

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, June 17, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dan Gravley, Chair. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Additions to the agenda

- Project proposal, Roof Runoff project
- Take off Project Proposals Mille Lacs Lake

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the agenda with an addition and deletion. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the May 20, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to accept the May financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

AREA III RESOLUTION MEETING

Discussion re: June 6th Resolution meeting, good meeting, Aitkin resolution passed, employee sessions were good.

Jake, Area III Director is asking if anything was missed and needs to be focused on next time, nothing came up at this time.

BUCKTHORN INVENTORY

Buckthorn Inventory was approved by the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) \$6800 (\$6500 Buckthorn Inventory and \$300 Lake Association Summit.

The Buckthorn Inventory will be a fall project. Brian will head this project up.

PHEASANTS FOREVER, LOCAL PARTNERS AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve and sign the Pheasants Forever Local Partners Agreement. Approved unanimously.

DARREN MAYERS, MN BWSR/DISCUSSION ON GUIDANCE FOR DIFFICULT LANDOWNERS

Discussion re: Guidance for Difficult Landowners. Suggestion was made to use a grade sheet for each project. Indemnification Clause was also discussed. A Cost-Share Policy with a cap on cost-share projects was discussed. Janet will check with other districts and see what they do. Also, was suggested to have a discussion with the County Attorney re: difficult landowners, what the County Attorney needs to see and what needs to be in the file. Janet will draft a cost-share policy to be reviewed at the next SWCD Board meeting.

PROJECT PROPOSAL, ROOF RUNOFF SYSTEM

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a roof runoff system, cost-share not

to exceed \$6166.01 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

MORRISON SWCD/\$33,080.91

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a payment to Morrison SWCD for \$33080.91. Approved unanimously.

CITY OF HILL CITY/\$19,995

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$19,995 to City of Hill City. Approved unanimously.

MN DNR/\$4194

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$4194 to MN DNR. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT REVIEW/REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST, LONG LAKE

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$5701.73 for a cost-share project for shoreline stabilization project on Long Lake pending approval of project. Approved unanimously.

2026 SWCD BUDGET

Discussion. This is a draft budget. Janet went through the draft budget with the SWCD Board. A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the 2026 SWCD draft budget. Approved unanimously.

BREAK

CALL MEETING BACK TO ORDER

ELLIE JOING/NATURAL RESOURCES IN JAPAN

Ellie Joing gave a Power Point presentation on her recent trip to Japan.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

- One Watershed One Plans
- Snake River Reporting
- Big Sandy Watershed, end of year, Phase I ending
- Water sampling, 5 lakes
- SWCD budget request is due at the end of June
- Observation Wells due by the end of the month

Assistant Manager discussion.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN-Sam

- Riparian buffers
- Virginia Wild Rye seeding
- Forestry
- Local Forestry Team meeting Rum River Watershed
- Rum River Partnership
- No Till Drill

RUM RIVER WATERSHED/STATEMENT OF WORK AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve and sign the new amended Statement of Work for Rum River Watershed. Approved unanimously.

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

No report, not able to attend meeting today.

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

- AIS, budget, budget cuts, decontamination units. Watercraft inspection program is going well, running smoothly now.
- Grants (CCFFC, LCCMR, CPL, etc.)
- Drone, working with Sam at the Aitkin City Park and Hill City Public School
- No Till Drill, picked up drill and dropped off and helped Sam fix the wheel bearing.
- Training and attended the Area III Resolution meeting

-Rivers & Lakes Fair-helped with preparation, set up and tear down, SWCD Booth

-Helping out the department wherever I can help, vehicle maintenance, etc.

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST-Ellie

-Watersheds (Miss. Grand Rapids, Miss. Brainerd, and Rum River)

-Wetland Conservation Act

-Resolution meeting

-Rivers & Lakes Fair

MN BWSR CONSERVATION REPORT-Darren

No report.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Tom

No report.

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

No report.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Laura

-EQIP applications

-WRP/WRE monitoring in Morris

-Landowner visits

-Brush ID training

SWCD INTERN REPORT-Michael

-Rivers & Lakes Fair

-Well Inventory planning and mapped locations with ArcGis

-Site visits

-Water sampling equipment delivered

-Assisted Sam with Stewardship Plans, located properties and soil maps

-Jacobson Campground erosion of campsites from Miss. River

-Drone and tremble research

-Area III Resolution meeting

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to adjourn at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary