COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
April 24, 2025
Cottonwood SWCD Office – 210 10th Street, Windom, MN

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL
AGENDA – Approval
MINUTES of March 21, 2025 Board Meeting

1. FINANCIAL – Annitra Moody •Financial Report •Accounts Payable

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS
GEOLOGIC ATLAS PROJECT UPDATE – Nathan Harder
RCRCA – **Clark Lingbeek**
GBERBA – Clark Lingbeek
1W1P DES MOINES – Kay Gross
1W1P COTTONWOOD/LITTLE COTTONWOOD – Kay Gross
1W1P BLUE EARTH – Kay Gross
SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE JPO – Tom Muller
- Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers, Financial and Administrative Report
- Computer and software replacement for TSA Technician
- TSA Soil Health Quarterly Reporting

AREA V – Clark Lingbeek – Next Mtg – Thursday, June 26 (Cottonwood Co)
MASWCD – Clark Lingbeek
NRCS – NON-SUPERVISORY DC – Kiara Tomassini
COMMISSIONER REPORT – Tom Appel
- County Update

3. ADMINISTRATIVE – Kay Gross
- **Cottonwood SWCD – Local Cost-Share Contract Approval – County Capacity 2023**

Darren Haugen	SWCD-24-07	Delton 4	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Cost $4,670.00	C-S $2,500.00

- **GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092)**

Mark Peschges	17-19(WBIF-WW-24)	Selma 32	SSTS Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00

- **9:30 a.m. Talcot Lake Project** - Discussion
- **10:00 a.m. String Lake Project** – Discussion
- **Managers Professional Development Co-Hort**
- **Request to Exceed Vacation Hours and/or Payout on Vacation and Comp Time Hours**
- **Training** - Native Plant Community and Plant Identification 2025

- **Meetings**

April	24-25	Tree Pick-up – Office/DNR Site	Staff
May	2	Area II/RCRCA – Marshall	Clark
May	15	Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Windom	Tom/Daryl, Staff
May	20	MACDE Meeting – Virtual	Kay
May	22	Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office	Supervisors, Staff, Tom A
May	22	MASWCD Manager's Co-Hort – Virtual	Kay
May	28	GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office	Staff
May	30	GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual	Clark, Staff, Tom A

4. **SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Dave Bucklin** – Written Report
5. **SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Becky Buchholz** – Written Report
6. **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Breanna Wagner –** Written Report
7. **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Nathan Harder –** Written Report
8. **AREA 6 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Herman Bartsch** – Written Report
9. **AREA 5 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Danielle Evers** – Written Report
10. **MN CONSERVATION CORP – MAWQCP INTERN – Adriene Matthews** – Written Report
11. **PLANNING and ZONING TECHNICIAN – Alex Schultz** – Written Report
12. **COTTONWOOD COUNTY DRAINAGE INSPECTOR – Dylan Oeltjenbruns** – Written Report

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, May 22 at 8:30 a.m. – Cottonwood SWCD Office

APRIL TRANSACTIONS

District Checking Account Balances 3-27-2025 (Bank Midwest)		**$729,066.36**
RECEIPTS: (since last board meeting)		
Interest March - 2025 Bank Midwest (Checking Account $90.24 and Sweep Account $923.91)		$1,014.15
Tree and Tube Sales/Pruning/Deposits		$16,285.12
Brown SWCD-Hwy 14 Reimbursement		$969.78
BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-01-24-03 Kopperud Title		$1,318.00
Des Moines River Watershed - 01/26-2/22 Admin		$3,791.33
MN DNR - ReLeaf Grant - City of Windom		$5,886.92
Redwood County-Hwy 14 Reimbursement		$838.36
Southwest Prairie TSA - Administrative Contract - February 2025		$3,553.36
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$33,657.02**
DISBURSEMENTS: (since last board meeting)		
Direct Deposit	Payroll 03-09-25 to 03-22-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$18,829.60
26696-26700	Supervisors' Compensation - 1st Qtr 2025	$4,095.32
EFT032625	PERA-DCP & Bank Midwest	$805.36
26701	Sun Life Financial - STD April 2025	$7.40
26702	Met Life - Dental Ins April 2025	$64.08
26703	Cigna Health - Accident Ins - April 2025	$9.70
26704	Fifelity Security - Vision Ins April 2025	$6.61
26705	The Hartford - LTD April 2025	$167.68
26706	NCPERS - Group Life Insurance - April 2025	$112.00
26707	Cottonwood County-Lindamann Land Easement (2 @ $46 ea	$92.00
26708	DAC Data Activation Center-Data Plan=GPS	$479.00
26709	Higley Ford-replaced sensor 2011 Ford	$28.25
26710	Murray SWCD - SWPTSA Admin Assistance	$2,272.32
26711	Postmaster-Postage	$448.00
26712	Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney P.A. - Performance Plan	$1,081.00
26713	Schwalbach Hardware - 8 USB Drives, Cable Ties, Nuts, Bolts, Nails	$87.95
26714	Staples Enterprises -April 2025	$170.20
26715	Verizon - JetPack - 1 Month	$54.82
Direct Deposit	Payroll 03-23-25 to 04-05-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$18,829.54
26716	Clark Lingbeek-Supervisor Expenses	$165.78
26717	Postmaster-Postcard postage increase	$16.00
EFT041725	MN Dept of Revenue - Sales & Use Tax 1st Qtr 2025	$449.00
Direct Deposit	Payroll 04-06-25 to 04-19-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$18,829.56
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**$67,101.17**
	BALANCE BEFORE BOARD MEETING	**$695,622.21**

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
4/24/2025
(to be approved at this board meeting)

Payable		**Amount**
26718	Cottonwood County Auditor- Insurance - May 2025	$3,117.36
26719	Cottonwood County Auditor- County Rent - May 2025	$2,106.30
26720	Cottonwood County Recorder-Shari L Lindemann & Paul W Lindemann Living Trust 3 @ $46 each)	$138.00
26721	Bailey Nurseries- (INV0712845; INV 0712940; INV 0711301)=$40842.08 - Credit Memo $451.50	$40,390.58
26722	Bauer Management	$945.00
26723	Citizen Publishing Co. - Site Hosts (3), Domain Name	$85.00
26724	Crystal Clean Car Wash - March Washes	$28.00
26725	Elan Financial Services (formally Cardmember Services) - Training, Lodging, Meals, Office Supplies & Postage	$592.80
26726	Gordon Flesch-Copier	$178.00
26727	Hy-Vee - Misc Office Supplies	$8.50
26728	Dale McMullen-Mentor	$1,105.00
26729	NCPERS - Group Life Insurance - April 2025	$112.00
26730	ODP Business Solutions-Office Supplies	$46.77
26731	Petersen Company - QuickBooks Support	$250.00
26732	Schramel Law Office - Easement 17-04-24-09 Kathy Johnson Trust	$2,520.75
26733	Schumacher's - Trees for Resale	$27,973.50
26734	Rebecca Buchholz - Cell Phone	$40.00
26735	Herman Bartsch - Mileage & Cell	$250.20
26736	Kay Gross - Cell Phone, Employee Expenses & Mileage	$1,311.64
26737	Nathan Harder - Mileage & Emplyee Expenses	$653.10
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	**$81,852.50**
	District Checking Account Balance	**$613,769.71**
Balances as of 3-21-2025		
PETTY CASH (Included in District Fund Balance)		**$50.00**
9 Month CD - Bank Midwest - Interest - 2024 ($1,287.44 - Included in Total)		**$54,523.77**
Savings Account - Bank Midwest - Interest - 4th Quarter ($567.90 - Included in Total)		**$55,953.76**
	Account Balances: Checking (2)/Savings/Petty Cash/CD:	**$724,297.24**

Monthly Treasurer's Report
Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area
March 2025

Use of Cash	Beginning Balance 3/1/2025	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance 3/31/2025	EXPIRES
Checking Account	$ 540,780.76	4,358.05	$ 35,677.28	509,461.53	
Select Business Svg	$ -			-	
Interest Money	$ -			-	
Compensated Absences	$ -			-	
Sweep Account	$ 817,151.73	1,284.89		818,436.62	
CD	$ -			-	
Total	**$ 1,357,932.49**	**5,642.94**	**$ 35,677.28**	**1,327,898.15**	

Program Summary

JPO Fund Balance	$ 100,059.21	2,097.49		102,156.70	
Technical Services	$ 376,881.83			376,881.83	
GRANTS	$ 794,459.89	3,545.45	$ 35,677.28	762,328.06	
Training	$ 12,531.56			12,531.56	
Education/Outreach	$ 20,000.00			20,000.00	
Compensated Absences	$ 54,000.00			54,000.00	
NACD Grant	$ -			-	
	$ 1,357,932.49	**5,642.94**	**$ 35,677.28**	**1,327,898.15**	

eLINK Grants					
FY21 ESTS Grant	$ -	-			
FY21 Local Match	$ -			-	12/31/2023
FY21 Administration	$ -			-	
FY22 ESTS Grant				-	
FY22 Local Match	$ -			-	12/31/2024
FY22 ESTS Administration				-	
FY22 NPEA Grant	$ -			-	
FY22 NPEA Local Match	$ -			-	12/31/2024
FY22 NPEA Administration	$ -			-	
FY23 ESTS Grant	$ 75,675.97			-	
FY23 Local Match			$ 75,675.97	-	12/31/2025
FY23 ESTS Administration	$ 24,095.39			-	
FY23 NPEA Grant	$ -		$ 7,283.97	16,811.42	
FY23 NPEA Local Fund	$ -			-	12/31/2025
FY23 Administration	$ -			-	
FY24 ESTS	$ 205,987.89			-	
FY24 Local Match	$ 24,250.00			205,987.89	12/31/2025
FY24 Administration	$ 36,512.11		$ 8,039.53	16,210.47	
FY24 NPEA	$ 240,000.00			36,512.11	
FY24 Local Match	$ 622.55		$ 52,474.87	187,525.13	12/31/2025
FY24 Administration	$ 15,000.00		622.55	-	
FY24 NPEA Supplies/Equip	$ 10,582.80			15,000.00	
FY24 Soil Health Staffing Grant	$ 516,167.63			10,582.80	
FY25 ESTS Grant	$ 204,400.00		$42,588.74	473,578.89	12/31/2027
FY25 ESTS Administration	$ 38,100.00			204,400.00	12/31/2026
FY25 ESTS Local Match	$ 24,250.00			38,100.00	
	$ 1,415,644.34			24,250.00	
			Total	**1,228,958.71**	

Southwest Prairie Technical Service
Balance Sheet Detail
As of March 31, 2025

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
ASSETS									
Current Assets									1,606,032.45
Checking/Savings									1,374,400.22
Checking Account									1,357,932.49
Liability Check	03/06/2025	4226	MN PEIP						540,780.76
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2025	4227	Elan Finanical Servi...			X	-SPLIT-	-2,919.28	537,861.48
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2025	4228	Cottonwood SWCD	admin-Februa...		X	Accounts Paya...	-1,245.64	536,615.84
Bill Pmt -Check	03/11/2025	4229	Chandler Co-op			X	Accounts Paya...	-3,553.36	533,062.48
Liability Check	03/12/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Accounts Paya...	-59.09	533,003.39
Paycheck	03/13/2025	DD1660	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,912.67	525,090.72
Paycheck	03/13/2025	DD1661	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	525,090.72
Paycheck	03/13/2025	DD1662	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	525,090.72
Liability Check	03/13/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	0.00	525,090.72
Liability Check	03/13/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.16	522,064.56
Liability Check	03/13/2025	auto	MSRS			X	State Withholdi...	-557.00	521,507.56
Liability Check	03/13/2025	auto	PERA			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	521,407.56
Liability Check	03/13/2025	auto	MSRS			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	519,776.05
Liability Check	03/13/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	519,301.05
Deposit	03/17/2025			Deposit		X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	519,271.05
Bill Pmt -Check	03/18/2025	4230	Verizon			X	Undeposited F...	3,545.45	522,816.50
Bill Pmt -Check	03/18/2025	4231	Frontier Precision	Training fee		X	Accounts Paya...	-195.26	522,621.24
Liability Check	03/26/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Accounts Paya...	-240.00	522,381.24
Paycheck	03/27/2025	DD1663	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,912.68	514,468.56
Paycheck	03/27/2025	DD1664	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	514,468.56
Paycheck	03/27/2025	DD1665	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	514,468.56
Liability Check	03/27/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	0.00	514,468.56
Liability Check	03/27/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.12	511,442.44
Liability Check	03/27/2025	auto	MSRS			X	State Withholdi...	-557.00	510,885.44
Liability Check	03/27/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	510,785.44
Liability Check	03/27/2025	auto	PERA			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	510,310.44
Liability Check	03/27/2025	auto	MSRS			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	508,678.93
Deposit	03/31/2025			Deposit		X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	508,648.93
						X	Interest on Che...	812.60	509,461.53
Total Checking Account								-31,319.23	509,461.53
Savings Interest Account									0.00
Total Savings Interest Account									0.00
Select Business Savings									0.00
Total Select Business Savings									0.00
Sweep Account									817,151.73
Deposit	03/31/2025			Deposit			Interest on Che...	1,284.89	818,436.62
Total Sweep Account								1,284.89	818,436.62
Total Checking/Savings								-30,034.34	1,327,898.15

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

210 10th Street, Windom, MN 56101 **Phone: 507-832-8287**

DATE: **APRIL 24, 2025**

TO: **SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA MEMBERS**

FROM: **KAY GROSS, ADMINSTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

SUBJECT: **COORDINATOR REPORT**

Policy Board Meeting
Policy Board met on Monday, March 31 and discussed new hire (talk later in 2025) and charging for services on WBIF project starting later summer/fall. Approved no grant match starting FY26, but will still request dues from every SWCD.

Soil Health/Training Contract Position
Dawn Madison is continuing to work with District staff in gaining Job Approval Authority and also working with the Administration to help report and assist with our quarterly meetings for the Soil Health Staffing Grant.
Dawn is assisting with area trainings, soil health events, and working with the Soil Health Staffing quarterly meetings and reporting.

MAWQCP Technical Assistance
Continued work with local landowners to receive worksheet and ulimately certification through MAWQCP.
Danielle also has JAA for Ecological Services and Non-Structural practices if that service is needed by your office.
Danielle is working with SWCD staff to understand and help local landowners with the MAWQCP additional cost-share available for practices ($5,000 per project).
Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone and Cottonwood Counties will be the sites for hosting Russell Hedrick, North Carolina, in mid July. Danielle, Dawn and area staff are helping plan for these field days.

State TSA Managers Meeting
Next meeting is set for September 4.

BWSR Soil Health Staffing Grant
The first round reporting has been completed for 2024. With the start of the grant in April 2024 here are our 2024 numbers.

April – September 2024		**October – December 2024**		**January – March 2025**	
Admin	68 hrs - $4,602.53	Admin	32.25 hrs - $2,414.84	Admin	51.75 hrs - $4,257.49
	12 Mentors		11 Mentors		13 Mentors
	115 Contacts		86 Contacts		38 Contacts
	19 Meetings		25 Meetings		32 Meetings
	334.75 Hours		222.25 Hours		252.25 Hours
	$27,121.25		$17,898.75		$20,376.25
	18,582 acres		23,406 acres		28,184 acres

Will be working this spring/summer to bring on a new mentor that will work with all SWCD staff on Soil Health issues.

TSA Manager Meeting
Will work towards having a TSA Manager's meeting in May-June.
Eduction/Outreach Committee Members: Doug Bos, Anita Borg and Shannon Bootsma.

TSA Board Meeting
The next schedule TSA Board meeting will be held in during the month of Monday, June 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN.

210 10th Street
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Cottonwood SWCD Technician Report for April 24, 2025.

1) Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act update.
I have stopped being the WCA LGU for Watonwan County as of January 1, 2025. I am working closely with Becky on WCA concerns in Cottonwood County until my final day on June 30, 2025.

2) GBERBA.
The CRP incentives program has really taken off. Right now, we are waiting to see if funds will be available from the federal government for conservation. Soil health and cover crops continue to be a very important push in conservation
SWCD staff met with the city engineer for Mountain Lake to discuss a storm water erosion issue.

3) Tree Program
The Emerald Ash Borer is continuing to be the most impactful issue for trees. In Mountain Lake hundreds of Ashes will be leafless this spring. Windom is next.
Training landowners to use proper pruning methods is a big push to promote healthy trees.
We have over 100 landowner tree orders, with about 7,800 trees on order.

4) DNR ReLeaf grants for Mountain Lake and Windom.
Staff submitted 2024 financial reports to the MN DNR and substantial grant cost share paid out for the 2024 tree removal/ plantings. Urban trees planted in Mountain Lake (90) and Windom (40). In Mountain Lake and Windom, we used a majority of the ReLeaf Grant funding in the first year! We plan to complete the Mountain Lake grant two years early and have been told we can apply again immediately.

David Bucklin, Cottonwood SWCD

210 10th St
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: April 17, 2025

Name: Becky Buchholz (Senior Technician)

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Farm Bill Assistance, SSTS, AgBMP Loans, WCA

Past Events:

- March 25, 2025 – Red Rock LTT, virutal
- March 26, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, virtual
- March 31, 2025 – BWSR Spring Training Academy, virtual
- April 7, 2025 – Blue Earth Watershed Meeting, Blue Earth
- April 9-10, 2025 – HR Training, St. Cloud
- April 11, 2025 – GBERBA Exec, virtual
- April 16, 2025 – Red Rock LTT, Windom DNR
- April 17, 2025 – Des Moines Policy, LEC
- April 23, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, virtual

Upcoming Events:

- April 24, 2025 – Basic Cover Crops, Marshall
- April 21, 25,29,30, May 2,12, 2025 – WEPS virtual training
- May 21, 2025 – Brome Conversion Field Day, Madison, MN
- June 26, 2025 – Area V Meeting, Windom, MN

Farm Bill Assistance:

- Current RIM programs available: RIM Wellhead, RIM Wetland, RIM Grasslands, RIM 1W1P (only for finished 1W1P areas), RIM Riparian & Floodplain
    - Most of the RIM programs are out of funding until after July 1 when they will receive more appropriations: RIM Wetland, RIM Grassland, RIM 1W1P
- Submitted documentation to receive Level 3 Conservation Planner to ARC, Dave Voigt and I had a meeting, a few more AgLearn courses to do because requirements changed from when I submitted my request until now. Then we will reevaluate.
    - I have received by Level 2 Conservation Planner status
- CREP is currently closed until a new CRP sign up is announced. All CRP (Continuous, General, and Grasslands) are also closed.
    - BWSR did finalize an amendment to the current CREP agreement:
        - Deadline extended from 9/30/2026 to 9/30/2029
        - Acreage cap from 60,000 to 75,000
        - Expanded eligible counties (54 to 66)
        - Expanded CP2 practice outside of Wellhead Protection Areas (details coming)
- Assisting landowners with RIM and other programs on their lands.

SSTS:

- Continuing to send out letters as septic disclosure forms come in and as property transfers occur. I have been working with the county attorney to send out follow up letters.

- The Watonwan Watershed has a $5,000 incentive for IPHT and FTPGW (in DWSMA and shoreland only) for SSTS replacements that use other financial assistance (low interest loans, grants, etc). There is one incentive left.
- The Des Moines Watershed has a $5,000 incentive for IPHT, FTPGW (in DWSMA and shoreland only), and low-income for SSTS replacements that use other financial assistance (low interest loans, grants, etc).
- The county received a $750,000 loan for SSTS loans and is ready for disbursement now. We used up approximately half of the funds in 2024.

AgBMP Loan Program

- Interest in the loan program has increased this year, due to the low interest rate in comparison to traditional lenders.
- As of today, we have limited funds that were added to our loan funds and I will be continuing a waitlist.
- Main uses: septic system replacement, ag waste, conservation tillage, replacement wells
- The loan program will now be moving to an online based application process, MDA is still rolling out the process.

WCA

- I will be working closely with Dave to learn more about administering the WCA program for the County.

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for April 17th, 2025

Past Priorities:

- Environmental Fair Initial Meeting: Marshall, MN – March 11th
- Presentations to Windom Schools: Pollinators and Water Quality!
- Presentation to Mountain Lake School: Plants!

Current Priorities:

- **Projects:**
  - TREE SEASON IS SOON UPON US!! End of April and throughout May, will be planting/distributing trees!!
  - Send in cost share folders/projects towards obtaining Cover Crop/Strip-Till&No-Till JAA Certification.
  - Potential cost-share project site visits for landowners in the Des Moines & Cottonwood River Watersheds
  - Cost-share projects for Windbreak/Shelterbelts throughout Cottonwood County.
  - Keep up with Social Media accounts for Cottonwood SWCD (Facebook & Instagram)
- **Trainings:**
  - Brome Conversion Training: Marshall, MN – Part II on May 21st
  - Step 2 towards Pollinator Steward Certification: Complete Habitat and Outreach Events by Aug 2025.
  - Level 1 Conservation Planner Webinars
  - Critical Area Planting JAA Cohorts (ongoing)
  - Continuing **JAA training** for vegetative practices (327, 645). Will work with Dawn and Becky.
  - Training with Dawn (Resource Specialist): training courses vary, including WASCOB and Waterways.
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Planning for the Russell Hedrick event in July. Making the flyer and on the Cottonwood Committee.
  - Planning for the Cover Crop field day in August.
  - Attend Quarterly Tree Commission Meetings for Windom.
  - Environmental Fair monthly meetings.
  - Seeding Cohorts meetings for various vegetative JAA trainings with CPS (including 342 & 327/420/643)
  - Tree Site Visits with landowners throughout Cottonwood County.

Future Priorities:

- Stake priority RIM/CREP easement boundaries Fall 2025.
- RIM Spotchecks this Summer! (After the Tree Season).

- **Trainings:**
  - Urban Practices/Small Scale Ag Webinars and Trainings
  - Winter Tree ID
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Russell Hedrick Day (currently planning): July 2025
  - Cover Crop Field School: August 2025
  - Host Windbreak Training: Late Summer 2025
  - Tree Care Workshop: November 2025

Breanna Wagner
507-832-8287 ext. 8866
breanna.wagner@co.cottonwood.mn.us

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for April 24, 2025

Completed Activities from Previous Month:

- **Trainings/Meetings attended**
  - Attended MACFO Conference in Detroit Lakes
  - BWSR spring academy sessions
  - Attended TSA Soil Health mentors check-in meeting
  - Attended the Russell Hedrick field day planning meeting in Marshall.
- **Tree Program**
  - Conducted 4 more on-site tree visits
  - Checked on tree removal progress in Mt Lake for city project
  - Worked on contacting tree purchasers and planting projects
  - Worked on getting tree barn ready & received tree shipments from tree suppliers
  - Had a interview with Windom Citizen about tree programs and EAB in Mt Lake and Windom
- **Soil Health**
  - Went through several meetings with Kim and Herman to work on GBERBA Soil Health website and video project
  - Mark Portner video interview in Brown County
  - Conducted reporting for TSA Soil Health mentors
  - Attended the MOSH web meeting.
- **Other Activities**
  - Completed work on County Geologic Atlas well locations, turned them in, and gave an update on project to County Board of Commissioners
  - Started looking into Gode potential projects – on the computer and NRCS office
  - Follow-up with Loren Ibeling and Shannon Haberman WW projects with contractors and engineers
  - Conducted 1 feedlot inspection with Alex.

Priorities for Month Ahead:

- **Trainings/Meetings planned**
  -
- **Tree Program**
  - Mostly planting trees as weather and time permits throughout May
- **Soil Health**
  - Continue to work with Herman and Kim on video and website project.

- **Other Activities**
    - Continue getting details figured out for Russell Hedrick field day and cover crops application field school.
    - Complete field checks for cover crops and strip-till/no-till contracts.

Nathan Harder
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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

South Central MAWQCP Certification Specialist

Serving the Counties of: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, McLeod, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

GBERBA Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Herman Bartsch
AREA 6 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST
April 8th, 2025

Workload:

- Working with producers and SWCDs to complete assessments and certifications
- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant – Planning website and shooting videos
- Grow More Training – Mankato 3/18 & 19

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	**18**	**16**	**10**
Brown SWCD	**20**	**15**	**6**
Faribault SWCD	**44**	**34**	**28**
LeSueur SWCD	**23**	**16**	9
Martin SWCD	**37**	**26**	**19**
McLeod SWCD	**18**	**13**	**7**
Nicollet SWCD	**3**	2	1
Renville SWCD	**34**	**29**	**16**
Sibley SWCD	**5**	**5**	**3**
Waseca SWCD	**20**	**19**	12
Watonwan SWCD	**16**	**13**	**9**
Total	**238**	**188**	**120**

MAWQCP Numbers as of 3-31-25

- 1,602 producers certified
- 1,117,86 acres certified
- 7,689 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 57,138tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 169,860 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 73,323 lbs. of P per year
- 146 Soil Health Endorsements
- 108 IPM Endorsements
- 89 Wildlife Endorsements
- 190 Climate Smart Endorsements
- 15 Irrigation Endorsements

Herman Bartsch:
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GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin

March 3, 2025

DANIELLE EVERS

AREA 5 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST

Serving the Counties of: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, & Yellow Medicine

Projects and Workload:

- Continuing to meet with producers for assessments, mapping, & uploading documents for state verification
- Coordinating the Hwy14 CLASIC Tour
- Coordinating the Grow More Training for Area 5

Events/Dates:

- 2/4/25 – I90 Soil Health Tour – Heron Lake, MN
- 2/12/25 – Present at Marshall Comm. App Workshop – Marshall, MN
- 2/13/25 – RCPP Info Session – Marshall, MN
- 2/18/25 – Nutrient Mgmt. Seminar - Online
- 2/19/25-2/20/25 – Lamberton, and Lake Benton Hwy 14 Tour CLASIC
- 2/24/25 – Pest Management Workshop – Worthington, MN
- 2/25/25 – SW MN MAWQCP Connect with State MAWQCP – Online
- 2/25/25-2/26/25 – Grow More Training – Marshall, MN

Program Updates and Information:

- 2025 Grant applications ready! **$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers, however **NEW THIS YEAR** we will have some incentive payments available for cover crops, reduced till, & winter out feeding
- MAWQCP has certified over **1,590 farms**, including over **1,110,721 current acres** with **7,689 new practices, 1,663 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include**: 49,477 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **149,811 tons** soil reduced per year, **62,236 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year, **49,861 $CO_{2\text{-}e}$ tons** per year
- Endorsements: **144** Soil Health, **107** Integrated Pest Management (IPM), **89** Wildlife, **186** Climate Smart, **15** Irrigation

TO DATE NUMBERS *Numbers in bold have changed from the last report

Area 5	Apps.	Assessments Completed	Certifications	Endorsements			
				IPM	Soil Health	Wildlife	Climate
Cottonwood	55	54	**24**	0	0	1	4
Jackson	37	36	24	3	3	1	4
Lac Qui Parle	18	18	11	1	1	1	4
Lincoln	35	34	18	1	1	1	1
Lyon	42	40	19	0	1	0	1
Murray	**30**	29	19	2	0	1	4
Nobles	20	20	14	0	1	0	3
Pipestone	67	64	37	3	1	0	1
Redwood	56	46	27	3	3	0	3
Rock	**63**	59	37	1	1	1	3
Yellow Med.	38	38	19	1	0	0	0
Totals	**460**	438	**249**	15	12	6	28

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Photos from the Hwy 14 Tour Stop in Lake Benton, MN

GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin

April 3, 2025

DANIELLE EVERS

AREA 5 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST

Serving the Counties of: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, & Yellow Medicine

Projects and Workload:

- Continuing to meet with producers for assessments, mapping, & uploading documents for state verification
- Starting reviews for 2025, Adriene is helping with reviews and pushing endorsements during review time
- Co-organizing 3 field days for MAWQCP and soil health promotion in Area 5
- Getting ready to schedule field verifications for this spring
- Filling out cost-share applications with producers
- Working on getting Certified Planner Status

Events/Dates:

- 2/25/25-2/26/25 – Grow More Training – Marshall, MN
- 3/6/25-3/20/25 – Out of Office
- 3/7/25 – Soil Health Mentor and Agronomist Virtiual Check In

Program Updates and Information:

- 2025 Grant applications ready! **$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers, however **NEW THIS YEAR** we will have some incentive payments available for cover crops, reduced till, & winter out feeding
- MAWQCP has certified over **1,590 farms**, including over **1,110,721 current acres** with **7,689 new practices, 1,663 new BMP's**
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TO DATE NUMBERS *Numbers in bold have changed from the last report

Area 5	Apps.	Assessments Completed	Certifications	Endorsements			
				IPM	Soil Health	Wildlife	Climate
Cottonwood	55	54	**24**	0	0	1	4
Jackson	**38**	**37**	24	3	3	1	4
Lac Qui Parle	18	18	11	1	1	1	4
Lincoln	**36**	**35**	18	1	1	1	1
Lyon	42	40	19	**1**	**2**	0	**2**
Murray	**30**	29	**20**	2	0	1	4
Nobles	20	20	14	0	1	0	3
Pipestone	**68**	**65**	37	3	1	0	1
Redwood	56	46	27	3	3	0	3
Rock	**63**	60	37	1	1	1	3
Yellow Med.	38	38	19	1	0	0	0
Totals	**464**	**442**	**250**	**16**	**13**	6	**29**

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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember
Conservation Corps of MN and IA
Adriene Matthews

April 3rd, 2025

Workload:

- Inputting landowner's data and mapping farms that have been assessed by Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers into ArcGIS mapping tool.
- Attend farm verification site visits with Danielle and Herman.
- Speak with landowners regarding replacing their tree groves.
- Attend Soil health Meetings with the SWCD technicians.
- Attend cover crops trainings.
- Complete MAWQCP interviews by myself.
- Prep tree barn for 2025 tree planting.

Projects:

- Assist Breanna Wagner and Nathan Hader with documenting well locations in ArcGIS Pro.
- Creating outreach opportunities for MAWQCP and landowners.
- Map landowners fields for MAWQCP
- Interview conservation workers for CCMI blog

Upcoming Events:

- Farmer Mentor Meeting 4/7
- Nutrient Management Training 4/17
- CCMI Quarterly meeting 4/28

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Alex Schultz
Planning and Zoning Technician

210 10th Street
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Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: April 24, 2025
Name: Alex Schultz

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Planning and Zoning, and Ag. Inspecting

Past Events:

- **April 2- Township Meeting/Weed Meeting**
- **April 3- Planning Commission meeting**

Upcoming Events:

- **April 30- Land Use Training, Mankato**
- **May 15- MACFO Board Meeting**

Planning and Zoning:

- **Planning Commission Meeting- EAW Review- EAW is sufficient and an EIS is not required**
- **Board of Adjustments- Variance approved for outhouse in shoreland**
- **Permits**
  - Setback Permits, 6 Issued
  - CUP, 0 Issued
  - Variances, 1 Issued
  - 911 addresses, 1 Issued

Feedlots

Bruce Pederson in Rose Hill Sec 2 is eliminating an Open lot and building a large, confined hoop barn for the Dairy. Inspection and permitting is complete

Cottonwood County Drainage

Dylan Oeltjenbruns-Drainage Inspector

Date: April 24th, 2025

Past Events

- April 11th-Televised Branch A JD18CM
- April 15th-Continuation Hearing on Groups 1 and 2 Redeterminations

Upcoming Events

- JD18CM Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- Second FEMA Appeal
- JD24CB Public Hearing-TBD
- CD42 Hearing on Petition from DOT

Summary Report

I have been utilizing the camera that was purchased for investigation of tile. Mix of larger and smaller projects have been completed. With more slated in the next few weeks.