

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET NW, ROOM #216  
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

Those absent were:

Dan Gravley, Chair  
Francis Dierickx, Vice Chair  
Bob Janzen, Treasurer  
Frank Turnock, Secretary  
Tom Fasteland, Reporter  
Janet Smude, District Manager  
Lori Nelson, District Secretary

Additions to the agenda:

- Bill over \$3000  
    Carlton County SWCD, \$3643.93
- New Aitkin County Administrator
- Shoreland Ordinance/Committee of the Whole meeting

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

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the June 17, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

## TREASURERS REPORT

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

## CHECKS WRITTEN

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

## AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

Discussion.

## TREE/PLANT REPORT

The Tree/Plant report was handed out and Lori went through the report for the 2024/2025 tree/plant sale.

## 2026 SWCD BUDGET

Discussion.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the 2026 SWCD Budget. Approved unanimously.

## SHORELINE PROJECT POLICY

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the Shoreline Project Policy and post on the website. Approved unanimously.

## PROJECT RANKING SHEET

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the Project Ranking sheet. Approved unanimously.

## ELLIE JOINING/END OF PROBATION

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to move Ellie Joining/End of Probation to a closed session at the end of the meeting. Approved unanimously.

## PROJECT PROPOSALS

### SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP, BIG SANDY/URBAN STORMWATER PRACTICE/\$12127.59

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve a cost-share assistance contract for an Urban Stormwater practice, cost-

share not to exceed \$12,127.59 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

TIMMERS, CEDAR LAKE RUNOFF EROSION, MISS BRD 1W1P

Project cancelled.

KLEIN, RABBIT LAKE/SHORELINE STABILIZATION

No paperwork submitted.

PROJECT REVIEW/REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

STANEK, HORSESHOE LAKE, BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$3967.50 as soon as the landowner gets his paperwork in. Approved unanimously.

BREAK

RETURN FROM BREAK

NEW AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A new Aitkin County Administrator has been hired and will be starting in September.

CARLTON COUNTY SWCD/\$3643.93, BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a payment to Carlton County SWCD for \$3643.93. Approved unanimously.

SHORELAND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center. Janet will not be able to attend. Bob Janzen and Tom Fasteland will attend.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

- Project Update
- Presentation Green BioChar and geology of Snake River

#### TSA 3 REPORT-Dan

Dan attended the TSA 3 meeting in Mora.

- Budget approved
- Pay increases
- No new purchases
- Carlton County supervisor resigned

The next TSA 3 meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025.

#### DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1Ps
- E-link reporting of grants over \$500,000
- Big Sandy Watershed/319 Phase I ends in December. Project \$ are allocated, projects need to get done.
- Big Sandy annual meeting
- SWCD Budget
- Observation wells-payment in July for previous year, submitted information to the DNR, new contract signed
- Aitkin County Fair
- Lake Association Summit
- Project Ranking Sheet
- Cost-Share Policy
- Starry Trek/August 9, 2025

#### SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-Sam

- Riparian buffers
- Culvert Inventory
- Soil Health
- Ag Inspector
- Forestry
- Rum River Partnership
- No Till Drill
- Hill City Buckthorn Project

- Aitkin Park Buckthorn CPL Project
- Aitkin County Fair

## SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

### Soil Health/Outreach

- Soil Health Peer Group-starting to plan field day
- Continuing with Ag Learn account
- Hoping to start focusing on Aerial Applicator License

### Soil Health/Projects

- Pollinator planting, site visit to schedule
- City of Duluth seeding drone
- Shoreline Buffer Management Plan written

### Outreach Specialist

- Leadership Training, missed meeting in June-looked through resources trying to prepare for the upcoming last session.
- Rivers & Lakes Fair-Wrap up Rivers & Lakes Fair, thank you letters sent, planning a Wrap Up meeting and update budget for next year

### Other

- Finished up newsletter and sent out beginning of July
- BSALWMP newsletter
- Minnewawa shoreline project
- AIS articles
- Aitkin County Fair
- Well Grant reporting
- Website updates, facebook posts, etc.

## PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

Absent, no report

## WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST-Ellie

- Shoreline Project update
- Wetlands
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Hill City Association meeting
- BSALWMP meeting minutes
- Aitkin County Fair
- Article/Aitkin SWCD newsletter
- Lake Association Summit
- Livestock Costume judge at the Aitkin County Fair

## OTHER

- Worked on drone to get ready to finish Hill City seeding
- Hill City to spot drone, film PR for seeding at school
- Edited a short video with that drone footage

## SWCD INTERN-Michael

- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Noxious weeds
- Well Grant
- Water samples
- Site visits for plantings
- Aitkin County Fair

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to close the regular SWCD Board meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to open closed session of the SWCD Board meeting.

## ELLIE JOINING/END OF PROBATION

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to take Ellie off of probation and approve a \$1/hr. increase effective August 1, 2025. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to reopen the SWCD Board meeting. Approved unanimously.

## NRCS REPORT-Tom

- Program updates
- FY 2026 EQIP Program application deadline 8/1/25
- Staffing Update/NRCS Critical Vacancy Process

#### FARM BILL BIOLOGIST-Laura

- EQIP Applications
- RIM Site Inspections
- Carlton Native Plant sale
- Potential easement/met with landowner
- PF Annual Review
- Forestry for MN Birds webinar
- RIM Proposal presentations
- Created What's in your Habitat handout
- Sharp Tail Grouse management signs ordered

The next SWCD Board meeting is Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to adjourn at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Turnock  
Secretary