

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD
307 2nd STREET NW, ROOM #216
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dan Gravley, Chair. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Those present were:

Dan Gravley, Chair
Bob Janzen, Treasurer
Frank Turnock, Secretary
Tom Fasteland, Reporter
Janet Smude, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Michael Burggraff/Aitkin SWCD Intern
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist
Dennis Thompson, Aitkin County Land Commissioner

Those absent were:

Francis Dierickx, Vice Chair

Additions to the agenda:

- Future meeting dates and location
- Brian Roulet, Project Coordinator end of probation 6/25
- Security State Bank/CD comes due 6/6/25
- Mississippi Grand Rapids Statement of Work
- Additional Cost-Share Project Proposal

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve the agenda with additions. Approved unanimously.

Introductions were made.

Michael Burggraff/SWCD Intern introduced himself and gave background.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the April 15, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to accept the April financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve checks written. Approved unanimously.

DENNIS THOMPSON, AITKIN COUNTY LAND DEPT./AITKIN COUNTY RESPONSE TO THE EMERALD ASH BORER

Dennis Thompson presented a Power Point on Aitkin County Response to the Emerald Ash Borer.

BUCKTHORN INVENTORY

Janet sent in an application to the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) re: buckthorn inventory. The inventory would cover the Mississippi shoreline-Hwy. 169 crossing north to Jacobson.

Grant application is identifying and prioritizing buckthorn (\$6500, 100 hrs., \$65/hr.)

AREA III RESOLUTION MEETING/JUNE 6, 2025

The Area III Resolution meeting will be held on Friday, June 6, 2025 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Frank Turnock, Bob Janzen, Dan Gravley and Tom Fasteland, Veronica Lundquist, Brian Roulet and Ellie Joing will attend.

PROJECT PROPOSALS/MILLE LACS LAKE

PID 11-1-24770, MILLE LACS LAKE (RUM RIVER WATERSHED), HAZELTON TOWNSHIP, CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract, Hazelton Township, Critical Area Planting not to exceed \$3750 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

PID 16-0-043802, MILLE LACS LAKE (RUM RIVER WATERSHED), LAKESIDE TOWNSHIP, SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share assistance contract, Lakeside Township, Shoreline Stabilization project not to exceed \$3808.50 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

PID 09-0-002900, PROJECT PROPOSAL/LONG LAKE, (MISSISSIPPI BRAINERD WATERSHED) SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share assistance contract, Long Lake, Glen Township shoreland stabilization project not to exceed \$5701.73 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

CROW WING SWCD/\$34,586.51

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$34,586.51 to Crow Wing SWCD. Approved unanimously.

MISSISSIPPI GRAND RAPIDS SUB-AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve and sign the Mississippi Grand Rapids Sub-Agreement. Approved unanimously.

GOVERNANCE 101 TRAINING/SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2025

The Governance 101 Training will be held September 10-11, 2025. This is just for your information if anyone is interested in attending.

TREE/PLANT SALE REPORT

There were 6400 trees ordered. There was a total of 76 tree orders and 17 plant orders. Approximately 750 trees were left to sell.

MEETING DATES AND LOCATION

The Training Room at the Aitkin County Government Center is not available for our next SWCD Board meeting on June 17, 2025. Janet will look into having our meeting at Long Lake Conservation Center.

The August SWCD Board meeting will be changed from Tuesday, August 19, 2025 to Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

The Forage and Grassland meeting is Tuesday, August 19, 2025 in Duluth.

SECURITY STATE BANK/CD, \$300,000

The CD at Security is coming due in early June. A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to put \$300,000 in a CD at Security State Bank. Approved unanimously.

BRIAN ROULET/END OF PROBATION PERIOD 6/25

This was tabled until the end of the meeting (Closed session).

MISSISSIPPI GRAND RAPIDS STATEMENTS OF WORK

BIRD, SHORELINE STABILIZATION & REVEGETATION, BIG SANDY LAKE (MISS/GR AITKIN, 2025 (1))

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a statement of work for a shoreline stabilization & revegetation project, \$1447.19 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending the approval of the Steering Committee. Approved unanimously.

NAGEL, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, BIG SANDY LAKE (MISS/GR AITKIN, 2025 (2))

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a statement of work for a stormwater management project, \$9831.35 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending the approval of the Steering Committee. Approved unanimously.

RINTA, SHORELINE STABILIZATION, ROUND LAKE (MISS/GR AITKIN, 2025 (3))

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve statement of work for a shoreline stabilization project, \$10,799.25 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending the approval of the Steering Committee. Approved unanimously.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

Meeting was held on April 28, 2025. Projects being done (well sealing, brush projects, etc.). A list of projects was passed around.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

-1W1Ps

-Big Sandy 319 Phase I ending, Phase II Grant was submitted April 30, to the MPCA

-Dam Lake outlet project

-Starry Trek, August 9, 2025

-Water Sampling (Clear Lake, Farm Island Lake, Ripple Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Lake Minnewawa)

-Letter received from the County-budget is due in the near future

SENIOR TECHNICIAN-Sam

-Buffer update

-Culvert inventory/Morrison Twp.

-Soil Health

-Ag Inspector

-Forestry-Presentation made to the MN Maple Syrup Production Association, about 40 people in attendance

-Rum River Partnership

-No Till Drill

-300 trees planted in the City Park with Ellie

Discussion re: project in Salo Twp (Grand Rapids 1W1P)? Janet and Sam will look into.

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

SOIL HEALTH OUTREACH

-Local Work Group meeting

-NRCS Advisory meeting

-Ag Learn account

-FFA Alumni meeting

PROJECTS

- Mississippi Erosion site visit
- Delivered drill

OUTREACH

- Leadership Training in Lanesboro (June)

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

- AIS (Inspections, DNR training on-line and in person, needed supplies purchased for inspectors, decontamination units-worked with Richard Murphy and Diamond Industrial to get serviced and ready for the season).
- Annual tree and plant sale
- Learning about forestry practices, meetings, webinars etc.
- Drones-studying to get drone license
- Outreach articles
- AIS monthly committee meeting
- Gaining knowledge through webinars and on-line training to be successful in my position and to be able to be more effectively transition into other areas within the dept.

WATERSHED MGMT./WETLAND SPECIALIST-Ellie

OUTREACH

- Envirothon
- BSALWMP
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Lots of site visits on Mille Lacs
- Miss. Brd./Miss GR
- Kettle River Watershed projects
- Tree & Plant Sale
- Cromwell 4th graders
- Healthy Land Healthy Lakes
- ACLARA
- 300 trees planted at the City Park with Sam

WETLAND TEP

- Site visit with TEP members and Army Corps to Mille Lacs Meadows

MN BWSR CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Darren

- Competitive grants
- Working on Open Meeting Law guidance
- Clean Water Legacy grants available for non-governing through August 5, 2025
- FY24-25 grants expire at the end of the year

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Tom

- Thank you to the district supervisors and staff for the Local Work Group meeting last month. Pest Control was the priority.
- Updates on contracts
- Job Approval Authority-Garrett and Jase can help with Job Approval Authority
- No changes in staff since last meeting.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Laura absent

Report is in your folder.

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

No report. The next meeting will be June 25, 2025. Tom is unable to attend. Dan will attend this meeting.

AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF WORK/RUM RIVER & AITKIN SWCD-Sam

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to sign the amendment to the Statement of Work/Rum River & Aitkin SWCD. Approve unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

BRIAN ROULET/END OF PROBATION PERIOD

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to take Brian off from probation. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to propose \$27.50/hr. effective June 2, 2025. Approved unanimously.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Place of meeting to be determined.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary