

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, November 18, 2025 at the Aitkin County Highway Dept. Meeting was called to order by Dan Gravley, Chair at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Those present 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
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Those absent were:

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the October 21, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

An agreement was entered into with Shelter Point 0.71% still less than the State 0.88%. The Shelter Point premium is \$2802 a year. Everything has been sent to the State to review and approve.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 1-3, 2025

Discussion.

BILLS OVER \$3000

TIDHOLM PRODUCTIONS/\$4245

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$4245 to Tidholm Productions. Approved unanimously.

AIS DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to schedule a meeting with the David Minke, Aitkin County Administrator, Mark Wedel, Aitkin County Commissioner, Janet, Brian and Bob Janzen to discuss the AIS program. Approved unanimously. The AIS discussion needs to be put back on the December agenda.

2026 WAGE & BENEFIT REQUEST

Discussion re: 2026 Wage & Benefit request. No action at this time.

Veronica Lundquist and Ellie Joing arrived.

COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSALS

MORRISON TWP./MISS BRD 1W1P, \$23,589 CULVERT RESTORATION/STORMWATER PRACTICE

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share contract Morrison Twp. for a Culvert Restoration/Stormwater Practice, cost-share not to exceed \$23,589.80 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever less. Approved unanimously.

EKREN, MILLE LACS LAKE, RUM RIVER \$9202.13

Paperwork wasn't received. No action at this time.

DEFENBAUGH, MILLE LACS LAKE, RUM RIVER \$2585.25

Paperwork wasn't received. No action at this time.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO BE PAID

RICHARD ANDERSON/MISS BRD. 1W1P, \$34,014.00

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$34,014.00 to Richard Anderson. Approved unanimously.

SHAMROCK TWP./MISS GR 1W1P, \$6027.59

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$6027.59 to Shamrock Twp. Approved unanimously.

WEINAND/BIG SANDY 319, \$7408.30

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$7408.30 to Weinand. Approved unanimously.

OTHER

FORAGE & GRASSLAND COUNCIL

The Forage & Grassland winter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Discussion in December to see if we want to change the SWCD Board meeting date in January.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- One Watershed One Plan updates
- Big Sandy Watershed update
- Peterson Company/Audit
- FMLA
- Staff retreat

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

- Site visit/Savanna Institute staff, landowner wants to do Agroforestry
- Site visit with landowner to replant a field

OUTREACH

- Applicator license
- Attended a BioChar demo
- Rivers & Lakes Fair

OTHER

- November newsletter completed
- Facebook posts, website updates, misc. training
- BWSR Academy
- Round Lake footage editing
- Diversion Channel footage editing
- Planning an annual newsletter
- Putting together an apparel order
- Planning podcast episodes
- Looking into microphones & PA systems
- Working on Stream Restoration pamphlets

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Laura

- BWSR Academy
- Career Fair presentation
- RIM site inspections
- Study for drone license
- Site visit with Ellie/Shoreline stabilization
- Site visit with Veronica/Wells
- Site visits now that the Government shutdown is over (EQIP and another site visit to add on to a Conservation Plan).

BREAK

Call meeting back to order.

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-Ellie

SHORELINES

- Shoreline projects
- Site visits
- Plant and tree lists

WETLANDS

- TEP site visits
- Restoration Order & Replacement Order

WATERSHEDS/OUTREACH

- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- SWAG Grant

TRAININGS

- BWSR Academy
- Drone license studying

MN BWSR BOARD CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Darren

- Amendments needed for any grants expiring 12/31/25
- Grant training

TSA REPORT-Tom

No report.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Tom

- FY26 timelines will probably be changed due to government shutdown
- Payments to landowners are behind due to government shutdown so will be working on them.
- Status for workers locally is the same.

SWCD FORESTRY MEETING IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT

Absent. Report was handed out.

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

Absent. No report.

The next SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to adjourn at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary