

TRAVERSE SWCD JUNE 2023  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023 by Vice Chairperson Doug Frisch.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call**

Supervisors present: Greg Hoppe, Doug Frisch and Dennis Zimbrick. Absent: Chester Raguse and Jeff Peterson. Staff and others present: Sara Gronfeld, Trudy Determan, Bruce Johnson, Jerod Lennox, Max Tostenson, Tate Serocki, and County Commissioners Dwight Nelson, and Chad Metz and Board of Water and Soil Resources Board Conservationist Pete Waller.

**Approve Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick and approved unanimously.

**Minutes of the May Meeting**

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe and approved unanimously.

**May Treasurer's Reports**

A motion to approve the May treasurer's report as presented was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick and approved unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Gronfeld circulated the correspondence folder and mentioned a note of thanks from scholarship winner Nathan Johnson.

**District Technical Manager**

Johnson reported on his past month's activities. 26 tree planting sites were completed. Johnson delivered a presentation about the benefits of using tree tubes to a forestry group via remote phone connection from the field. He introduced our new employee, Tate Serocki. He attended a feedlot preconstruction meeting for a new hog barn. He will be meeting with producers who signed up for the soil health grant as soon as done with seeding. A soil health field day is scheduled in September. Staff will be working to coordinate details of the event. He completed well readings in May and June. Johnson discussed working with MCIT insurance on the tractor claim and he worked with the Purchase Committee to discuss details about a replacement.

A motion was made by Hoppe to approve a SSTS Upgrade Grant application, second by Zimbrick and approved unanimously.

Jacob McClernon      SSTS-23-03                      \$11,250

**District Conservation Technician**

Lennox reported on his activity the past month. He has been working on grass seeding and helped with some tree planting and flagging.

**District Conservation Technician**

Tostenson reported on his activity the past month. He primarily assisted with tree planting, mowing, grass seeding, and project development including working through design of some lined waterway outlets.

### **District Conservation Technician**

Tate Serocki introduced himself. He helped plant trees at several sites. He began grass seeding, worked on some site preparation, and completed some mowing.

### **BWSR Legislative Update**

Pete Waller was present and offered highlights about the legislative summary from his agency. Additional funding was approved for water quality and soil health projects by the legislature.

### **NRCS Field Office Report**

Gronfeld presented the report prepared by Britta Haseman. Four CSP applications were approved in Traverse County and 22 applications preapproved by the team. They are working on CRP re-enrollment contracts and starting field checks for contracts expiring in 2025.

### **Office/Program Reports**

Gronfeld discussed updates for grants and activity for the past month. She assisted with a few field projects and tree sales. She discussed the report presented to the County Board earlier this week. She offered a few additional details about the legislative summary from MASWCD. Gronfeld indicated she will be working on a new RIM application and has been working on processing two current RIM easements.

### **Otter Tail Power Company Utility Easement Request**

Gronfeld discussed a request to grant an easement to Otter Tail Power Company for an electrical line. A motion was made by Greg Hoppe to approve the easement, but the motion failed due to lack of second. By consensus of the board, action on the easement was tabled until the next meeting.

### **1W1P Updates**

Gronfeld distributed a summary of the status of the 1W1P plan development for the Upper Minnesota River Watershed. The draft plan is being reviewed by the steering and advisory committee members with comments due June 16. Then the draft plan will go to the policy committee for review and is on track for public comment around the end of July.

### **Area I Meeting**

The upcoming meeting is scheduled Tuesday, June 20, 2023, in Mahnomon. The draft agenda was distributed and registration is due June 12.

### **July Meeting Date**

The July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, at 7:30 a.m.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Hoppe to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m., second by Zimbrick and approved unanimously.

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**DISTRICT SECRETARY**

**DATE**