

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 19, 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:

Those absent were:

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

Additions to the agenda:

- Pheasants Forever agreement
- Dam Lake Cost-Share Amendment
- Bills over \$3000
 - Crow Wing SWCD \$36,068.08
 - Todd County SWCD, \$7122.87

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

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the April 21, 2026 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

SUPERVISOR FILING/MAY 19-JUNE 2, 2026

The supervisor filing is May 19-June 2, 2026.

AREA III MEETING, RESOLUTIONS/JUNE 5, 2026

The Area III meeting will be held on Friday, June 5, 2026 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Bob Janzen, Frank Turnock, Tom Fasteland and Dan Gravley will attend and possibly some staff.

COST-SHARE POLICY

Janet handed out a rough draft of a cost-share policy and went through it with the SWCD Board. A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the cost-share policy dated May 19, 2026, Rev. 1 and put on agenda next month. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSAL, SEGAR, BIG PINE LAKE SWCD AID \$255.06, CONSERVATION CONTRACTS \$2515.85

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline restoration project for Segar, Big Pine Lake, \$2773.91 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSAL, BAHE, PINE LAKE \$2580.28 KETTLE 1W1P UPPER ST CROIX WATERSHED

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline restoration project for Bahe, Pine Lake, \$2580.28 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

CORRECTION TO THE MOTION/BAHE, PINE LAKE \$3140.37 KETTLE 1W1P UPPER ST CROIX WATERSHED

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to correct above motion to read \$3140.37 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

**COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AMENDMENT/
EXTENSION OF TIME FRAME,
ANN BRUCCIANI LYON, MILLE LACS**

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share assistance contract amendment for Ann Brucciani Lyon. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT COORDINATOR-BRIAN

- CCFFC update (2 projects)
- Snake River, working with Kanabec County to do a joint project to inventory the Snake River for potential future projects.
- Green Corp., selected to host a Green Corp. member
- Local Forestry Team meeting in Milaca May 15
- Annual tree sale

AIS REPORT-BRIAN

- Penmac working with hiring inspectors, currently have 15
- In person training at the fairgrounds April 28
- 393 inspections done as of 5/18/26
- AIS Committee meeting 5/12/26
- 2 decont. units on consignment with Diamond Ind. in Motley

WATERSHED MGMT./WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-ELLIE

- Shorelines-site visits
- Wetlands-TEP meeting cancelled and Notice of Determination of Successful Restoration
- Watersheds-Rivers & Lakes Fair, Water sampling, Rum River Watershed Budget meeting, Kettle Upper St. Croix Watershed Tech. Committee Meeting
- Cromwell 4th graders, outreach materials, Envirothon, Upper MI Professional Judgements Group meeting in Brd.
- Tree Sale

PREVAILING WAGE

Discussion. Any project over certain \$ amount has to be advertised as prevailing wage. BWSR is working on a policy on how we are going to do this. Cost-share contract is updated and will wait for BWSR guidance.

NO TILL DRILL

The new drill arrived and the Truax drill sold.

\$42,300	New drill
9,000	Sale of Truax drill
<u>20,000</u>	received from GR 1W1P
\$13,300	out of the SWCD budget

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/ OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-VERONICA

Soil Health

- Webinars
- Hosted the Ag/Forestry workshop
- Coordinated rentals for drill and tree planter

Projects

- Site visits
- Hosted a training for the local weed inspectors

Outreach

- Rivers & Lakes Fair continuing to plan for the 2026 Rivers & Lakes Fair

Other

- Tree sorting and handing out trees
- Itasca SWCD facebook ads for the Miss. GR 1W1P
- Went to the local and state Envirothon
- Designed and printed trifold for general outreach, created a new trifold about groundwater
- Working on e-mail newsletter

-Delivered water samples to A.W. Labs in Brainerd

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-SAM

-Buffer update

-Culvert Inventory Update, finishing Nordland Twp. and starting Libby Twp.

-Forestry

-Stewardship Plans

-Ag/Forestry workshop with Veronica

-Rum River started discussion on outreach for shoreline ash replacement in the Rum Watershed

-No Till Drill-picked up the new No Till Drill and delivered to the first site near Brainerd and worked out how most of the features work on it.

-Soil Health-technical assistance for three soil health projects in Miss GR Watershed (2 forage plantings and 1 cover crop planting)

BREAK

RETURN FROM BREAK

MORRISON SWCD, \$14,837.94 BRD 1W1P

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$14,837.94 to Morrison SWCD. Approved unanimously.

LLCC SCHOLARSHIPS/WATER PLANNING \$3000

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$3000 to Long Lake Conservation Center re: scholarships. Approved unanimously.

CROW WING SWCD, \$36,068.06 BRD 1W1P

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve payment of \$36,068.08 to Crow Wing SWCD. Approved unanimously.

TODD COUNTY SWCD, \$7,122.87 BRD 1W1P

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve payment of \$7,122.87 to Todd County SWCD. Approved unanimously.

PHEASANTS FOREVER LOCAL PARTNER AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve signing the Pheasants Forever Local Partner Agreement. Approved unanimously.

DAM LAKE COST-SHARE AMENDMENT

Bids came in over budget for the Dam Lake cost-share project. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the cost-share amendment increase of \$10,000 for the Dam Lake cost-share project. Approved unanimously.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-DAN

Meeting was held on April 27, 2026

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

- 1 W1P updates
- Big Sandy Watershed
- MCIT
- Area III Managers meeting
- Conservation Easements
- Tree/Plant sale

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-JESSE

- EQIP update
- CSP update
- Upcoming Round Table discussion of Conservation Supporting Practices
June 1, 2026 1 p.m. Gary & Becky Heimark's Farm

TSA 3 REPORT-TOM

The next TSA 3 meeting will be held on June 24, 2026. The technician resigned, in the process of hiring a technician.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary