

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, February 18, 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 said.

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  
Chris Wallace, Talon Metals Corp.  
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist  
Ellie Joing, Watershed Mgmt./Wetland Specialist  
Brock Anderson, Aitkin County Planning & Zoning

Additions to the agenda

- MN SWCD Forestry Association Contract
- MN SWCD Forestry Association 2025 Annual Dues
- CPL Grant/Big Pine Lake Fish Passage
- Wetland Credits/Big Sandy Lakeshore

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

Minutes were reviewed. Discussion on mileage. A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes. Approved.

#### TREASURERS REPORT

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

## CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the checks written. Approved.

## DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/ELLIE JOING

Welcome Ellie. Introductions were made. Ellie introduced herself and gave background.

## REVIEW PETERSON COMPANY AUDIT BID

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to accept the bid and sign agreement with Peterson Company. Approved.

## TALON METALS/CHRIS WALLACE

Chris Wallace, Talon Metals gave an update on the Tamarack Mining Project.

## POTENTIAL NEW FEEDLOT APPLICATION/BROCK ANDERSON, AITKIN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

Brock Anderson, Aitkin County Planning & Zoning discussed a potential new feedlot application east of Palisade on County Rd. 3. No Conditional Use Permit is required at the County.

The landowner will work with MPCA. Planning & Zoning will bring this to the County Board and send minutes to MPCA.

At this time just wanted to bring this to Aitkin County SWCD for your information. The Aitkin County SWCD suggested the landowner contact the NRCS, Tom Gervais/Aitkin and Dept. of Ag, Ryan Clark/Carlton for any possible cost-share that might be available for the landowner.

The Aitkin County SWCD Board asked that Planning & Zoning keep them updated as this moves along.

## MISSISSIPPI GRAND RAPIDS 1W1P IMPLEMENTATION MOA/DESIGNATE ALTERNATE

The Plan has been approved by BWSR, application for funding—submit to BWSR in the near future. Itasca County is the fiscal agent and Aitkin is the note taker.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P Implementation MOA. Approved.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to designate Francis Dierickx as an alternate for the Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P. Approved.

#### BILLS OVER \$3000

#### CARLTON SWCD/\$11,165.05, 319 GRANT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Carlton SWCD for \$11,165.05. Approved.

#### MORRISON SWCD/\$66,511.73, BRD 1W1P IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to Morrison SWCD for \$66,511.73. Approved.

#### CROW WING SWCD/\$29,284.09, BRD 1W1P IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to Crow Wing SWCD for \$29,284.09. Approved.

#### OFFICE/COUNTY UPDATE

Jessica Seibert, Aitkin County Administrator resigned.

We will be adding approximately nine more employees (Assessor's office) to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with Planning & Zoning, SWCD, and survey staff sometime in the near future.

The Aitkin County SWCD Board of Supervisors directed staff to look into another location.

BREAK

Call meeting back to order.

## OTHER

### MN SWCD FORESTRY ASSOCIATION CONTRACT

A contract was put together to pay per diem and mileage for IT support for the MN SWCD Forestry Association. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to present the contract to the MN SWCD Forestry Association in March. Approved.

### MN SWCD FORESTRY ASSOCIATION 2025 ANNUAL DUES

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$265 for MN SWCD Forestry Association dues. Approved.

### CPL GRANT/BIG PINE LAKE FISH PASSAGE

This grant is through the MN DNR, \$50,000, \$4,000 for administration. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to enter into this grant agreement. Approved.

### WETLAND CREDITS/BIG SANDY LAKESHORE FRONTAGE

Discussion re: wetland credits Big Sandy lakeshore frontage. Any questions can contact Bret Sample.

### SNAKE RIVER REPORT-DAN

No meeting

### DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-JANET

-Cattlemen's Association meeting, Fireside, McGregor, MN March 13, 2025

-Big Sandy landowner-DNR Commissioner received a complaint from a Big Sandy landowner about SWCD and Env. Services.

-Chelsey Koebernick, Unemployment benefits discussion

## SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-SAM

- Buffer Update
- Culvert Inventory Update
- Soil Health/Attended grazing workshop
- Ag Inspector
- Forestry
- Rum River Partnership
- Morrison Twp. culvert

Discussion re: cost-share on large acres--forest stewardship plans coming up (800 & 900 acres). A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve up to \$3000 cost-share per plan. Approved.

## SOIL HEALTH/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-VERONICA

- Soil Health Peer Group
- Soil Management Summit
- Midwest Cover Crop Council

## OUTREACH

- Leadership Training
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Tree, Plant, and Seed Sale

## OTHER

- Master Naturalist Program
- Attended a few trainings on pollinators & effective social media
- Planning newsletter for March
- Designed & ordered business cards for new employees and supervisors
- Working on presentation for the U of M Intro to Drones course

## WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-ELLIE

### WATERSHED MGMT

- BSALWMP meeting
- Mille Lacs Watershed Group meeting (Planning for Healthy Land Healthy Lakes Expo)

- Rum River Water Partnership
- Rivers & Lakes Fair Planning

## WETLAND SPECIALIST

- Learning about restoration orders, familiarizing myself with WCA processes.  
Upcoming TEP meeting
- Cost-share shoreline projects, hopefully reach out to my first client/project

## MN BWSR BOARD CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-DARREN

- Reporting with Janet
- 2<sup>nd</sup> mentoring discussion with technicians
- Grand Rapids approved plan
- Agro-Forestry seminar in Sept. Crow Wing County is sponsoring at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd.

## DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-TOM

- EQIP update
- CSP update
- Annual Civil Rights Agreement (Each supervisor signed the agreement)

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve signing the Annual Civil Rights Agreement. Approved.

## TSA 3 REPORT-TOM

- Project report from Matias
- New engineering tech to be hired. Applications need to be in by the end of February.

## FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-LAURA

- EQIP update
- Easement Update
- Farm Bill Biologist Boot Camp
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Workshop/Milaca

The next SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock  
Secretary