



REDWOOD
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**BOARD OF
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STAFF

Nick Brozek,
District Administrator

Jeanne Prescott,
Office Manager

Kurt Mathiowetz,
Water Quality Technician

Brian Pfarr,
Resource Specialist

Ben Bauer,
Conservation Specialist

**MINUTES FROM THE November 8, 2023 MONTHLY BOARD
MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:31 a.m. by Chair Jeff Potter.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Potter - Chair
Ed Carter - Vice Chair
Brian Timm - PR & I

STAFF: Nick Brozek- District Administrator, Jeanne Prescott - Office Manager, Kurt Mathiowetz-Water Quality Specialist, Ben Baurer-Conservation Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Groebner - County Commissioner

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion by Carter, second by Timm to accept the Agenda. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

October 11, 2023 minutes; Motion by Carter, second by Timm to approve minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

FINANCE REPORTS: Motion by Timm, second by Carter to approve Finance Report. Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Carter, second by Timm to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried.

GRANT TRACKER: Informational

EASEMENT BOUNDARY DISAGREEMENT: Bauer reported on an issue with the boundary of Cletus Gewerth's RIM land that was brought to Bauer's attention by FSA. The area currently and historically maintained in permanent grass by Gewerth is roughly the correct acreage, but does not match the RIM easement boundary described in the recorded easement agreement documents (64-01-18-01), Gewerth had the original Agreement and maps from 2017 by previous Conservation Specialist Kristy Zajac. Gewerth commented that the existing grass area matches what was originally flagged by Zajac, except one corner has been rounded. Bauer reported that there was no evidence in the RIM folder nor in the electronic files showing what Zajac flagged. Bauer explained that the State and FSA records match the recorded easement description. Board members Timm and Potter asked questions on the situation and made comments on possibilities of how to proceed with this situation, since the easement was flagged differently than it was recorded. The SWCD Board asked Gewerth if he is happy to leave things the way they are, Gewerth commented yes, the area currently in grass matches the marginal areas that are hard to farm. Carter said if FSA goes with our recommendations they can re-record it. Bauer added that both FSA and BWSR (State) will need to agree on what needs to be done as BWSR has final say. Brozak stated that if FSA and BWSR do not agree with Gewerth, he could lose his CRP payments. Timm made a motion that the Redwood SWCD supports

leaving the boundaries as they were flagged originally by Zajac in 2017 if that is acceptable to FSA and BWSR. 2nd by Carter. Motion passed.

WCA VIOLATION: Bauer had maps and handouts on a wetland violation pertaining Larry Kramer, from a complaint forwarded to the SWCD by DNR Wildlife Biologist, Jeff Zajac. Bauer reported that after receiving the complaint, he went to the property adjacent to Kramer's land in the NE1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 22 of Delhi Township to investigate the reported illegal wetland drainage. He provided the Board with pictures of the site, showing tile was plowed in. The violation was reported on 10.19.2022. Conversations with Larry Kramer and Kramer family started in January of 2023 and continued through April, May, June and October. Bauer talked to Rick Kramer (son of Larry) before talking to Larry, this was the arrangement made between the Kramer's and Scott Wold. A site visit was done on 10.16.2023, by Bauer, Brozek, John Hansel (BWSR) and Luke Belgard (DNR). Rick, Larry and Kerry Kramer were present. Rick and Larry got argumentative with John Hansel (BWSR) about the violation. After getting permission to go on the land with Hansel, Bauer, and Brozek took tile intake depth measurements to confirm that the old existing cement tile had been replaced by new tile that was installed at a lower depth and definitely showing drainage of the wetland. The SWCD Supervisors were aware that this incident has occurred in previous years. Potter reiterated remembering the first violation in 2016. Timm questioned Bauer, "if tile breaks by nature can you fix it?" Bauer commented yes but has to be same size and same depth. Bauer's next step will be working with BWSR to prepare a restoration order. (Informational)

GBERBA: Brozek updated that the Water Quality Certification was being submitted for Re-imbusement.

MN. STATE COORDINATOR PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL POSITION: Brozek reported that the County Attorney is reviewing the agreement and had a question about how payments will be made to Pheasants Forever. He commented that Prescott, went to the BWSR Academy and brought back information recommending entering into a formal written agreement when partnering with another SWCD to spell out expectations. Brozek is working on Time Tracker and putting the information in Grant Tracker so Prescott can enter the information in eLINK. Commented that Buffer Law 21 and Local Capacity 21 grants close at the end of the year. He also mentioned that he took the BWSR Block Grant to county for approval, and transfer of the WCA and Water Quality funds to the SWCD.

REPORTS:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Commissioner Groebner; nothing to report at this time.

TSA: Maurer; not present

RCRCA: Carter reported working on 1W1P workplan. Annual meeting with Area II small crowd.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST: Board viewed Attachment 4.

WATER QUALITY TECHNICIAN: Mathiowetz reported on AgBMP, mentioned projects that are in the lineup for possible money: Kyle Prechel's for No-till drill; Al Zulsdorf's banker is inquiring about money to help with a well for livestock; and Todd Green's request for a manure spreader. Timm suggested to get more information about well situation and bring back to the Board to discuss further.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST: Pfarr unavailable so Mathiowetz spoke about the projects being constructed. We have Dray Line and West up by Redwood working with the multiple Potter and Hagert sites. Dray Line is staying ahead of West doing tile. West is finishing berms. Down south in the Walnut Grove area Brey is working on the Paul Plaetz project. This is a large project with multiple berms and a lot of tile. Dray Line also has part of its crew working to construct berms on the Vandeweile site. The Schultz project on the east side of the county was completed last week by Heiderscheidts. Heiderscheidts will also be constructing berms on the Breikrieutz site after Dray Line completes the tile. The Bruce Tiffany site has been tiled and construction was completed by Dray Line and West.

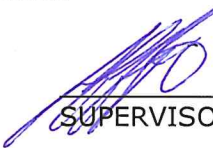
CONSERVATION SPECIALIST: Bauer reported earlier on his topics.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR: Brozek reported earlier on his topics.

OTHER BUSINESS: Prescott mentioned the Wednesday, December 13 board meeting and reminded everyone that is the MASWCD convention in the cities and Potter and Brozek and Mathiowetz will be gone, Carter suggested having the board meeting the next day Thursday, December 14th at the 7:30 a.m. start time.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting is planned for Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7:30 a.m. USDA Service Center Conference Room (SWCD Building)

ADJOURNMENT: Potter adjourned the meeting at 9:45a.m.

 12/14/23

SUPERVISOR