

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MARCH 14, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board Meeting was called to order at 9:00a.m. by Chair, John Rheinberger.

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

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin

Other Agencies: Lizzie Dawson, NRCS

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Items to approve this month are the 2023-2025 Chisago SWCD LSCP CWF LSC Soil Health Agreement in the amount of \$65,100; the 2023-2025 Chisago SWCD LSCP WBIF A5 Agreement in the amount of \$225,000; the 2023-2025 Chisago SWCD LSCP WBIF A6 Agreement in the amount of \$225,000; the 2023-2025 Chisago SWCD LSCP WBIF A10 Agreement in the amount of \$30,000; the 2023-2024 Anoka CD Rare Plant Rescue Program in the amount of \$7,000; the 2023 Minnesota Land Trust Krueger Tree Farm HMP Amendment in the amount of \$1,500; the 2023 Washington County AIS Program Agreement in the amount of \$75,560; and 2023 AIS Partners Agreements for Bald Eagle Lake Association (\$6,000), Clear Lake Association (\$8,000), CMSCWD (\$33,000), Lake Demontreville and Olson Association (\$2,000), and VBWD (\$8,000). A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 8, 2023 minutes was made by Diane Blake and seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Items to note are LCS Lawn Service, Inc in the amount of \$967.00 for snow removal; Teachers On Call in the amount of \$554.04 for a VSMP expense; Center for Policy, Planning & Performance in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Equity Program assistance; Centraire in the amount of \$6,237.62 for HVAC repairs/maintenance; University of Minnesota in the amount of \$12,782.61 for the Agronomist position; Metropolitan Council in the amount of \$25,256.50 for lac charges; Tech Sales Company in the amount of \$20,490.00 for a water monitoring expenses; US Bank Trust N.A. in the amount of

\$584.00 for a bond administration fee; Centraire in the amount of \$913.62 for HVAC repairs/maintenance; and Metro Blooms in the amount of \$600.00 for an EMWREP expense. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel – Nothing to report.

Budget and Finance – Nothing to report.

Cost-Share – Nothing to report.

Communications and Outreach – Nothing to report.

AGENCY / PARTNER REPORTS

County – Nothing to report.

NRCS – Lizzie Dawson updated the Board on the trainings she has been attending. Applications for EQIP are being accepted until March 24th. The Local Workgroup meeting will be held in May.

BWSR – Nothing to report.

MCD/Area IV – The next MCD meeting will be held on August 30th. The next Area IV meeting will be March 31st.

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** – We are going to need to start replacing some computers. The phone tree has been updated on the new phone system. We have a need for another truck for the BMP Maintenance program. Jay requested Board approval to spend up to \$13,000 on a used truck. Bob Rosenquist made a motion to approve shifting some funds around in the budget to cover the purchase of a used truck. Tim Behrends seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. **Equity Initiatives** – Jay shared the priority recommendations from the latest meeting.
- c. **Program Updates and Tree Sale** – Orders are still coming in. Handout will be April 28th and 29th. We received funding to prepare street sweeping prioritization plans for multiple communities. Middle St. Croix WMO is going to have additional incentive dollars available.
- d. **2023 Budget and Workplan** – Nothing to report.
- e. **DATC Debriefing** – Day at the Capitol was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2024 County Budget Request** – A discussion was had regarding our budget request to the County for 2024.
- b. **2023-2025 Chisago SWCD LSCP Master Sub-Recipient Agreement** – Approval is requested to enter into this Agreement with Chisago SWCD. Diane Blake made a motion to enter into the Agreement with Chisago SWCD. David Nuccio seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. **PC Purchase Requests** – Approval is requested to purchase one new desktop for the District Engineer, at a cost not to exceed \$2,360. A motion to approve the computer purchase was made by David Nuccio, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried. Approval is also requested to replace one laptop for the water monitoring program, at a cost not to exceed \$2,800. A motion

to approve the computer purchase was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by David Nuccio. Motion carried.

- d. **Training Request – Wetland Plants Workshop** – Approval was requested to send up to two staff members to the Wetland Plants Workshop, at a cost of \$600 each. A motion to approve the training request was made by David Nuccio, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.
- e. **Training Request – Society for Ecological Restoration** – Approval was requested for two staff members to attend the Society for Ecological Restoration Conference in Baraboo, Wisconsin, at a cost not to exceed \$1,424 for the conference and travel accommodations. A motion to approve the training request was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.
- f. **SWWD Citizen Advisory Committee Representative** – South Washington Watershed District is looking for a Board member to be on the Citizen Advisory Committee. David Nuccio is interested. A motion to approve David’s appointment to the committee was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.
- g. **SeaGrant Grant Application Request** – Approval was requested to submit a grant application to Minnesota SeaGrant to support outreach, education and engagement of homeowners’ associations and commercial property owners. Diane Blake made a motion to approve submitting the grant application. David Nuccio seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- h. **Urban Agriculture Grant Application** – Approval is requested to spend the time to obtain appropriate federal grant application platform pre-requisites and set up the WCD for federal grant applications in the future; submit an application for the FY23 Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreement opportunity, pending WCD’s ability to obtain appropriate federal grant application platform pre-requisites within the grant application timeframe. David Nuccio made a motion to begin the process, and apply for the grant. Diane Blake seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- i. **2023 Nonstructural BMP Staff Delegation Request** – Approval was requested to delegate authority to approve/deny/sign contracts with land occupiers to the WCD District Manager for WCD Board-approved non-structural agricultural BMPs. A motion to approve this request was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Motion carried.
- j. **FY22 Lawns to Legumes Encumbrance Request – 2022 Queens Ave** – WCD staff are requesting the encumbrance of up to \$979.99 for the installation of one 750ft² native pollinator garden project located at 2022 Queens Ave S in Lakeland 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. A motion by David Nuccio, seconded by Bob Rosenquist, to approve an encumbrance of up to \$979.99 in grant funds for the project outlined above and for District Manager to sign cost share agreements. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- k. **FY22 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Payment Request – Stantec** – The City of Afton and Washington Conservation District (WCD) applied for Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPL). The CPL Grant Program funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Funding for the CPL grant program is from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, created by the people of Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manages the Expedited Grant

Program which is a reimbursable program to provide competitive matching grants from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to local, regional state and national nonprofit organizations, including government entities. WCD applied for these funds on behalf of the City of Afton. The grant will cover \$50,000 of implementation costs. The City of Afton has agreed to cover \$5,000 of administrative and project management costs in an agreement with WCD. This will also be used as the 10% match to the grant. Stantec was hired to implement the restoration steps. They prepared the site for seeding with an additional herbicide application. WCD staff requests approval to process a partial payment to Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 13980 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693 in the amount of \$950. A motion was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends, to approve partial payment of \$950 to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- l. GreenCorps Host Site Application Request** – Approval is requested to apply to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for a GreenCorps Member to be hosted at the WCD from September 2023 – August 2024. A motion to apply for a GreenCorps member was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Bob Rosenquist. Approval was also requested to approval the Resolution that was included in the packet. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by David Nuccio, seconded by Diane Blake. Both motions carried.
- m. WCD Regular Meeting Time** – After discussion with all members, it was decided to switch the monthly Board meetings to Tuesdays at 3:00p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

Diane Blake moved to adjourn the public meeting. Bob Rosenquist seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is April 11, 2023 at **3:00p.m.**

Secretary

Approved Date