

Meeting Minutes
Bois de Sioux & Mustinka Joint Comprehensive Watershed Plan
Policy Committee
January 5, 2023 at 1:00 pm
IN PERSON

Member Organizations

Big Stone County
Big Stone SWCD
Grant County
Grant SWCD
Otter Tail County
West Otter Tail SWCD
Stevens County
Stevens SWCD
Traverse County
Traverse SWCD
Wilkin County
Wilkin SWCD
Bois de Sioux Watershed

Committee Representative

Commissioner Chad Zimmer
Supervisor Dan Morrill
Commissioner Bill LaValley
Supervisor Randy Larson
Commissioner Kurt Mortenson **[Absent]**
Supervisor John Walkup
Commissioner Ron Staples
Supervisor Greg Fynboh
Commissioner Dwight Nelson **[Absent]**
Supervisor Chester Raguse **[Absent]**
Commissioner Eric Klindt **[Absent]**
Supervisor Kyle Gowin
Manager Linda Vavra

Designated Alternate

Supervisor Lon Moen **[Absent]**
Commissioner Doyle Sperr
TBD
Com. Lee Rogness **[Absent]**
Supervisor Wayne Rotz **[Absent]**
Commissioner Neil Wiese **[Absent]**
Supervisor Debbie Anderson **[Absent]**
Commissioner Kayla Schmidt
Supervisor Doug Frisch **[Absent]**
Commissioner Dennis Larson **[Absent]**
Supervisor Josh Deal **[Absent]**
Manager Allen Wold **[Absent]**

Also Present

Craig Lingen, Wilkin SWCD
Kimberly Melton, Wilkin SWCD
Jamie Beyer, BdSWD

1. Call to order.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes.

Vavra motioned, seconded LaValley and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda, June 2, 2022 minutes, and September 1, 2022 minutes.

3. Update on Implementation WBIF #1 & WBIF #2 Grant & Work Activities

Budget, expense, and disbursements were presented.

4. Project Presentation by Wilkin SWCD

Melton presented fact sheets on the Wilkin SWCD cover crop, soil health, and grade stabilization structure programs (please see attached). Staff have designed 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year cover crop programs. Melton stated soil health is measured by building soil resiliency, increasing pore space and organic matter to create a sponge effect. Melton stated that it can a lot of planning to fit a program on an individual operation. Melton stated that 23 of 50 producers in one of the programs had never planted a cover crop before, and that she knows of eight producers with a strip till.

Commissioner Staples asked whether competitive grants are needed at all, now that more predictable WBIF 1W1Plan funding is available. Beyer stated the watershed has a good idea of what projects will be worked on over 10 years (identified in the plan) and 2 years (as identified ahead of a 2-year grant workplan). Beyer stated that she can see that SWCD's would benefit from having an annual competitive program to offer flexibility – interested landowners may present opportunities for projects without being specifically identified in a 2-work plan or the 10-

year overall plan. She gave the example of a very recent opportunity proposed by Grant SWCD for a series of WASCOBS, for which there is \$130,000 worth of need, and no allocation available under either of the two current WBIF grants. This type of project is an example of a justification for maintaining an annual competitive grant program.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD APRIL 6, 2023 AT 1 PM