget and Finance – Nothing to report.

Cost-Share – Nothing to report.

Communications and Outreach – The new stormwater model is progressing, and should be ready for the county fair.

AGENCY / PARTNER REPORTS

County – There are lunch meet and greets scheduled with the Parks department and the Legacy Program staff.

NRCS – The Farmington office was chosen for a Quality Assurance Review, and the initial feedback has been positive. A new Soil Conservationist has been hired. They are still working on obligating the two pre-approved EQIP applications for Washington County. NRCS is still waiting for a list from FSA for the general CRP offers that have been accepted. The deadline for CSP applications was June 2nd. There are eight in Washington County, three of which were in forestry and five in cropland.

BWSR – Summaries on the 2023 Legislature were included in the packet.

MCD/Area IV – The next MCD meeting will be August 29th. The next Area IV meeting will be on June 13th.

Watersheds – Nothing to report.

MASWCD – Nothing to report.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **WCD and EMWREP Outreach** – *See Attached and Newspaper Article Binder.*
- b. **Presentation** – None this month

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Office and Vehicles** – The new phone system is working well.
- b. **Equity Initiatives** – There was a workshop a couple weeks ago with new and emerging farmers.
- c. **Program Updates** – Nothing to report.
- d. **2024 County Budget Request** – We have not received a response from the County yet.
- e. **Legislator Tour** – Jay has reached out to Representative Lillie's office to reschedule the tour.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **FY22 Lawns to Legumes Encumbrance Request - Peterson** – WCD staff are requesting the encumbrance of up to \$1,500 for the installation of a native pollinator garden project (totaling 2,000 ft²) located at 1405 Quinlan Ave S in Lake St. Croix Beach as a component of the WCD's FY22 Washington County Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood grant (C22-1300). The \$40,000 Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood program provides funding to install pollinator-friendly practices at a neighborhood-scale to showcase ways of supporting Rusty-patched Bumblebee and other at-risk insects. The proposed project is located within one of the three Demonstration Neighborhoods selected by WCD staff based on habitat suitability and equity criteria, including proximity to Rusty-patched Bumblebee High Potential Zones (USFWS) and key wildlife habitat corridors identified in the Districts' Landscape Protection & Stewardship Framework (LPSF), and the potential to work in partnership with

underserved or underfunded communities in the county. Additional projects will be completed in 2023. The projects to begin installation in 2023 include:

- Peterson Native Pollinator Pocket Planting – 1405 Quinlan Ave S, Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043
 - a. 2,000 ft² native pollinator garden
 - b. \$1,500 L2L allocation with \$250 MSCWMO matching grant.

A motion was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by David Nuccio, to approve an encumbrance of up to \$1,500.00 in grant funds for the project outlined above and for District Manager to sign cost share agreements. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- b. **FY23 LSCP Soil Health Final Payment Request – Heinbuch No till** – At the March 14, 2023 WCD Board Meeting, the WCD Board delegated authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD Administrator for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. The WCD Administrator approved and signed a \$2,700 contract with John Heinbuch for 3 years of no-till on 45 acres of agricultural land in the Lower St. Croix Watershed, under the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant. Following the WCD’s approved Soil Health BMP Agricultural Implementation Plan, the WCD will make a one-time payment after successful completion of the first year of the installation of the non-structural practice, with yearly inspections for the rest of the contract length to ensure compliance with the individual’s Implementation Plan. John Heinbuch has successfully completed the first year of no-till according to his Implementation Plan. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$2,700 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to John Heinbuch (PO Box 234, Newport, MN, 55055). Motion by David Nuccio, seconded by Diane Blake, to approve a Final Payment of \$2,700 for contract CWF SH W 23- 01 to John Heinbuch for the Heinbuch No-Till project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board’s decision within 15 days. Tim Behrends abstained from the vote. Motion carried.
- c. **FY21 LSCP WBIF Final Payment Request – Radke No Till** – At the March 14, 2023 WCD Board Meeting, the WCD Board delegated authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD Administrator for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. The WCD Administrator approved and signed a \$10,000 contract with Steve Radke for 3 years of conservation till on 333.3 acres of agricultural land in the Lower St. Croix Watershed, under the FY2021 BWSR LSC WBIF grant. Following the WCD’s approved Nonstructural Land Management Practices Implementation Plan, the WCD will make a one-time payment after successful completion of the first year of the installation of the non-structural practice, with yearly inspections for the rest of the contract length to ensure compliance with the individual’s Implementation Plan. Steve Radke has successfully completed the first year of conservation till according to his Implementation Plan. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$10,000 from the FY2021 BWSR LSC WBIF grant to Steve Radke (7462 Neal Avenue S, Hastings, MN, 55033. Motion by Bob Rosenquist, seconded by Tim Behrends, to approve a Final Payment of \$10,000 for contract 21-06 BWSR LSC WBIF to Steve Radke for the Radke Conservation Till project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board’s decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- d. **FY23 LSCP Soil Health Final Payment Request – Radke No Till** – At the March 14, 2023 WCD Board Meeting, the WCD Board delegated authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD Administrator for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. The WCD Administrator approved and signed a \$10,800 contract with Steve Radke for

3 years of no-till on 180 acres of agricultural land in the Lower St. Croix Watershed, under the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant. Following the WCD's approved Soil Health BMP Agricultural Implementation Plan, the WCD will make a one-time payment after successful completion of the first year of the installation of the non-structural practice, with yearly inspections for the rest of the contract length to ensure compliance with the individual's Implementation Plan. Steve Radke has successfully completed the first year of no-till according to his Implementation Plan. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$10,800 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to Steve Radke (7462 Neal Avenue S, Hastings, MN, 55033). Motion by David Nuccio, seconded by Diane Blake, to approve a Final Payment of \$10,800 for contract CWF SH W 23- 03 to Steve Radke for the Radke No-Till project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- e. **FY23 LSCP Soil Health Final Payment Request – Rydeen Pasture** – WCD encumbered \$1,500 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to convert 10 acres of row crop to hay at the Rydeen property in Marine on St. Croix. The hay was planted on May 4, 2023. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$1,500 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to Gary Rydeen (14447 Norell Avenue North, Marine on St. Croix, MN, 55047). Motion by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends, to approve a Final Payment of \$1,500 for contract CWF SH W 23- 05 to Gary Rydeen for the Rydeen Hay Planting project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- f. **FY23 LSCP Soil Health Final Payment Request** – At the March 14, 2023 WCD Board Meeting, the WCD Board delegated authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD Administrator for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. The WCD Administrator approved and signed a \$1,680 contract with Gary Rydeen for 3 years of no-till on 28 acres of agricultural land in the Lower St. Croix Watershed, under the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant. Following the WCD's approved Soil Health BMP Agricultural Implementation Plan, the WCD will make a one-time payment after successful completion of the first year of the installation of the non-structural practice, with yearly inspections for the rest of the contract length to ensure compliance with the individual's Implementation Plan. Gary Rydeen has successfully completed the first year of no-till according to his Implementation Plan. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$1,680 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to Gary Rydeen (14447 Norell Avenue North, Marine on St. Croix, MN, 55047). Motion by Tim Behrends, seconded by David Nuccio, to approve a Final Payment of \$1,680 for contract CWF SH W 23- 04 to Gary Rydeen for the Rydeen No-Till project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- g. **FY23 LSCP Soil Health Final Payment Request** – At the March 14, 2023 WCD Board Meeting, the WCD Board delegated authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD Administrator for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. The WCD Administrator approved and signed a \$9,515 contract with David Sreaton for 3 years of no-till on 158.6 acres of agricultural land in the Lower St. Croix Watershed, under the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant. Following the WCD's approved Soil Health BMP Agricultural Implementation Plan, the WCD will make a one-time payment after

successful completion of the first year of the installation of the non-structural practice, with yearly inspections for the rest of the contract length to ensure compliance with the individual's Implementation Plan. David Sreaton has successfully completed the first year of no-till according to his Implementation Plan. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$9,515 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to David Sreaton (Oakgreen Farm, Inc., 711 Manning Avenue N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042). Motion by Tim Behrends, seconded by Diane Blake, to approve a Final Payment of \$9,515 for contract CWF SH W 23- 08 to David Sreaton for the Sreaton No-Till project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- h. FY23 LSCP Soil Health Final Payment Request** – At the March 14, 2023 WCD Board Meeting, the WCD Board delegated authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD Administrator for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. The WCD Administrator approved and signed a \$6,060 contract with Mike Slater for 3 years of no-till on 101 acres of agricultural land in the Lower St. Croix Watershed, under the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant. Following the WCD's approved Soil Health BMP Agricultural Implementation Plan, the WCD will make a one-time payment after successful completion of the first year of the installation of the non-structural practice, with yearly inspections for the rest of the contract length to ensure compliance with the individual's Implementation Plan. Mike Slater has successfully completed the first year of no-till according to his Implementation Plan. WCD staff have determined the project meets the design intent and approve of the request for final payment. WCD staff are requesting final payment of \$6,060 from the FY2023 LSC CWF Soil Health grant to Mike Slater (16169 Jeffrey Avenue, Hugo, MN, 55038). Motion by Tim Behrends, seconded by David Nuccio, to approve a Final Payment of \$6,060 for contract CWF SH W 23- 06 to Mike Slater for the Slater No-Till project. The district technical representative (Angela Defenbaugh) has performed a site inspection, concept plans, and cost estimate. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. Bob Rosenquist abstained from the vote. Motion carried.
- i. 2023 WCD MASWCD Resolutions** – Jay reviewed the four Resolutions for consideration. Tim Behrends made a motion to approve the Controlled Burns for Habitat Management Liability Resolution. Diane Blake seconded the motion. Motion carried. David Nuccio made a motion to approve the LGU Collaboration for BWSR Policies Resolution. Tim Behrends seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bob Rosenquist made a motion to approve the DNR Shoreline Protection Emergency Taskforce Resolution. David Nuccio seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tim Behrends made a motion to approve the 1W1P Implementation Guidance Resolution. Diane Blake seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

David Nuccio moved to adjourn the public meeting. Bob Rosenquist seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is July 11, 2023 at **3:00p.m.**

Secretary

Approved Date