

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, December 16, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order by Dan Gravley, Chair at 9:05 a.m. 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

Additions to the agenda:

- DNR Public Waters Inventory
- Bills over \$3000, City of Cromwell
- Steve Kohl's retirement

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

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve the November 18, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to accept the November financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST-Laura

- Attended webinars
- RIM outreach mailing
- EQIP Conservation Plans
- Worked with landowners

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Janet is working with Shelter Point. The % is .71% and a previous motion was made to split the % between employee and employer (.355). Also working with the accountant to get set up in payroll. The Personnel Policy will have to be updated in January. Janet is working with Bobbie, Aitkin County HR to get the correct language for the Personnel Policy.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

Discussion.

AIS DISCUSSION-Janet & Brian

Discussion on AIS Committee and how to move forward. It was suggested to have a meeting with the County Administrator, Commissioner Mark Wedel, Janet and Brian and bring back to the SWCD Board next month to discuss. Also, Frank Turnock suggested to invite Steve Hughes in to discuss AIS.

PROJECT COORDINATOR REPORT-Brian

- AIS end of season report sent to the DNR
- AIS Committee meeting (Decont. units, Committee structure and members as well as how many meetings, 2026 budget)
- Grants (AIS Education grants, CPL Big Pine Lake Fish Passage, CCFFC, Keep It Clean, Soil Health Delivery, Diversion Channel Shoreline Inventory, Buckthorn Inventory)

2026 WAGE & BENEFIT REQUEST

This will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO BE PAID

MINNEWAWA 1 (BLAYLOCK), BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve payment of \$5695.13 to Minnewawa 1 (Blaylock). Approved unanimously.

MINNEWAWA 2 (BLAYLOCK), BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$5695.13 to Minnewawa 2 (Blaylock). Approved unanimously.

MINNEWAWA 3 (WEINAND), BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$9757.50 to Minnewawa 3 (Weinand). Approved unanimously.

MINNEWAWA 4 (DELONG), BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$9105.75 to Minnewawa 4 (DeLong). Approved unanimously.

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

SOIL HEALTH

- Applicator License
- Ag Inspector

OUTREACH

- Rivers & Lakes Fair

OTHER

- MASWCD Convention
- Wrapping up last of the shoreline projects
- January newsletter
- Facebook posts, website updates, misc. training
- EAB Workshop outreach

- Editing Round Lake footage
- Finished diversion channel footage
- Planning annual newsletter
- Planning podcast episodes
- Looking into microphones and PA systems
- Finished up stream restoration trifold
- Photo Contest flyers
- SWCD pen order

JOHN KING, LONE LAKE/MISS BRD 1W1P, \$19,173.75

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$19,173.75 to John King. Approved unanimously.

CITY OF CROMWELL, BIG SANDY 319/\$8057.43

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$8057.43 to City of Cromwell. Approved unanimously.

CHANGE OF JANUARY SWCD MEETING DATE

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to change the SWCD Board meeting date to Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Approved unanimously.

DRILL DISCUSSION-Sam

Discussion as to whether we want to fix the Truax drill or look into a new drill. Dept. of Ag offers equipment grants 50% in the summer. Also, was suggested to look at another brand (Great Plains). A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Frank Turnock to have Sam look into more options and grants. Approved unanimously.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-Sam

- Riparian buffers
- Forest Stewardship Plans
- Culvert Inventory
- EAB Workshop

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

No report

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1P updates
- Big Sandy Watershed
- CCFFC

OTHER

- Peterson Company audit
- Nursery License Dept. of Ag
- Observation wells, trained Ellie
- Snake River reporting
- FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act)
- MASWCD Convention
- Soil Health Delivery Grant-Brian will take the lead
- Keep It Clean Grant-Brian will take the lead

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-Ellie

Ellie is at training today. Report in folder.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT-Tom

Tom gave a year end report on NRCS programs.

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

No report.

OTHER

DNR PUBLIC WATER INVENTORY FOR AITKIN COUNTY

Discussion. Meeting will be held on January 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aitkin Public Library.

2026 WAGE & BENEFIT REQUEST

Janet went through the proposal. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the 2026 Wage and Benefit request. Approved unanimously.

STEVE KOHL, NRCS

Steve Kohl, NRCS will be retiring at the end of the year.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary