

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, January 21, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dan Gravley, Vice Chair. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Those present were:

Dan Gravley, Vice Chair
Bob Janzen, Treasurer
Tom Fasteland, Secretary/Reporter
Francis Dierickx, Supervisor
Janet Smude, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Jake Janski, Area III Director

Those absent were:

Franklin Turnock, Chair

Addition to the agenda.

-MACDE Membership Request for employees

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

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the December 17, 2024 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

PROJECT COORDINATOR/BRIAN ROULET

Brian introduced himself to the SWCD Board.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN POSITION

The District Technician accepted the position and will start on Monday, February 3, 2025.

JAKE JANSKI/AREA III DIRECTOR

Jake gave an update on Area III. Committee assignments are open until January 31, 2025. Committees are Awards, Legislative, Finance and Resolutions.

No expense to the district. Area III pays per diem and expenses are paid by the State.

Area III Resolutions Meeting is June 6, 2025

Area III Fall meeting is September 8, 2025 in Mora

There were 757 registrants which includes vendors etc. for the MASWCD Annual Convention—530 were SWCD staff and supervisors (77 of the 88 SWCD districts were represented).

All resolutions passed except for one.

Area III will be looking for a Treasurer this fall.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to nominate Dan Gravley as Chair. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to nominate Francis Dierickx as Vice Chair. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Francis Dierickx to nominate Franklin Turnock as Secretary. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to nominate Bob Janzen as Treasurer. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to nominate Tom Fasteland as Reporter. Approved unanimously.

2025 OFFICERS

Dan Gravley, Chair
Francis Dierickx, Vice Chair
Bob Janzen, Treasurer
Franklin Turnock, Secretary
Tom Fasteland, Reporter

DESIGNATE BANKS AND NEWSPAPER

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to designate Security State Bank and Bremer Bank as the official banks. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to designate the Aitkin Independent Age as the official newspaper. Approved unanimously.

2025 IRS MILEAGE RATE/.70

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the current 2025 IRS mileage rate. Approved unanimously.

2025 ANNUAL DUES

AREA III DUES/\$600

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to pay \$600 to Area III for dues. Approved unanimously.

MASWCD DUES/\$7425.09

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to pay MASWCD \$7425.09 for dues. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

TODD COUNTY SOIL & WATER, BRD 1W1P/\$4479.20

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$4479.20 to Todd County Soil & Water. Approved unanimously.

TODD COUNTY SOIL & WATER, BRD 1W1P/\$3626.24

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve payment of \$3626.24 to Todd County Soil & Water. Approved unanimously.

MN COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRUST/MCIT, \$12,846

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to MCIT \$12,846. Approved unanimously.

AIS CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH AITKIN COUNTY

Discussion. Aitkin County will take \$40,000 for the Sheriff's Dept. before Aitkin County SWCD receives the AIS \$. A new agreement needs to be signed.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to sign the new AIS Contract Agreement with Aitkin County. Approved unanimously.

2024 AUDIT SERVICES

Janet contacted Peterson Company/Waconia, MN. They will get back to the Aitkin County SWCD with a bid for services.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE

-Adjust the Probationary Period language to allow for use of earned sick leave to comply with the Earned Sick & Safe Time law.

-Remove the comp time rate of 1.5 hrs. for hours worked on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

-Remove taxable fringe language

-Adjust Earned Sick and Safe Time language

-Remove references to NRCS computer usage.

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve changes to the Personnel Policy. Approved unanimously

2025 Envirothon/\$250

The 2025 Area III Envirothon is May 5, 2025 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The State Envirothon is May 19, 2025 at Wolf Ridge. Volunteers are needed.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to pay \$250 to the Area III Envirothon. Approved unanimously.

OTHER

MACDE MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

A request was made for \$25 per employee to be a part of the MACDE Employees Association. A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to pay \$25 per employee for MACDE membership. Approved unanimously.

BREAK

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

A meeting was held on December 30, 2024—reviewed past projects.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- Update on previous employee, Chelsey Koebernick
- One Watershed One Plan updates
- Big Sandy Watershed
- Other Items
 - Health benefits
 - 2 Brief AIS Summary Reports
 - MN Dept. of Ag Nursery Permit
 - Year end billing and annual reporting
 - Water Plan Task Force

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-Sam

- Riparian buffers

- Culvert Inventory (Hill Lake, Glen & Kimberly will be given culvert inventory data in February or March)
- Soil Health
- Ag Inspector
- Forestry (continue getting credits that are needed, 3 Forest Stewardship Plans)
- Rum River Partnership
- Mississippi GR 1W1P
- Lakeshore restoration
- WCA/Tech. Evaluation Panel

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the Rum River Partnership Statement of Work. Approved unanimously.

SOIL HEALTH & OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

SOIL HEALTH

- Soil Health Peer Group
- Projects, working with DNR—need to be on a Commercial Operators list, working with MN DOT to get that.
- Finished up pollution reduction #'s for all the projects completed this year.

OUTREACH

- Ground Water Grant, 4th qtr. report reimbursement
- New ways to use funds and get good information to landowners who may have wells on their property.
- Leadership Training was held in Alexandria last week.
- Rivers & Lakes Fair, presentations for 2025
- Tree & Plant/Seed Sale, on line shopping page doing well—credit card fees is an issue 2.9% plus .30

OTHER

- Master Naturalist presentation at the end of February
- Training courses (outreach, soil health, and reporting)
- 1st newsletter 2025, along with podcast interview with Emile, Cons. Corp.
- Website updates.

PROJECT COORDINATOR-BRIAN

- 2025 AIS Education Grants were sent out
- 2025 AIS Budget was worked on
- AIS Committee meeting scheduled, worked on agenda and looked over minutes
- Reaching out to individuals re: AIS
 - Penmac Staffing, Farm Island Repair, Timber Lake Portables, and DNR

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT

Tom is not able to attend today. NRCS Report is in your folder.

TSA3 REPORT-Tom

The TSA3 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Hope to discuss filling an engineering position that Mary had.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT

Laura is not able to attend today. Farm Bill Biologist report is in your folder.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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307 2nd STREET NW, ROOM #216
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Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 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 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
Chris Wallace, Talon Metals Corp.
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist
Ellie Joing, Watershed Mgmt./Wetland Specialist
Brock Anderson, Aitkin County Planning & Zoning

Additions to the agenda

- MN SWCD Forestry Association Contract
- MN SWCD Forestry Association 2025 Annual Dues
- CPL Grant/Big Pine Lake Fish Passage
- Wetland Credits/Big Sandy Lakeshore

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve the agenda with additions. Approved.

Minutes were reviewed. Discussion on mileage. A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes. Approved.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/ELLIE JOING

Welcome Ellie. Introductions were made. Ellie introduced herself and gave background.

REVIEW PETERSON COMPANY AUDIT BID

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to accept the bid and sign agreement with Peterson Company. Approved.

TALON METALS/CHRIS WALLACE

Chris Wallace, Talon Metals gave an update on the Tamarack Mining Project.

POTENTIAL NEW FEEDLOT APPLICATION/BROCK ANDERSON, AITKIN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

Brock Anderson, Aitkin County Planning & Zoning discussed a potential new feedlot application east of Palisade on County Rd. 3. No Conditional Use Permit is required at the County.

The landowner will work with MPCA. Planning & Zoning will bring this to the County Board and send minutes to MPCA.

At this time just wanted to bring this to Aitkin County SWCD for your information. The Aitkin County SWCD suggested the landowner contact the NRCS, Tom Gervais/Aitkin and Dept. of Ag, Ryan Clark/Carlton for any possible cost-share that might be available for the landowner.

The Aitkin County SWCD Board asked that Planning & Zoning keep them updated as this moves along.

MISSISSIPPI GRAND RAPIDS 1W1P IMPLEMENTATION MOA/DESIGNATE ALTERNATE

The Plan has been approved by BWSR, application for funding—submit to BWSR in the near future. Itasca County is the fiscal agent and Aitkin is the note taker.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P Implementation MOA. Approved.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to designate Francis Dierickx as an alternate for the Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P. Approved.

BILLS OVER \$3000

CARLTON SWCD/\$11,165.05, 319 GRANT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Carlton SWCD for \$11,165.05. Approved.

MORRISON SWCD/\$66,511.73, BRD 1W1P IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to Morrison SWCD for \$66,511.73. Approved.

CROW WING SWCD/\$29,284.09, BRD 1W1P IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to Crow Wing SWCD for \$29,284.09. Approved.

OFFICE/COUNTY UPDATE

Jessica Seibert, Aitkin County Administrator resigned.

We will be adding approximately nine more employees (Assessor's office) to the 2nd floor with Planning & Zoning, SWCD, and survey staff sometime in the near future.

The Aitkin County SWCD Board of Supervisors directed staff to look into another location.

BREAK

Call meeting back to order.

OTHER

MN SWCD FORESTRY ASSOCIATION CONTRACT

A contract was put together to pay per diem and mileage for IT support for the MN SWCD Forestry Association. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to present the contract to the MN SWCD Forestry Association in March. Approved.

MN SWCD FORESTRY ASSOCIATION 2025 ANNUAL DUES

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$265 for MN SWCD Forestry Association dues. Approved.

CPL GRANT/BIG PINE LAKE FISH PASSAGE

This grant is through the MN DNR, \$50,000, \$4,000 for administration. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to enter into this grant agreement. Approved.

WETLAND CREDITS/BIG SANDY LAKESHORE FRONTAGE

Discussion re: wetland credits Big Sandy lakeshore frontage. Any questions can contact Bret Sample.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-DAN

No meeting

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-JANET

-Cattlemen's Association meeting, Fireside, McGregor, MN March 13, 2025

-Big Sandy landowner-DNR Commissioner received a complaint from a Big Sandy landowner about SWCD and Env. Services.

-Chelsey Koebernick, Unemployment benefits discussion

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-SAM

- Buffer Update
- Culvert Inventory Update
- Soil Health/Attended grazing workshop
- Ag Inspector
- Forestry
- Rum River Partnership
- Morrison Twp. culvert

Discussion re: cost-share on large acres--forest stewardship plans coming up (800 & 900 acres). A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve up to \$3000 cost-share per plan. Approved.

SOIL HEALTH/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-VERONICA

- Soil Health Peer Group
- Soil Management Summit
- Midwest Cover Crop Council

OUTREACH

- Leadership Training
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Tree, Plant, and Seed Sale

OTHER

- Master Naturalist Program
- Attended a few trainings on pollinators & effective social media
- Planning newsletter for March
- Designed & ordered business cards for new employees and supervisors
- Working on presentation for the U of M Intro to Drones course

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-ELLIE

WATERSHED MGMT

- BSALWMP meeting
- Mille Lacs Watershed Group meeting (Planning for Healthy Land Healthy Lakes Expo)

- Rum River Water Partnership
- Rivers & Lakes Fair Planning

WETLAND SPECIALIST

- Learning about restoration orders, familiarizing myself with WCA processes.
Upcoming TEP meeting
- Cost-share shoreline projects, hopefully reach out to my first client/project

MN BWSR BOARD CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-DARREN

- Reporting with Janet
- 2nd mentoring discussion with technicians
- Grand Rapids approved plan
- Agro-Forestry seminar in Sept. Crow Wing County is sponsoring at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-TOM

- EQIP update
- CSP update
- Annual Civil Rights Agreement (Each supervisor signed the agreement)

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve signing the Annual Civil Rights Agreement. Approved.

TSA 3 REPORT-TOM

- Project report from Matias
- New engineering tech to be hired. Applications need to be in by the end of February.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-LAURA

- EQIP update
- Easement Update
- Farm Bill Biologist Boot Camp
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Workshop/Milaca

The next SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Tuesday, March 18, 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 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
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Additions to the agenda:

-Area III Resolutions

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the agenda with an addition. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the February 18, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to accept the February financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

POTENTIAL NEW FEEDLOT APPLICATION

Francis Dierickx gave a report from the Aitkin County Commissioners Board meeting that was held re: Potential New Feedlot Application. The Aitkin County Commissioners are in favor. The County does not have delegation authority, it goes through the MPCA. A manure management plan is in place—will be removed and put on farm fields. The Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force approved baseline water samples to be taken on the Mississippi River and Willow River.

MFA DUES/\$50

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to pay MFA dues in the amount of \$50. Approved unanimously.

MICHELLE ERICKSON PROJECT

Discussion re: Michelle Erickson project. A motion was made by Francis Diericks and seconded by Frank Turnock at this time there is nothing in the proposal we can commit to—bring back an engineered plan and we would consider. Even with technical engineering the SWCD will not touch a structural issue. Approved unanimously.

APPAREL

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve \$25 each for Ellie Joing and Brian Roulett to purchase SWCD apparel. Approved unanimously.

KETTLE RIVER/UPPER ST. CROIX 1W1P/STATEMENT OF WORK (KNUTSON PROJECT)

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve signing the Kettle River/Upper St. Croix 1W1P Statement of Work and accept the Knutson Shoreline Project (Pine Lake) \$3820. Approved unanimously.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST-Laura

- IR forms
- Site visits for payment
- CD/CART training
- Pollinator Summit Webinar

- Wondering about Woodlands
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Workshop/Milaca
- Agronomy Tech Note #31 Training
- Working towards Prescribed Burn training certification

PROJECT PROPOSAL/PELKEY, LAKE MINNEWAWA/\$26,514 SECTION 319 GRANT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the project proposal for Pelkey, Lake Minnewawa \$26,514 Section 319 Grant. Approved unanimously.

HILL CITY BUCKTHORN PROJECT/MISSISSIPPI GR 1W1P

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the Hill City Buckthorn Project. Approved unanimously. Total estimate for the project \$7731, 75% of the project costs \$5778.91 funded through Mississippi GR 1W1P. Approved unanimously.

SWCD INTERN

The Aitkin County SWCD will not be getting a Conservation Corp. intern this summer. The Aitkin County SWCD is looking to hire a SWCD intern this summer (13 weeks @ \$20/hr. 40 hrs. a week). A hiring committee will be formed. A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve up to \$13,000 to hire a SWCD intern. Approved unanimously.

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

Soil Health

- Soil Health Peer Group-Hit the Ground Running/Next event this summer
- Pollinator Webinar Series
- Soil Health trainings on-line
- Cattlemen's Association meeting

Outreach

- Leadership Training
- Rivers & Lakes Fair upcoming meeting Thurs.

- Tree, Plant & Seed Sale (38 orders on line)
- Miss. Brd./Shoreline Water Quality tri-fold

Other

- Presented at Master Naturalist Program
- March Newsletter
- U of M presentation "Intro to Drones" course

AREA III RESOLUTIONS

Resolution meeting is June 6, 2025. Resolutions need to be in by May 10, 2025. Resolutions will be discussed at the next Aitkin County SWCD Board meeting.

It was suggested to have a presentation of Emerald Ash Borer by Kyle Fredrickson, Aitkin County Land Dept. at a SWCD Board meeting.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

Election of Officers was held. Project review (shoreline and well sealing projects)

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1P's
- Big Sandy Watershed-319 Grant Federal Grant, Phase II work plan needs to be done now instead of July.
- Health Benefits (HSA is now complete and payments are starting to be taken out along with VEBA)
- Upcoming H/R training through MCIT to be held in St. Cloud in April.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN-Sam

- Riparian buffers
- Culvert Inventory update
- Soil Health
- Ag Inspector
- Forestry
- Rum River Partnership
- Logan Twp. Erosion Control

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

- AIS Watercraft Inspection preparations for the upcoming season
- Working with Penmac to get needed # of inspectors and training scheduled, also necessary tools, equipment and apparel etc.
- Decontamination units more efficient plan on moving and use of them
- AIS Education Grants submitted and ready for approval at the April AIS meeting

Other

- Getting dept. vehicles in for maintenance and routine service for the upcoming season.
- Wrote an article for the SWCD March newsletter.
- Continued training and networking with other AIS professionals to gain knowledge of the AIS Inspector process.

CPL GRANT/BIG PINE LAKE FISH PASSAGE

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to accept and sign the CPL Grant, Big Pine Lake Fish Passage.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to authorize Brian to sign documents related to the CPL grant. Approved unanimously.

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-Ellie

- Shoreline visit
- Rum River Watershed (Mille Lacs Tech. Engineer Prioritization Study) letters sent out.
- Trainings
- Wetland TEP meeting
- BSALWMP, Water Plan meetings (took minutes)
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Rum River Watershed meeting in Milaca
- Trivia games with groups, great way to engage a group of people and break up a meeting

MN BWSR CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Darren

- 2 new hires with BWSR
- Legislative Update session to end May 19, 2025

- BWSR Spring training 3/31/25
- G/R 1W1P work plant to be approved soon
- Roles of Conservation organizations to be held on-line by Darren

NRCS REPORT-Tom

- Conservation Program update
- CSP Assessment & Ranking Deadline March 21, 2025
- (2) conservation practices certified in the last month
- New ABC forester
- Bird Flu details (2 NRCS staff from Aitkin will be detailed Tom & Jace)
- Local Work Group meeting to be scheduled in April

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

- Meeting will be held next Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

The next Aitkin County SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 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 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Tuesday, April 15, 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 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
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Dennis Thompson will not be able to attend the meeting today. He will come in May.

Darren will be giving a Power Point presentation.

No additions to the agenda.

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

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

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

DARREN MAYERS/MN BWSR

Darren gave a Power Point presentation, Local Governing Boards/Essential Responsibilities of Local Governing Boards, etc.

RESOLUTIONS/TOM FASTELAND

A resolution re: SFIA was discussed. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to support the SFIA resolution and bring to the Area III Resolution meeting in June. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

MCGINN, LAKE MINNEWAWA/BIG SANDY 319, \$12,051.75

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract on Lake Minnewawa, shoreline stabilization not to exceed \$12,051.75 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

MEYSEMBOURG, LAKE MINNEWAWA/BIG SANDY 319, \$6596.25

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract on Lake Minnewawa, shoreline stabilization not to exceed \$6596.25 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

KNUTSON, BIG PINE LAKE/KETTLE RIVER UPPER ST CROIX WATERSHED/\$3320

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a cost-share assistance contract on Big Pine Lake, shoreline stabilization not to exceed \$3320 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

TIM DRAKE, WAGNER TOWNSHIP/512 FORAGE PLANTING/SOIL HEALTH DELIVERY GRANT 25/\$8000

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a cost-share assistance contract forage planting, Wagner Township not to exceed \$8000 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

Soil Health/Outreach

- Drone presentation
- McGregor Flower Club
- Ag Learn getting account set up for Conservation Planner Level I Certification

Projects

- Slama, Forage Planting, Wagner Township

Outreach

- Leadership Training break until June
- Rivers & Lakes Fair, meeting next Thurs. finalize flyer, presentations are all finalized

Tree, Plant, & Seed Sale

- Online shopping page is still working well and being used (52 orders made online)

Miss. Brd. Outreach

- Water quality/Shoreline restoration trifold finished and ordered.

Other

- Shoreline visits with Ellie to assist first few visits
- Newsletter/May
- Annual Contractor Workshop
- BWSR Training session/Successful Outreach Strategies
- Aitkin County Strategic Plan Summary meeting
- Wetland trifold finished and ordered-- to be used at fairs, site visits and general office outreach.

SWCD INTERN

Applications closed on April 13, 2025. Six people applied for the position. Staff looked through the applications and ranked them, now ready to be interviewed and offer the job.

RUM RIVER 1W1P-Sam

Sam handed out the Rum River 1W1P 2024 Annual Report and went through it.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-Sam

- Riparian Buffer Update
- Culvert Inventory, talked to Nordland and Morrison Twp.
- Soil Health, Wagner Twp. forage planting
- Ag Inspector, 2 landowners buckthorn, attended County Ag inspector training, conditions of invasive weed infestations at the City Park
- Forestry-Forest Stewardship Plan update
- Rum River Partnership, attended meeting in Milaca, discussion with partners in the Rum River about EAB and possible outreach and funding through the Rum.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- One Watershed One Plans
- Big Sandy Watershed
- HSA & VEBA
- Observation Well readings
- Seasonal intern
- HR Basic Training (2 days)

Janet gave an update on Michelle Erickson.

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

AIS Update

- Penmac

- Inspection training set up
- Software on tablets updated
- Farm Island Repair & Richard Murphy decontamination units
- AIS Committee meeting/Approved AIS Education grants
- Completed Level 1 and working on Level 2 AIS training, will also do in person training on April 30.
- Continuing general AIS trainings, via seminars, online training events, workshops, and collaborating with other AIS professionals
- Contractor Workshop/Presented on invasive species, potential impacts, what they can do to help prevent them
- Forestry meeting, forestry site visits with Sam
- General outreach—newsletters, articles etc.

CCFFC is on hold for now.

Frank commented re: BSALWMP meeting. Ellie did a fine job at the meeting as Janet could not attend.

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT-Ellie

Ellie is absent today. Report was handed out.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Laura

- Annual Wildland Firefighter Training
- BWSR Training webinar
- Cover Crop webinar
- RIM Critical Shorelands meeting
- Conservation Planner I
- Aitkin/Carlton counties RIM Easement inspections
- Easement update for a landowner, conservation plan and site visit with landowner

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

Meeting was held on March 26, 2025. TSA3 will be re-advertising for the Tech position. The next meeting will be June 25, 2025 and Tom isn't sure if he will be able to attend. Dan Gravley will probably be able to attend.

NRCS REPORT-Tom

- CSP preapprovals, 5 preapproved
- RCP program, 1 application for Aitkin County FY25
- Certified 19 conservation practices in the last month, Brush Management, Early Successional Habitat Dev. Mgmt., Forest Stand Improvement and Prescribed Burning

- Aitkin USDA Office Staffing Update

The Local Work Group meeting will be held this afternoon from 1-3 p.m.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor Training Room.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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 20, 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:

Dan Gravley, Chair
Bob Janzen, Treasurer
Frank Turnock, Secretary
Tom Fasteland, Reporter
Janet Smude, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Michael Burggraff/Aitkin SWCD Intern
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist
Dennis Thompson, Aitkin County Land Commissioner

Those absent were:

Francis Dierickx, Vice Chair

Additions to the agenda:

- Future meeting dates and location
- Brian Roulet, Project Coordinator end of probation 6/25
- Security State Bank/CD comes due 6/6/25
- Mississippi Grand Rapids Statement of Work
- Additional Cost-Share Project Proposal

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

Introductions were made.

Michael Burggraff/SWCD Intern introduced himself and gave background.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the April 15, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

DENNIS THOMPSON, AITKIN COUNTY LAND DEPT./AITKIN COUNTY RESPONSE TO THE EMERALD ASH BORER

Dennis Thompson presented a Power Point on Aitkin County Response to the Emerald Ash Borer.

BUCKTHORN INVENTORY

Janet sent in an application to the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) re: buckthorn inventory. The inventory would cover the Mississippi shoreline-Hwy. 169 crossing north to Jacobson.

Grant application is identifying and prioritizing buckthorn (\$6500, 100 hrs., \$65/hr.)

AREA III RESOLUTION MEETING/JUNE 6, 2025

The Area III Resolution meeting will be held on Friday, June 6, 2025 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Frank Turnock, Bob Janzen, Dan Gravley and Tom Fasteland, Veronica Lundquist, Brian Roulet and Ellie Joing will attend.

PROJECT PROPOSALS/MILLE LACS LAKE

PID 11-1-24770, MILLE LACS LAKE (RUM RIVER WATERSHED), HAZELTON TOWNSHIP, CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract, Hazelton Township, Critical Area Planting not to exceed \$3750 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

PID 16-0-043802, MILLE LACS LAKE (RUM RIVER WATERSHED), LAKESIDE TOWNSHIP, SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve a cost-share assistance contract, Lakeside Township, Shoreline Stabilization project not to exceed \$3808.50 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

PID 09-0-002900, PROJECT PROPOSAL/LONG LAKE, (MISSISSIPPI BRAINERD WATERSHED) SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve a cost-share assistance contract, Long Lake, Glen Township shoreland stabilization project not to exceed \$5701.73 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

CROW WING SWCD/\$34,586.51

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$34,586.51 to Crow Wing SWCD. Approved unanimously.

MISSISSIPPI GRAND RAPIDS SUB-AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve and sign the Mississippi Grand Rapids Sub-Agreement. Approved unanimously.

GOVERNANCE 101 TRAINING/SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2025

The Governance 101 Training will be held September 10-11, 2025. This is just for your information if anyone is interested in attending.

TREE/PLANT SALE REPORT

There were 6400 trees ordered. There was a total of 76 tree orders and 17 plant orders. Approximately 750 trees were left to sell.

MEETING DATES AND LOCATION

The Training Room at the Aitkin County Government Center is not available for our next SWCD Board meeting on June 17, 2025. Janet will look into having our meeting at Long Lake Conservation Center.

The August SWCD Board meeting will be changed from Tuesday, August 19, 2025 to Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

The Forage and Grassland meeting is Tuesday, August 19, 2025 in Duluth.

SECURITY STATE BANK/CD, \$300,000

The CD at Security is coming due in early June. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to put \$300,000 in a CD at Security State Bank. Approved unanimously.

BRIAN ROULET/END OF PROBATION PERIOD 6/25

This was tabled until the end of the meeting (Closed session).

MISSISSIPPI GRAND RAPIDS STATEMENTS OF WORK

BIRD, SHORELINE STABILIZATION & REVEGETATION, BIG SANDY LAKE (MISS/GR AITKIN, 2025 (1))

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a statement of work for a shoreline stabilization & revegetation project, \$1447.19 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending the approval of the Steering Committee. Approved unanimously.

NAGEL, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, BIG SANDY LAKE (MISS/GR AITKIN, 2025 (2))

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a statement of work for a stormwater management project, \$9831.35 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending the approval of the Steering Committee. Approved unanimously.

RINTA, SHORELINE STABILIZATION, ROUND LAKE (MISS/GR AITKIN, 2025 (3))

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve statement of work for a shoreline stabilization project, \$10,799.25 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending the approval of the Steering Committee. Approved unanimously.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

Meeting was held on April 28, 2025. Projects being done (well sealing, brush projects, etc.). A list of projects was passed around.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

-1W1Ps

-Big Sandy 319 Phase I ending, Phase II Grant was submitted April 30, to the MPCA

-Dam Lake outlet project

-Starry Trek, August 9, 2025

-Water Sampling (Clear Lake, Farm Island Lake, Ripple Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Lake Minnewawa)

-Letter received from the County-budget is due in the near future

SENIOR TECHNICIAN-Sam

-Buffer update

-Culvert inventory/Morrison Twp.

-Soil Health

-Ag Inspector

-Forestry-Presentation made to the MN Maple Syrup Production Association, about 40 people in attendance

-Rum River Partnership

-No Till Drill

-300 trees planted in the City Park with Ellie

Discussion re: project in Salo Twp (Grand Rapids 1W1P)? Janet and Sam will look into.

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

SOIL HEALTH OUTREACH

-Local Work Group meeting

-NRCS Advisory meeting

-Ag Learn account

-FFA Alumni meeting

PROJECTS

- Mississippi Erosion site visit
- Delivered drill

OUTREACH

- Leadership Training in Lanesboro (June)

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

- AIS (Inspections, DNR training on-line and in person, needed supplies purchased for inspectors, decontamination units-worked with Richard Murphy and Diamond Industrial to get serviced and ready for the season).
- Annual tree and plant sale
- Learning about forestry practices, meetings, webinars etc.
- Drones-studying to get drone license
- Outreach articles
- AIS monthly committee meeting
- Gaining knowledge through webinars and on-line training to be successful in my position and to be able to be more effectively transition into other areas within the dept.

WATERSHED MGMT./WETLAND SPECIALIST-Ellie

OUTREACH

- Envirothon
- BSALWMP
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Lots of site visits on Mille Lacs
- Miss. Brd./Miss GR
- Kettle River Watershed projects
- Tree & Plant Sale
- Cromwell 4th graders
- Healthy Land Healthy Lakes
- ACLARA
- 300 trees planted at the City Park with Sam

WETLAND TEP

- Site visit with TEP members and Army Corps to Mille Lacs Meadows

MN BWSR CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Darren

- Competitive grants
- Working on Open Meeting Law guidance
- Clean Water Legacy grants available for non-governing through August 5, 2025
- FY24-25 grants expire at the end of the year

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Tom

- Thank you to the district supervisors and staff for the Local Work Group meeting last month. Pest Control was the priority.
- Updates on contracts
- Job Approval Authority-Garrett and Jase can help with Job Approval Authority
- No changes in staff since last meeting.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Laura absent

Report is in your folder.

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

No report. The next meeting will be June 25, 2025. Tom is unable to attend. Dan will attend this meeting.

AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF WORK/RUM RIVER & AITKIN SWCD-Sam

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to sign the amendment to the Statement of Work/Rum River & Aitkin SWCD. Approve unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

BRIAN ROULET/END OF PROBATION PERIOD

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to take Brian off from probation. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to propose \$27.50/hr. effective June 2, 2025. Approved unanimously.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Place of meeting to be determined.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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

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 15, 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

Additions to the agenda:

- Bill over \$3000
 Carlton County SWCD, \$3643.93
- New Aitkin County Administrator
- Shoreland Ordinance/Committee of the Whole meeting

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

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the June 17, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

Discussion.

TREE/PLANT REPORT

The Tree/Plant report was handed out and Lori went through the report for the 2024/2025 tree/plant sale.

2026 SWCD BUDGET

Discussion.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the 2026 SWCD Budget. Approved unanimously.

SHORELINE PROJECT POLICY

A motion was made by Francis Dierieckx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the Shoreline Project Policy and post on the website. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT RANKING SHEET

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the Project Ranking sheet. Approved unanimously.

ELLIE JOING/END OF PROBATION

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to move Ellie Joing/End of Probation to a closed session at the end of the meeting. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP, BIG SANDY/URBAN STORMWATER PRACTICE/\$12127.59

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share assistance contract for an Urban Stormwater practice, cost-

share not to exceed \$12,127.59 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less.
Approved unanimously.

TIMMERS, CEDAR LAKE RUNOFF EROSION, MISS BRD 1W1P

Project cancelled.

KLEIN, RABBIT LAKE/SHORELINE STABILIZATION

No paperwork submitted.

PROJECT REVIEW/REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

STANEK, HORSESHOE LAKE, BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$3967.50 as soon as the landowner gets his paperwork in. Approved unanimously.

BREAK

RETURN FROM BREAK

NEW AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A new Aitkin County Administrator has been hired and will be starting in September.

CARLTON COUNTY SWCD/\$3643.93, BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a payment to Carlton County SWCD for \$3643.93. Approved unanimously.

SHORELAND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center. Janet will not be able to attend. Bob Janzen and Tom Fastland will attend.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

- Project Update
- Presentation Green BioChar and geology of Snake River

TSA 3 REPORT-Dan

Dan attended the TSA 3 meeting in Mora.

- Budget approved
- Pay increases
- No new purchases
- Carlton County supervisor resigned

The next TSA 3 meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1Ps
- E-link reporting of grants over \$500,000
- Big Sandy Watershed/319 Phase I ends in December. Project \$ are allocated, projects need to get done.
- Big Sandy annual meeting
- SWCD Budget
- Observation wells-payment in July for previous year, submitted information to the DNR, new contract signed
- Aitkin County Fair
- Lake Association Summit
- Project Ranking Sheet
- Cost-Share Policy
- Starry Trek/August 9, 2025

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-Sam

- Riparian buffers
- Culvert Inventory
- Soil Health
- Ag Inspector
- Forestry
- Rum River Partnership
- No Till Drill
- Hill City Buckthorn Project

- Aitkin Park Buckthorn CPL Project
- Aitkin County Fair

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

Soil Health/Outreach

- Soil Health Peer Group-starting to plan field day
- Continuing with Ag Learn account
- Hoping to start focusing on Aerial Applicator License

Soil Health/Projects

- Pollinator planting, site visit to schedule
- City of Duluth seeding drone
- Shoreline Buffer Management Plan written

Outreach Specialist

- Leadership Training, missed meeting in June-looked through resources trying to prepare for the upcoming last session.
- Rivers & Lakes Fair-Wrap up Rivers & Lakes Fair, thank you letters sent, planning a Wrap Up meeting and update budget for next year

Other

- Finished up newsletter and sent out beginning of July
- BSALWMP newsletter
- Minnewawa shoreline project
- AIS articles
- Aitkin County Fair
- Well Grant reporting
- Website updates, facebook posts, etc.

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

Absent, no report

WATERSHED MGMT/WETLAND SPECIALIST-Elle

- Shoreline Project update
- Wetlands
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Hill City Association meeting
- BSALWMP meeting minutes
- Aitkin County Fair
- Article/Aitkin SWCD newsletter
- Lake Association Summit
- Livestock Costume judge at the Aitkin County Fair

OTHER

- Worked on drone to get ready to finish Hill City seeding
- Hill City to spot drone, film PR for seeding at school
- Edited a short video with that drone footage

SWCD INTERN-Michael

- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Noxious weeds
- Well Grant
- Water samples
- Site visits for plantings
- Aitkin County Fair

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to close the regular SWCD Board meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to open closed session of the SWCD Board meeting.

ELLIE JOING/END OF PROBATION

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to take Ellie off of probation and approve a \$1/hr. increase effective August 1, 2025. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to reopen the SWCD Board meeting. Approved unanimously.

NRCS REPORT-Tom

- Program updates
- FY 2026 EQIP Program application deadline 8/1/25
- Staffing Update/NRCS Critical Vacancy Process

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST-Laura

- EQIP Applications
- RIM Site Inspections
- Carlton Native Plant sale
- Potential easement/met with landowner
- PF Annual Review
- Forestry for MN Birds webinar
- RIM Proposal presentations
- Created What's in your Habitat handout
- Sharp Tail Grouse management signs ordered

The next SWCD Board meeting is Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to adjourn at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Turnock
Secretary

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 Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center, Board Room. Meeting was called to order by Dan Gravley, Chair at 9:00 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
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Additions to the agenda:

-Rinta, Round Lake
Project Review, Reimbursement Request

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the agenda with an addition. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the July 15, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to accept the July financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Paid Family Medical Leave Act becomes effective January 1, 2026. This is paid by both employee and employer—state rate 0.88% based on gross salary. A private company MetLife offers a cheaper rate but only works with companies with at least 25 employees. They are working on an option for smaller companies. Benefit Innovations works with MetLife and we work with Benefit Innovations for health insurance and HSA.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve to go with Benefit Innovations (MetLife) and if this is not possible get in contact with a board supervisor to determine which way to go. Approved unanimously.

AREA III FALL MEETING

The Area III fall meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025 in Mora. Dan Gravley, Tom Fasteland, Bob Janzen and Frank Turnock will attend.

BILLS OVER \$3000

MORRISON SWCD, \$10,665.25

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Morrison SWCD in the amount of \$10,665.25. Approved unanimously.

CROW WING SWCD, \$43,831.03

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment to Crow Wing SWCD in the amount of \$43,831.03. Approved unanimously.

TODD SWCD, \$9992.29

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to Todd SWCD in the amount of \$9992.29. Approved unanimously.

PHEASANTS FOREVER, \$3250

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Pheasants Forever in the amount of \$3250. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

KLEIN, RABBIT LAKE SHORELINE STABILIZATION/
MISS BRD 1W1P, \$3980

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to reaffirm a cost-share assistance contract for Klein, Rabbit Lake shoreline stabilization project not to exceed \$3980 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

ANDERSON, LAKE MINNEWAWA SHORELINE STABILIZATION/
BIG SANDY 319 GRANT, \$4427.55

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Anderson, Lake Minnewawa shoreline stabilization not to exceed \$4427.55 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less pending approval by the Big Sandy Watershed Group. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT REVIEWS/REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

BETH & RAUL BIRD, BIG SANDY LAKE 2025-3/MISS GR 1W1P, \$1447.19

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment to Beth & Raul Bird for \$1447.19. Approved unanimously.

SUE & PAUL KNUTSON, PINE LAKE/KETTLE UPPER ST CROIX FY24
\$3120

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve payment to Sue and Paul Knutson for \$3820. Approved unanimously.

AL & CARMEN RINTA/ROUND LAKE SHORELINE STABILIZATION
MISS GR 1W1P, \$10,799.25

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Al & Carmen Rinta for \$10,799.25 pending approval of TSA3. Approved unanimously.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Laura

- Easement update
- EQIP update
- Trainings
- Wildlife Habitat Field Day/Paynesville
- WRP monitoring
- Completed UTV/OHV training
- Attended Event Planning for Conservation Professionals webinar

SHORELINE PROJECT POLICY

Discussion. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to withhold funds until compliance with DNR and County is met on projects and issue written communication (certified letter). Approved unanimously.

This will be added into the shoreline project policy.

BREAK

CALLED MEETING BACK TO ORDER

SALE OF SPRAYER

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve sale of sprayer. Approved unanimously.

AG INSPECTOR, POTENTIAL GRANT/STAFF CHANGES

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to suggest Veronica as the new Ag County Ag Inspector. Approved unanimously. This needs to go before the Aitkin County Board.

There is a potential grant available for Ag Inspector (\$10,000) with a lot more requirements and reporting.

NRCS REPORT-Tom

- 23 Conservation practices certified as complete
- Field office staff helping customers prepare to install conservation practices

- Staffing NRCS Critical Vacancy Process Phase I-Baxter didn't receive any eligible applications for the open position.
- Forage and Grassland Council Tour was held.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

- Approved 2 part-time positions

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1P update
- Big Sandy Watershed, semi-annual report was completed and sent to MPCA
- Lake Association Summit was held on July 31, 2025. Attendance was good.
- Open enrollment for health insurance
- Starry Trek was August 9, 2025 at Farm Island North
- There will be a public meeting re: outlet of Dam Lake
- Browse Blockers (10) were purchased (net goes over pine seedlings, more effective in the fall). They will be put on our website and be a part of the tree order

SENIOR TECHNICIAN-Sam

- Riparian Buffer update
- Culvert inventory update (Nordland Twp.)
- Soil Health, discussed project with landowner in Spencer Twp.
- Ag inspector
- Forestry-site visits set up with 8 landowners for Forest Stewardship Plans
- Hill City Buckthorn project
- Diversion channel inspection via canoe and drone

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

- Soil Health Peer Group/Planning in September/Amundson farm
- Ag Learn
- Applicator license
- Attended MN Women in Conservation Field Day
- Attended feedlot training in McGregor for the Cattlemen's Association

PROJECTS

- Big Sandy rain garden and pollinator planting

- City of Duluth/drone seeding
- Drone flight with Frank Turnock over aerial sprayed soybeans
- County Weed Inspector grant

OUTREACH

- Leadership Training
- Rivers and Lakes Fair

OTHER

- September newsletter
- Conducting check ins with landowners re: Minnewawa shoreline restoration drainage control
- AIS article written (Rusty crayfish)
- Lake Association Summit
- Training & Continuing Education
- Helping other staff in the office wherever I am able

WATERSHED MGMT./WETLAND SPECIALIST-Ellie

- Shoreline projects
- Wetlands
- BSALWMP Boat tour/Eagle Lake in Carlton
- Presentation Big Pine Lake/Hazelton Twp.
- Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group meeting
- Lake Association Summit
- Site checks on projects
- Shoreline restoration visits
- Fleming Lake-looking for evidence of wells
- Drone flight/Round Lake, Hazelton Twp.

MN BWSR CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Darren

- SWCD Governance & Leadership Essentials
- Agroforestry/Baxter
- BWSR Academy October 21-23
- Grant extensions

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

The next TSA 3 meeting will be held on September 24, 2025 in Duluth.

SWCD INTERN-Michael

- Well update
- Noxious Weed Inventory
- Big Sandy Planting
- Water Samples (Ripple, Horseshoe, Minnewawa)
- Lake Association Summit posters were put up throughout the county

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. A tour will be held. Place of meeting to be determined.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Turnock
Secretary

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, September 16, 2025 at the McGregor Community Center. Meeting was called to order by Francis Dierickx, Vice Chair at 9:00 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
Sam Seybold, Senior Technician
Veronica Lundquist, Soil Health Specialist/Outreach Specialist
Brian Roulet, Project Coordinator
Ellie Joing, Watershed Mgmt./Wetland Specialist
Tom Gervais, NRCS District Conservationist
Laura Kipf, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Additions to the agenda

-Per diem/mileage
-Cost-Share Amendment/John King

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

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

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to accept the August financial statement. Approved unanimously.

Dan Gravley arrived.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Discussion. Benefit Innovations works with Met Life and Met Life only works with those that have 30+ employees. Janet has reached out to another company but hasn't heard anything from them.

AREA III MASWCD FALL MEETING

The Area III MASWCD Fall meeting and tour was held Monday, September 8, 2025. Discussion on meeting and tour. Well attended-good meeting and tour.

PROJECT PROPOSAL AMENDMENT, \$8391.25/WEINAND, LAKE MINNEWAWA, BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve a cost-share amendment from \$5591.25 to \$8391.25 for Weinand, Lake Minnewawa. Approved unanimously.

PROJECT PROPOSAL AMENDMENT/KING, LONE LAKE, MISS BRD 1W1P

The project end date is October 1, 2025 and would like to change the end date to June 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share amendment for the King/Lone Lake project end date June 30, 2026. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

TODD SWCD, BRD 1W1P/\$3054.35

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve payment to Todd SWCD in the amount of \$3054.35. Approved unanimously.

TODD SWCD, BRD 1W1P/\$5062.93

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve payment to Todd SWCD in the amount of \$5062.93. Approved unanimously.

TODD SWCD, BRD 1W1P/\$4884.00

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve payment to Todd SWCD in the amount of \$4884.00. Approved unanimously.

PER DIEM/MILEAGE

Discussion re: per diem and mileage.

One per diem per day even if more than one meeting in a day. Mileage is covered.

CONSERVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Discussion re: Conservation of the Year Award.

Frank suggested Al & Carmen Rinta, Round Lake, north of Tamarack for a MASWCD Conservation of the Year Award and then Big Sandy Lake Watershed if there is a category for an award. The application period for the MASWCD applications for awards is closed for this year. Veronica will look into and see if applications can still be submitted.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to nominate Al & Carmen Rinta for a MASWCD award and then Big Sandy Lake Association if there is an award they fit under. If too late this year mark on calendar for next July to look into. Approved unanimously.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1P updates (Miss Brd. & Miss GR)
- Big Sandy Watershed
- Gathering audit information
- 2026 Health Insurance
- Annual Volunteer Lunch

- Area III Fall meeting
- Water Planning Task Force Fall Tour

SENIOR TECHNICIAN REPORT-Sam

- Buffer update
- Culvert Inventory/Nordland Twp.
- Soil Health Technical Assistance
- Forestry site visits
- Forest Management Plans
- Hill City Buckthorn Project
- Miss GR planning meeting
- Rum Watershed meeting
- No Till Drill

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-Veronica

- Soil Health Peer Group, Field Day at Amundson Farm
- Ag Learn
- Applicator License
- Water Planning Tour

PROJECTS

- Potential project for a landowner, wants to wait until next year

COUNTY AG INSPECTOR

-Officially took over Ag Inspector 9/1/25. Talked with landowners who have invasive species on their property about management and how to move forward. Completed the County Ag Inspector Grant for next growing season.

OUTREACH

- Rivers & Lakes Fair, wrap up meeting and will start planning 2026 in October.

OTHER

- SWCD newsletter was sent out in September
- Wrote Knotweed article

- Worked on footage for Bob Karls, shoreline project podcast, Round Lake footage and diversion channel footage
- Wrote an AIS article about Purple Loosestrife
- Facebook posts, website updates and misc. training

PROJECT COORDINATOR-Brian

- AIS Watercraft Inspections-2025 season is completed, end of season picnic was held.
- Decontamination units-options for next season and quotes to present to the Committee at the next AIS meeting. Final inspection numbers for the next AIS meeting as well as the inspector surveys that were handed out.
- Drone, continuing to study for drone license and finished the diversion channel shore inventory
- Grants (AIS education grants, Releaf, CPL, CCFFC, etc.)
- Outreach (Photo contest, Volunteer Lunch)
- Training (Governance & Leadership Summit, Forestry meetings and online webinars).

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/WETLAND SPECIALIST-Ellie

- Shoreline Visits
- Wetlands (TEP meeting, WCA Training 9/8-9/12/25 in Baxter, Restoration Orders).
- Rivers & Lakes Fair wrap up meeting, Volunteer Lunch, Mille Lacs Watershed Group meeting, Water monitoring samples picked up.

OTHER

- Trainings

NRCS REPORT

- 16 conservation practices were certified as complete in the past month.
- 2026 Conservation Stewardship Program application deadline is October 31, 2025. Currently have only 4 applications.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT

- Easement update
- Pheasants Forever State meeting

- Met with DNR to set up a camera on Pheasant Forever land in Kanabec County
- MNL Open House
- ArcGis/Word/Excel outreach
- HerUpland presentations 10/17-10/18/25

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

No report.

The Forestry Association purchased an Owl Meeting video camera—will be stored at the Aitkin County SWCD and can be used if needed.

Discussion re: speakers etc. for Aitkin County SWCD. A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Frank Turnock to look into items and prices. Approved unanimously.

The next Aitkin County SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd Floor.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Tour of projects (Lake Minnewawa Rain Garden, Big Sandy Shoreline Revegetation Project and Shamrock Township Runoff Management Project) and lunch to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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, October 21, 2025 at the Aitkin County Government Center Training Room. Meeting was called to order by Dan Gravley, Chair at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Welcome David Minke, Aitkin County Administrator

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
Veronica Lundquist, Soil Health Specialist/Outreach Specialist
David Minke, Aitkin County Administrator
Josh Voller, Aitkin High School Ag Teacher

Additions to the agenda:

- Ryan Anderson, Cost-Share Project Payment, \$4687.08
- Carlton County SWCD/\$3016.06
- Government Shutdown

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

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the September 16, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

JOSH VOLLER, AITKIN HIGH SCHOOL AG TEACHER

Josh introduced himself and gave background. He talked about the Ag classes that are being offered at Aitkin High School and some of his plans in the future. He is interested in working with the Aitkin SWCD. Envirothon was discussed and Josh will look into see what is involved in having students participate.

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Janet is working with Benefit Innovations who work with Shelter Point that offers private plans for small companies like ours. The annual premium is \$200 for Shelter Point to administer our Paid Family Medical Leave. Aitkin County SWCD needs to decide today what % they want to pay if any for the employee. The rate for Shelter Point is 0.59% and 0.88% when going through the State. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to split the 0.59% in ½ with employee. Approved unanimously.

2025 RESOLUTION PACKET

The 2025 Resolution Packet was discussed and deadline for voting is November 1, 2025.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

The MASWCD Annual Convention will be held December 1-3, 2025. Frank Turnock, Tom Fasteland, Dan Gravley, Bob Janzen and Veronica Lundquist will attend.

AMENDMENT TO RUM RIVER WATERSHED

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the amendment to the Rum River Watershed. Approved unanimously.

1W1P FUNDING REVIEW

Janet handed out a packet re: 1W1P Area Boundaries and 1W1P Funding review and went through each watershed.

PRELIMINARY DIVERSION CHANNEL INVENTORY DISCUSSION

Veronica presented a Power Point of photos and videos of parts of the inventory done on the diversion channel.

RICE LAKE REFUGE MEMBERSHIP

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve \$35 for Rice Lake Refuge membership. Approved unanimously.

BILLS OVER \$3000

CARLTON COUNTY SWCD/\$3016.06

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to pay \$3016.06 to Carlton County SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

MORRISON SWCD/\$23,113.76

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to pay \$23,113.76 to Morrison SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

CROW WING SWCD/\$34,244.08

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to pay \$34,244.08 to Crow Wing SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

TODD SWCD/\$4569.60

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fastland to pay \$4569.60 to Todd SWCD when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSAL

ASMUS, RAIN GARDENS, BIG SANDY/\$7060.69

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Asmus rain gardens project not to exceed \$7060.69 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO BE PAID

ANDERSON, AG WATER QUALITY/ROOF RUNOFF PROJECT, MISS BRD 1W1P, \$4687.08

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share payment of \$4687.08 to Ryan Anderson. Approved unanimously.

KLEIN, SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT, RABBIT LAKE/
\$3750, BRD 1W1P

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a cost-share payment of \$3750 to Klein when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

ANDERSON, SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT/
BIG SANDY 319, \$4372.58

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share payment of \$4372.58 to Anderson when funds are available. Approved unanimously.

OTHER

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Discussed Government shutdown.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

-Approved 2 projects

-Up to \$20,000 for projects before approval is needed.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

- 1W1Ps
- Big Sandy Watershed
- CCFFC Grant
- Peterson Company audit
- Shoreland Ordinance Public Hearing
- Observation Well readings
- MACDE Manager's meeting
- FMLA
- Health Ins./HAS
- Keep it Clean Campaign
- Assessor's office no longer moving to 2nd floor

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

- Soil Health Field Day/Amundson's
- Applicator license
- University of MN test plot Field Day
- Agroforestry Institute
- MCIT/Drone Coverage Ins., etc.
- County Ag Inspector
 - Grant applied for in September and was approved for \$10,300
- Rivers & Lakes Fair, meeting 10/30/25 to start planning for 2026
- Photo Contest page on website
- AIS Article
- Facebook posts, website updates, etc.
- BWSR Academy 10/22-10/23/25
- Tree, plant and seed order forms put together and updated website
- Round Lake footage started editing
- Diversion Channel footage started editing

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

- Meeting was held in September. The budget was approved and report of projects was handed out.

Senior Technician Report-Sam
Project Coordinator-Brian
Watershed Mgmt./Wetland Specialist-Ellie
MN BWSR Board Conservationist-Darren

Farm Bill Biologist-Laura

All the above reports were handed out to the supervisors as they are attending training.

The next Aitkin County SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Hwy. Dept.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Francis Dierickx to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

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:

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

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

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-Elle

Elle 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