

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, July 21, 2026 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Those present were:

Francis Dierickx, Chair
Tom Fasteland, Vice Chair
Bob Janzen, Treasurer
Franklin Turnock, Secretary
Dan Gravley, Reporter
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Brian Roulet, Project Coordinator
Sam Seybold, Senior Technician
Ellie Joing, Watershed Mgmt./Wetland Specialist Report

Those absent were:

Janet Smude, District Manager

Additions to the agenda:

- Garrett Lee, Fencing project/Cost-Share Contract Cancellation
- Correction Olson/Beinhoffer Pollinator \$724.50, Forage Planting \$3101.25
- Correction Plaisance \$1020.82, Big Sandy, Miss GR 1W1P
- Correction Peterson \$4222.47, Wilkins Lake, Miss BR 1W1P
- Northern Valley Meadows \$11,250 Miss BR 1W1P
- Website

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the amended agenda. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the June 16, 2026 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fasteland to accept the June financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve the checks written. Approved unanimously.

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

Discussion. It was suggested that before and after pictures of projects would be something to add to the fair booth for next year.

BILLS OVER \$3000

MORRISON SWCD, \$22,522.31

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment to Morrison SWCD in the amount of \$22,522.31. Approved unanimously.

MN DNR, \$3505.00

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to MN DNR in the amount of \$3505.00. Approved unanimously.

SOIL HEALTH COST-SHARE PROPOSALS

HERBRANSON/APPELBACHER MISS GR 1W1P, FORAGE PLANTING \$6448.50

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a forage planting for Herbranson/Appelbacher \$6448.50 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

OLSON/BEIHOFFER/POLLINATOR PLANTING \$724.50

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a pollinator planting project for Olson/Beihoffer \$724.50 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

OLSON/BEIHOFFER/COVER CROP PLANTING \$3101.25

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a cover crop planting project for Olson/Beihoffer \$3101.25 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

SHORELINE COST-SHARE PROPOSALS

ANDY BOBER, MILLE LACS LAKE/RUM RIVER 1W1P, \$4425

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline project for Andy Bober \$4425 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

FRED CONRAD, BIG SANDY LAKE/MISS GR 1W1P, \$3150

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to deny a cost-share assistance contract for Fred Conrad \$3150 due to a certain amount of maintenance/coordination that is required of the project. Approved unanimously.

GARY & PAMELA PLAISANCE, BIG SANDY LAKE/MISS GR 1W1P, \$1020.82

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline project for Gary & Pamela Plaisance \$1020.82 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

LAURIE PETERSON, WILKINS LAKE/BRD 1W1P, \$4222.47

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Franklin Turnock to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline project for Laurie Peterson \$4222.47 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

GARRETT LEE/FENCING, COST-SHARE CANCELLATION

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to cancel the cost-share assistance contract for Garrett Lee. Approved unanimously.

NORTHERN VALLEY MEADOWS PROJECT PROPOSAL

Discussion. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to table. Sam will reach out to landowner to convey concerns to landowner and bring back information to the SWCD Board.

BREAK

CALL MEETING BACK TO ORDER

COST-SHARE REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

D SEGAR, BIG PINE LAKE \$2773.91
(SWCD AID \$258.06, CONSERVATION CONTRACTS \$2515.85)

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$2773.91 to D Segar. Approved unanimously.

D NAGEL, BIG SANDY LAKE \$8120.09, MISS GR 1W1P

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve payment of \$8120.09 to D Nagel pending as built from the engineer. Approved unanimously.

AWARDS NOMINATION

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to submit an application for the MASWCD Conservation Award (Al & Carmen Rinta). Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to submit an application for a group award or whatever category fits for BSALWMP. Approved unanimously.

LAKE ASSOCIATION SUMMIT/THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

The Lake Association Summit will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2026 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Aitkin.

OTHER

WEBSITE

Frank handed out a copy of the MN SWCD Conservation Equipment Rental Dashboard (Farmers Union Foundation) and asked if it could be a link on our website.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-DAN

- 2 meetings in June
- 2026 funds were received
- Letter of recommendation from the Snake Board to Pine County re: well water testing

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

Janet is on vacation. The District Manager report along with the 2027 Budget and letter to the county was given to the SWCD Board.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-SAM

- Riparian buffers
- Culvert Inventory, finished up Libby Twp. and started Turner Twp.
- Forestry
- No-Till Drill
- Shoreland technical assistance for exclusionary fencing on Mississippi River
- BWSR Contract Training/Brainerd

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT VERONICA

Report handed out. Veronica is at training.

Soil Health

- Aitkin County Fair
- Working with Allison Rian training in August MNWIC

Projects

- Site visits and working on projects to get approved so landowners can get started on them.

County Ag Inspector

- Attending Ag Inspector short course July 20-July 22
- Working with landowners to give advice for controlling invasive weeds.

Outreach

- Rivers & Lakes Fair wrapped up data from the fair, will summarize with the committee at the end of the week.

Other

- Wrapped up the groundwater grant
- Applied for a private well protection grant
- Delivered water samples to A.W. Labs in Brainerd
- Set up and took down fair booth
- Training sessions
- Updating the website
- Helping with Miss GR media site visit requests

PROJECT COORDINATOR-BRIAN

Grants

- CCFFC completed and submitted final reports
- CPL Big Pine Lake Fish Passage-plans are complete and getting bids out.

Other

- Snake River project with Kanabec County
- 8 site visits for potential projects
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Aitkin County Fair
- No-Till Drill delivery/pickup
- EAW Committee meetings

AIS REPORT-BRIAN

- Fill/deliver/pickup decont. unit
- Monthly AIS meetings
- Watercraft inspector issues
- Currently still have 15 (possibly 14) inspectors

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-ELLIE

Shorelines

- site visits, reworked the technical assessment sheet so anyone can perform an initial site visit and organized files, 2 projects installed

Wetlands

-TEP meetings and a Restoration Order

Watersheds

- Rivers & Lakes Fair, June 20
- SWAG water sampling
- Planning for Lake Association Summit 7/30/26
- Reporting for Kettle Upper St Croix
- Mille Lacs Watershed

Other

- Aitkin County Fair
- BWSR Contract training/7/14/26

MN BWSR CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-BRETT

No report. Did not attend meeting.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-TOM

Not too much new to report. Deadlines for applying for FY27 programs is September 11, 2026.

Tom Gervais will give Sam contact info. for grazing specialist.

TSA 3 REPORT-TOM

The TSA3 meeting was held on June 24, 2026. The engineer position is still open haven't had many qualified people. Raises were given to the engineers.

Frank commented: *Excellent job on the cover letter that Janet sent to the County.*

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fastland to adjourn at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

