

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, October 21, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center Training Room. Meeting was called to order by Dan Gravley, Chair at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Welcome David Minke, Aitkin County Administrator

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
Veronica Lundquist, Soil Health Specialist/Outreach Specialist
David Minke, Aitkin County Administrator
Josh Voller, Aitkin High School Ag Teacher

Additions to the agenda:

- Ryan Anderson, Cost-Share Project Payment, \$4687.08
- Carlton County SWCD/\$3016.06
- Government Shutdown

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 Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the September 16, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

JOSH VOLLER, AITKIN HIGH SCHOOL AG TEACHER

Josh introduced himself and gave background. He talked about the Ag classes that are being offered at Aitkin High School and some of his plans in the future. He is interested in working with the Aitkin SWCD. Envirothon was discussed and Josh will look into see what is involved in having students participate.

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Janet is working with Benefit Innovations who work with Shelter Point that offers private plans for small companies like ours. The annual premium is \$200 for Shelter Point to administer our Paid Family Medical Leave. Aitkin County SWCD needs to decide today what % they want to pay if any for the employee. The rate for Shelter Point is 0.59% and 0.88% when going through the State. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to split the 0.59% in ½ with employee. Approved unanimously.

2025 RESOLUTION PACKET

The 2025 Resolution Packet was discussed and deadline for voting is November 1, 2025.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

The MASWCD Annual Convention will be held December 1-3, 2025. Frank Turnock, Tom Fasteland, Dan Gravley, Bob Janzen and Veronica Lundquist will attend.

AMENDMENT TO RUM RIVER WATERSHED

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the amendment to the Rum River Watershed. Approved unanimously.

1W1P FUNDING REVIEW

Janet handed out a packet re: 1W1P Area Boundaries and 1W1P Funding review and went through each watershed.

PRELIMINARY DIVERSION CHANNEL INVENTORY DISCUSSION

Veronica presented a Power Point of photos and videos of parts of the inventory done on the diversion channel.

RICE LAKE REFUGE MEMBERSHIP

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve \$35 for Rice Lake Refuge membership. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

CARLTON COUNTY SWCD/\$3016.06

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to pay \$3016.06 to Carlton County SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

MORRISON SWCD/\$23,113.76

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to pay \$23,113.76 to Morrison SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

CROW WING SWCD/\$34,244.08

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to pay \$34,244.08 to Crow Wing SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

TODD SWCD/\$4569.60

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fastland to pay \$4569.60 to Todd SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSAL

ASMUS, RAIN GARDENS, BIG SANDY/\$7060.69

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Asmus rain gardens project not to exceed \$7060.69 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO BE PAID

ANDERSON, AG WATER QUALITY/ROOF RUNOFF PROJECT, MISS
BRD 1W1P, \$4687.08

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share payment of \$4687.08 to Ryan Anderson. Approved unanimously.

KLEIN, SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT, RABBIT LAKE/
\$3750, BRD 1W1P

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a cost-share payment of \$3750 to Klein when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

ANDERSON, SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT/
BIG SANDY 319, \$4372.58

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share payment of \$4372.58 to Anderson when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

OTHER

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Discussed Government shutdown.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

-Approved 2 projects

-Up to \$20,000 for projects before approval is needed.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1 W1Ps
- Big Sandy Watershed
- CCFFC Grant
- Peterson Company audit
- Shoreland Ordinance Public Hearing
- Observation Well readings
- MACDE Manager's meeting
- FMLA
- Health Ins./HAS
- Keep it Clean Campaign
- Assessor's office no longer moving to 2nd floor

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

- Soil Health Field Day/Amundson's
- Applicator license
- University of MN test plot Field Day
- Agroforestry Institute
- MCIT/Drone Coverage Ins., etc.
- County Ag Inspector
 - Grant applied for in September and was approved for \$10,300
- Rivers & Lakes Fair, meeting 10/30/25 to start planning for 2026
- Photo Contest page on website
- AIS Article
- Facebook posts, website updates, etc.
- BWSR Academy 10/22-10/23/25
- Tree, plant and seed order forms put together and updated website
- Round Lake footage started editing
- Diversion Channel footage started editing

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

- Meeting was held in September. The budget was approved and report of projects was handed out.

Senior Technician Report-Sam
Project Coordinator-Brian
Watershed Mgmt./Wetland Specialist-Ellie
MN BWSR Board Conservationist-Darren

Farm Bill Biologist-Laura

All the above reports were handed out to the supervisors as they are attending training.

The next Aitkin County SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Hwy. Dept.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary