COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
February 27, 2025
Cottonwood SWCD Office – 210 10th Street, Windom, MN

The Cottonwood SWCD Board of Supervisors will go into closed session at 11:00 a.m. pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 subd. 3(b) based upon the attorney client privilege.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL
AGENDA – Approval
MINUTES of January 23, 2025 Board Meeting

1. FINANCIAL – Annitra Moody •Financial Report •Accounts Payable •Bank Midwest Signature Cards
•Contract Hours – Jerry Bauer – QuickBooks - $45/hour – 100 hours

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS
RCRCA – **Clark Lingbeek**
•Redwood-Cottonwood River Control Area – Joint Powers Agreement – Approval and Authorization to Sign
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
•TSA Soil Health Quarterly Reporting
AREA V – Clark Lingbeek – Next Mtg – Thursday, June 26 (Cottonwood Co) – Amo Creamery and Overall Farm Operation
MASWCD – Clark Lingbeek – Legislative Day – Registration and Hotel
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**

Robert Schoper	SWCD-24-05	Amboy 6	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Cost $2,096.00	C-S $1,676.80
Clarence Davis	SWCD-24-06	Germantown 10	Farmstead Windbreak	Cost $3,265.00	C-S $2,500.00

•**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY22 – 2022/2023 SWCD Programs and Operations Grant Agreement – 2023 State Cost-Share Funds (P23-5766); BWSR Conservation Contract FY24 (P24-0146) and FY25 (P25-0107) and Cottonwood SWCD Riparian State Aid (County Funds)**
Todd Bloch 23-01 Amo 36 - Dale 19 & 31 Cover Crops – 80 ac - $45/ac - 3 yrs C-S $10,800.00
FY23 - $7,952.15; FY24 - $660.14; FY25 $1,160.28 and District Riparian State Aid - $1,027.43

•**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval – WBIF – FY23-25 Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C23-0008)**
Kretsch Family Ltd Ptsp 23-DMRW-COT-032 Rosehill 32 Terrace Cost $23,735.40 C-S $20,175.09

•**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177)**
Todd Bloch 25-DMRW-COT-004 Amo 36 - Dale 19 & 31 Cover Crops – 30 ac - $45/ac – 3 yrs C-S $4,050.00

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

Loren Ibeling	17-13(WBIF-WW-24)	Selma 26	Grass Waterway	Cost $17,565.00	C-S $14,930.25
Wayne Klassen	17-14(WBIF-WW-24)	Mt. Lake 21	SSTS Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00	
Shannon Haberman	17-15(WBIF-WW-24)	Midway 20	Grass Waterway	Cost $6,429.00	C-S $5,464.65

•**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY22 – 2022/2023 SWCD Programs and Operations Grant Agreement – 2022 State Cost-Share Funds (P22-5676) and 2023 State Cost-Share Funds (P23-5766)**
Guy Dammann 22-05 Germantown 23 WASCOBS – 2 no. Cost $42,083.26 C-S $10,025.50

•**MAWQCP – GBERBA Contract and Payment Authorization and Additional SWCD Technical Assistance**
Jacob Tippin MAWQCP 17-5-41 Worksheet Completed Incentive $100.00

-OVER-

- **Soil Health Practices Grant Policy** – Discussion
- **Potential Talcot Lake Project**
- **Board Meeting Date Change –** Friday, March 21, 2025
- **Training –** Public Sector Human Resource Training –
  St. Cloud – April 8-10 – Registration ($150/person), Lodging & Meals (Kay, Becky and Annitra)

- **Meetings**

March	3	Area Manager/Employee Meeting – Slayton	Staff
March	4-5	MASWCD Legislative Briefing – St Paul	Clark, Becky
March	5	Soil Health Staff Meeting – Mankato	Staff
March	5-6	Drainage Conference – Willmar	Dylan
March	6	Area II/RCRCA – Marshall	Clark
March	6	TSA State Managers Meeting – Virtual	Kay
March	10-11	Brome Training – Marshall	Staff
March	11	Environmental Fair Meeting – Marshall	Staff
March	12	Des Moines Technical Meeting – Virtual/Office	Staff
March	14	GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual/Office	Clark, Staff, Tom
March	20	Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Office/V	Tom, Staff
March	20	SSTS Talking Tour – Marshall	Becky
March	21	Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office	Supervisors, Staff, Tom A
March	25-27	MCFO Annual Feedlot Conference – Detroit Lakes (Registration, Lodging and Meals)	Alex, Nathan
March	26	GBERBA Technical Committee – Virtual/Windom	Staff
March	27-28	State Managers Meeting – St. Cloud (Registration $20, Lodging and Meals)	Kay

4. **TECHNICIAN – Dave Bucklin** – Written Report
5. **FARM BILL ASSISTANT/PROGRAM 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 – FRIDAY, MARCH 21 at 8:30 a.m. – Cottonwood SWCD Office

FEBRUARY TRANSACTIONS

District Checking Account Balances 1-23-2025 (Bank Midwest)		**$663,642.97**
RECEIPTS: (since last board meeting)		
Interest January - 2025 Bank Midwest (Checking Account $90.24 and Sweep Account $1,138.06)		$1,228.30
Tree and Tube Sales/Pruning/Deposits		$7,599.11
BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-02-23-09 and 17-01-23-09		$4,000.00
Cottonwood County - December Contract - County - $6349.46 P & Z - $1,806.84		$8,156.30
GBERBA - Coordinators - December 2024 $2,163.44 & January 2025 $10,039.67		$12,203.11
GBERBA - Area 6 Cert Specialist - December $5,474.58 & January 2025 $3,948.30		$9,422.88
GBERBA - Reimbursement Landowner Meeting Expense		$266.00
MASWCD - Reimbursement Employee Expense - Legislative Committee		$405.32
MASWCD - Reimbursement 2024 CRP Plan Development		$24,600.00
Cottonwood County - 2025 WCA $11,984.00; 2025 Capacity $30,000; 2025 County Buffer $5,000		$46,984.00
Cottonwood County Auditor - Reimbursement 2025 Insuarnce Premium		$9,697.00
Watonwan County - Reimbursement WCA - 3rd Quarter 2024		$1,116.22
Watonwan County - Reimbursement WCA - 4th Quarter 2024		$2,281.69
Southwest Prairie TSA - Administrative Contract - January 2025		$5,445.90
Southwest Prairie TSA - Reimbursement Mentor Contract		$425.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$133,830.83**
DISBURSEMENTS: (since last board meeting)		
Direct Deposit	Payroll 01-12-25 to 01-25-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$21,526.26
26663	Cigna Health - Accident Ins - February 2025	$9.70
26664	Computer Forms	$181.13
26665	Fifelity Security - Vision Ins February 2025	$13.22
26666	The Hartford - LTD February 2025	$181.08
26667	MASWCD-Legistlative Briefing (2-$130 each)	$260.00
26668	Met Life - Dental Ins February 2025	$128.16
26669	VOID	$0.00
26670	Schwalbach Hardware - USB & Glue	$12.98
26671	Sun Life Financial - STD February 2025	$7.40
1711	MDHA-2 meals ($65 each)	$130.00
1712	Higley Ford-Brake Pads, Change Oil	$329.81
Direct Deposit	Payroll 01-26-25 to 02-14-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$21,606.24
1713	Ryan Gibbs-Hwy 14 Tour Speaker	$667.00
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**$45,052.98**
	BALANCE BEFORE BOARD MEETING	**$752,420.82**

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
2/27/2025
(to be approved at this board meeting)

Payable		**Amount**
1714	Cottonwood County Auditor - County Rent - March 2025	$2,106.30
1715	Baunes Catering-Hwy 14 Tour Meal	$1,296.00
1716	Cardmember Services - Training, Office Supplies & Postage	$992.45
1717	Cottonwood County Recorder-Lindemann Land Co, Gordy Koppenrud 3@ $46	$138.00
1718	Citizen Publishing Co. - Site Hosts (3)	$45.00
1719	Guy Dammann-WASCB	$10,025.50
1720	Gordon Flesch-Copier	$178.00
1721	Hy-Vee - Misc Office Supplies	$42.36
1722	Indoff Inc. - Copy Paper, Notary Stamp	$148.05
1723	Andy Linder-Hwy 14 Tour Speaker	$670.00
1724	Murray SWCD - SWPTSA Admin Assistance	$2,840.40
1725	ODP Business Solutions-Office Supplies	$107.02
1726	Plantra-Grow Tubes & Stakes	$1,108.20
1727	Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney P.A. - Review/Revise Personnel Policy	$1,487.00
1728	U of M-OSTP -SSTS Registration	$400.00
1729	Schramel Law Office - Easement 17-03-24-03 Lindemann, 17-01-24-01 Lindemann Land Co	$4,133.00
1730	Staples Enterprises -January 2025	$314.67
1731	Verizon - JetPack - 1 Month	$54.82
1732	Nathan Harder - Reimburse for Mileage / Parking	$234.20
1733	Rebecca Buchholz - Cell Phone & Mileage	$60.00
1734	Herman Bartsch - Mileage & Cell	$503.60
1735	Kay Gross - Cell Phone & Mileage	$194.20
1736	Office of the State Auditor-Standards & Procedures Review (2)	$248.00
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	**$27,326.77**
	District Checking Account Balance	**$725,094.05**
Balances as of 2-27-2025		
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:	**$835,621.58**

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

Use of Cash		Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	Receipts		Disbursements	Ending Balance 1/31/2025	EXPIRES
Checking Account	$	250,416.74	412,827.30	$	84,804.19	578,439.85	
Select Business Svg	$	-				-	
Interest Money	$	-				-	
Compensated Absences	$	-				-	
Sweep Account	$	814,711.88	1,281.05			815,992.93	
CD	$	-				-	
Total	**$**	**1,065,128.62**	**414,108.35**	**$**	**84,804.19**	**1,394,432.78**	
Program Summary							
JPO Fund Balance	$	97,741.61				97,741.61	
Technical Services	$	376,881.83				376,881.83	
GRANTS	$	503,973.62	414,108.35	$	84,804.19	833,277.78	
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	$	-				-	
	$	**1,065,128.62**	**414,108.35**	**$**	**84,804.19**	**1,394,432.78**	
eLINK Grants							
FY21 ESTS Grant	$	-	-			-	12/31/2023
FY21 Local Match	$	-				-	
FY21 Administration	$	-				-	
FY22 ESTS Grant						-	12/31/2024
FY22 Local Match	$	-				-	
FY22 ESTS Administration						-	
FY22 NPEA Grant	$	-				-	12/31/2024
FY22 NPEA Local Match	$	-				-	
FY22 NPEA Administration	$	-				-	
FY23 ESTS Grant	$	156,634.26		$	80,958.29	75,675.97	12/31/2025
FY23 Local Match						-	
FY23 ESTS Administration	$	30,065.00		$	3,523.59	26,541.41	
FY23 NPEA Grant	$	10,627.04		$	10,627.04	-	12/31/2025
FY23 NPEA Local Fund	$	-				-	
FY23 Administration	$	5,080.97		$	5,080.97	-	
FY24 ESTS	$	205,987.89				205,987.89	12/31/2025
FY24 Local Match	$	24,250.00				24,250.00	
FY24 Administration	$	36,512.11				36,512.11	
FY24 NPEA	$	240,000.00				240,000.00	12/31/2025
FY24 Local Match	$	27,500.00			26877.45	622.55	
FY24 Administration	$	15,000.00				15,000.00	
FY24 NPEA Supplies/Equip	$	10,582.80				10,582.80	
FY24 Soil Health Staffing Grant	$	272,153.77	275,125.00		$31,111.14	516,167.63	12/31/2027
FY25 ESTS Grant	$	204,400.00				204,400.00	12/31/2026
FY25 ESTS Administration	$	38,100.00				38,100.00	
FY25 ESTS Local Match	$	24,250.00				24,250.00	
	$	1,301,143.84		Total		**1,418,090.36**	

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

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
ASSETS									1,417,104.12
Current Assets									1,185,471.89
Checking/Savings									1,065,128.62
Checking Account									250,416.74
Check	01/01/2025		Sun Life Insurance			X	Health Insuran...	-136.13	250,280.61
Paycheck	01/02/2025	DD1645	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	250,280.61
Paycheck	01/02/2025	DD1646	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	250,280.61
Paycheck	01/02/2025	DD1647	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	250,280.61
Liability Check	01/02/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-2,729.34	247,551.27
Liability Check	01/02/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-503.00	247,048.27
Liability Check	01/02/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-75.00	246,973.27
Liability Check	01/02/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-400.00	246,573.27
Liability Check	01/02/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	246,543.27
Liability Check	01/02/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,488.04	245,055.23
Transfer	01/03/2025			Funds Transfer		X	CDs	107,420.99	352,476.22
Bill Pmt -Check	01/06/2025	4200	Olsen Farms-Chad ...	Agronomy Te...		X	Accounts Paya...	-1,360.00	351,116.22
Bill Pmt -Check	01/06/2025	4201	Elan Finanical Servi...			X	Accounts Paya...	-1,866.08	349,250.14
Bill Pmt -Check	01/07/2025	4202	Murray SWCD	Rent October-...		X	Accounts Paya...	-639.75	348,610.39
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2025	4203	Lincoln SWCD	Rent January-...		X	Accounts Paya...	-845.28	347,765.11
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2025	4204	Cottonwood SWCD	Admin Octobe...		X	Accounts Paya...	-10,509.96	337,255.15
Liability Check	01/10/2025	4205	MN PEIP			X	Health Insuran...	-2,919.28	334,335.87
Bill Pmt -Check	01/13/2025	4206	Frontier Precision	software main...		X	Accounts Paya...	-5,022.00	329,313.87
Liability Check	01/15/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,326.88	321,986.99
Paycheck	01/16/2025	DD1648	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	321,986.99
Paycheck	01/16/2025	DD1649	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	321,986.99
Paycheck	01/16/2025	DD1650	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	321,986.99
Liability Check	01/16/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-2,729.36	319,257.63
Liability Check	01/16/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-503.00	318,754.63
Liability Check	01/16/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-75.00	318,679.63
Liability Check	01/16/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,488.04	317,191.59
Liability Check	01/16/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-400.00	316,791.59
Liability Check	01/16/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	316,761.59
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2025	4207	Verizon			X	Accounts Paya...	-188.76	316,572.83
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2025	4208	Chandler Co-op			X	Accounts Paya...	-225.74	316,347.09
Bill Pmt -Check	01/17/2025	4209	Green Garden Place...	December 2024		X	Accounts Paya...	-7,276.54	309,070.55
Deposit	01/20/2025			Stock Retirem...		X	Misc. Revenue	1,357.17	310,427.72
Bill Pmt -Check	01/22/2025	4210	Katie M Jacobson, ...			X	Accounts Paya...	-4,405.94	306,021.78
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4211	Cottonwood SWCD	Soil Health Gr...		X	Accounts Paya...	-425.00	305,596.78
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4212	Jackson SWCD-	Soil Health gr...		X	Accounts Paya...	-1,406.25	304,190.53
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4213	Lac qui Parle SWCD-	Soil Health Gr...			Accounts Paya...	-4,762.50	299,428.03
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4214	Lincoln SWCD	Soil Health Gr...			Accounts Paya...	-6,630.00	292,798.03
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4215	Lyon SWCD-	Ag Profession...		X	Accounts Paya...	-1,445.00	291,353.03
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4216	Nobles SWCD-	Farm Mentor ...			Accounts Paya...	-1,200.00	290,153.03
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4217	Rock LMO/SWCD	Farm Mentor/...			Accounts Paya...	-840.00	289,313.03
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2025	4218	Yellow Medicine SW...	Ag Profession...			Accounts Paya...	-1,190.00	288,123.03
Deposit	01/27/2025			Deposit		X	-SPLIT-	10,636.40	298,759.43
Deposit	01/28/2025			Deposit		X	-SPLIT-	14,181.80	312,941.23
Deposit	01/28/2025			Deposit		X	Undeposited F...	3,545.45	316,486.68
Liability Check	01/29/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,908.67	308,578.01

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

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Paycheck	01/30/2025	DD1651	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	308,578.01
Paycheck	01/30/2025	DD1652	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	308,578.01
Paycheck	01/30/2025	DD1653	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	308,578.01
Liability Check	01/30/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.14	305,551.87
Liability Check	01/30/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-561.00	304,990.87
Liability Check	01/30/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	304,890.87
Liability Check	01/30/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	303,259.36
Liability Check	01/30/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	302,784.36
Liability Check	01/30/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	302,754.36
Deposit	01/30/2025		Cottonwood Soil & ...	FY24 Soil He...		X	FY24 Soil Heal...	275,125.00	577,879.36
Deposit	01/31/2025		Minnwest Bank	Interest on ch...		X	Interest on Che...	560.49	578,439.85
Total Checking Account								328,023.11	578,439.85
Savings Interest Account									
Total Savings Interest Account									0.00
									0.00
Select Business Savings									
Total Select Business Savings									0.00
									0.00
Sweep Account									
Deposit	01/31/2025		Minnwest Bank	Interest on S...			Interest on Che...	1,281.05	814,711.88 815,992.93
Total Sweep Account								1,281.05	815,992.93
Total Checking/Savings								329,304.16	1,394,432.78
Accounts Receivable									
Accounts Receivable									2,229.00
									2,229.00
Invoice	01/07/2025	141	Cottonwood Soil & ...				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	5,774.45
Invoice	01/07/2025	142	Jackson SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	9,319.90
Invoice	01/07/2025	143	Lac Qui Parle SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	12,865.35
Invoice	01/07/2025	144	Lyon SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	16,410.80
Invoice	01/07/2025	145	Lincoln SWCD-C				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	19,956.25
Invoice	01/07/2025	146	Murray SWCD Cust...				-SPLIT-	3,545.50	23,501.75
Invoice	01/07/2025	147	Nobles SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	27,047.20
Invoice	01/07/2025	148	Pipestone SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	30,592.65
Invoice	01/07/2025	149	Redwood SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	34,138.10
Invoice	01/07/2025	150	Rock SWCD				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	37,683.55
Invoice	01/07/2025	151	Yellow Medicine SW...				-SPLIT-	3,545.45	41,229.00
Payment	01/13/2025	9345	Murray SWCD Cust...				Undeposited F...	-3,545.50	37,683.50
Payment	01/13/2025	22277	Lincoln SWCD-C				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	34,138.05
Payment	01/16/2025	2402	Pipestone SWCD				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	30,592.60
Payment	01/27/2025	26656	Cottonwood Soil & ...				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	27,047.15
Payment	01/28/2025	88083	Redwood SWCD				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	23,501.70
Payment	01/28/2025	13413	Yellow Medicine SW...				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	19,956.25
Payment	01/28/2025	178246	Lyon SWCD				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	16,410.80
Payment	01/28/2025	108935	Rock SWCD				Undeposited F...	-3,545.45	12,865.35

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

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

DATE: **FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

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

FROM: **KAY GROSS, ADMINSTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

SUBJECT: **COORDINATOR REPORT**

TSA Staff
Personnel reviews were completed and approved in January. We did move our staff on the payscale and also added another level to the payscale. Approved a 3% COLA.

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).

Also working in conjunction with Dawn on a Grow More Training offered by National Wildlife Federation.

State TSA Managers Meeting
Next meeting scheduled for March 6.

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**		
Administration	68 hrs - $4,602.53		Administration	32.25 hrs - $2,414.84	
Mentors	12	Participating	Mentors	11	Participating
	115	Landowner Contacts		86	Landowner Contact
	19	Meeting Attended		25	Meetings Attended
	334.75	Hours		222.25	Hours
	$27,121.25			$17,898.75	
	18,582 acres			23,406 acres	

TSA Manager Meeting
Will work towards having a TSA Manager's meeting in March.
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, March 31, 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 February 27, 2025.

1) Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act update.
I have stopped being the WCA LGU for Watonwan County as of January 1, 2025

2) GBERBA.
At the December Policy meeting on January 24, 2025, new board members were welcomed and board officers elected.
The CRP incentives program has really taken off. 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. We will follow up when the weather improves.

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 next year. Windom is next.
Training landowners to use proper pruning methods is a big push to promote healthy trees.
It looks like it will be a very busy tree season this spring.

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 if we wish.

David Bucklin, Cottonwood SWCD

210 10th St
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: February 19, 2025

Name: Becky Buchholz (Senior Technician)

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

Past Events:

- January 28, 2025 – ArcPro Training, Alexandria
- January 30-31, 2025 – SSTS CE, Mankato, MN
- February 4, 2025 – Legislative Priorities Webinar for SWCDs, virtual
- February 5, 2025 – Talcot Lake Outlet meeting with DNR, SWCD office
- February 13, 2025 – RCPP Soil Health Training, Marshall, MN
- February 18, 2025 – WCA Ag Exemption Listening Session, virtual
- February 18, 2025 – RIM Enhancement Webinar, virtual
- February 25, 2025 – Red Rock LTT – Windom DNR

Upcoming Events:

- February 20, 2025 – Area V meeting, virtual
- March 3, 2025 – Area V MACDE Meeting, Slayton
- March 4-5, 2025 – Legislative Days, St. Paul
- March 10, 2025 – Brome Conversion Training, Marshall
- March 20, 2025 – SSTS Talking Tour - Marshall

Farm Bill Assistance:

- Current RIM programs available: RIM Wellhead, RIM Wetland, RIM Grasslands, RIM 1W1P (only for finished 1W1P areas), RIM Riparian & Floodplain
- Submitted documentation to receive Level 3 Conservation Planner to ARC, still waiting on scheduling a field visit
- 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 are a few incentives 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

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 February 24, 2025

Past Priorities:

- Hwy 14 Tour: Lamberton- February 19th
- University of MN Soil Management Summit: January 29-30th in Mankato.
- ArcPro Training: January 28th in Alexandria.

Current Priorities:

- **Projects:**
  - 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:**
  - Grow More Training: Marshall, MN February 25th and 26th
  - Brome Conversion Training: Marshall, MN – March 10th
  - Step 2 towards Pollinator Steward Certification: Complete Habitat and Outreach Events by Aug 2025.
  - Level 1 Conservation Planner: Webinars to complete this Spring.
  - 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:**
  - Attend Quarterly Tree Commission Meetings for Windom.
  - Environmental Fair Initial Meeting: Marshall, MN – March 11th
  - 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:

- More opportunities for education and outreach. (Presentations, informational fact sheets on conservation practices). Hope to present at Mountain Lake and Windom schools this Spring (March/April).
- Stake priority RIM/CREP easement boundaries Spring 2025.
- Get certification for an outreach effort for my Pollinator Steward Certification.

- **Trainings:**
  - Urban Practices/Small Scale Ag Webinars and Trainings
  - Winter Tree ID
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Cover Crop Field School: August 2025
  - Tree Care Workshop: November 2025

Breanna Wagner
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COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for February 27, 2025

Completed Activities from Previous Month:

- **Trainings/Meetings attended**
  - GBERBA Policy meeting in Mankato
  - Midwest Cover Crops Council Annual Meeting in Mankato
  - U of M Soil Management Summit in Mankato
  - SSTS Continuing Education training in Mankato
  - RCPP grant training meeting in Marshall
  - MN Deer Hunters Banquet
  - Grow More training
- **Tree Program**
  - Tree Projects work – one site visit, working on C-S plans and contracts
- **Soil Health**
  - Helped set up and run the Hwy 14 Meeting at Lamberton
  - GBERBA Soil Health Education Project – we have been talking about if/how to work with the MN Soil Health Coalition on this project
  - Worked on contract for Wyatt Bloch cover crops
- **Other Activities**
  - Worked on Loren Ibeling waterway project paperwork
  - County feedlot review

Priorities for Month Ahead:

- **Trainings/Meetings planned**
  -
- **Tree Program**
  - Keep taking orders, get ready for spring
- **Soil Health**
  - SWCD staff meeting on GBERBA Soil Health Education grant in Mankato
- **Other Activities**
  - Finish up with the County Geologic Survey well locations

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
February 12th, 2025

Workload:

- Working with producers and SWCDs to complete assessments and certifications
- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant – Planning website and shooting videos
- GBERBA Soil Health Advisory Meeting 1/16
- Ag Expo 1/22
- Faribault Soil Health Event 1/23
- I-90 Soil Health Event – Fairmont 2/5

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	**18**	**16**	**10**
Brown SWCD	**20**	**15**	**4**
Faribault SWCD	**44**	**34**	**28**
LeSueur SWCD	**23**	**16**	9
Martin SWCD	**36**	**26**	**19**
McLeod SWCD	**18**	**13**	**7**
Nicollet SWCD	**3**	2	1
Renville SWCD	**34**	**27**	**16**
Sibley SWCD	**5**	**5**	**3**
Waseca SWCD	**20**	**19**	11
Watonwan SWCD	**16**	**13**	**9**
Total	**237**	**186**	**117**

MAWQCP Numbers as of 2-3-25

- 1,583 producers certified
- 1,103,811 acres certified
- 2,968 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 49,477 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 149,811 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 62,236 lbs. of P per year
- 144 Soil Health Endorsements
- 107 IPM Endorsements
- 88 Wildlife Endorsements
- 180 Climate Smart Endorsements
- 15 Irrigation Endorsements

Herman Bartsch:
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GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin

Jan 29, 2024

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:

- 1/8/25 – MOSH Zoom Call Update
- 1/21/25 – Hwy 14 Tour Zoom Update
- 1/21/25 – RCPP Soil Health Leadership Kickoff – Teams
- 1/23/25 – Hwy 14 Lake Benton Site Zoom
- 1/29/25-1/30/25 – Soil Management Summit – Mankato, MN
- 2/4/25 – I90 Soil Health Tour – Heron Lake, MN
- 2/19/25-2/20/25 – Lamberton, and Lake Benton Hwy 14 Tour CLASIC

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 **1,583 farms**, including over **1,103,811 current acres** with **2,968 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), **88** Wildlife, **180** 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**	22	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	29	**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	62	59	37	1	1	1	3
Yellow Med.	38	38	19	1	0	0	0
Totals	**458**	**438**	**247**	15	12	6	**28**

DANIELLE EVERS:
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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

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

February 12th , 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.

Projects:

- Assist Breanna Wagner and Nathan Hader with documenting well locations in ArcGIS Pro.
- Creating outreach opportunities for MAWQCP and landowners.

Upcoming Events:

- First day back in office 2/10
- CCMI Orientation 2/3 – 2/7
- HWY 14 tour 2/19
- Grow More training 2/25 – 2/26

Adriene Matthews
Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember
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Alex Schultz
Planning and Zoning Technician

210 10th Street
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: February 27, 2024
Name: Alex Schultz

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

Past Events:

- **Feb 13- EAW review**
- **Feb 20- MACFO Board meeting**

Upcoming Events:

- **March 13- Planning Commission meeting**
- **March 25 – 27- MACFO Conference**

Planning and Zoning:

- **Planning Commission Meeting- EAW Review- MPM quarry expansion**
- **Board of Adjustments-**
- **Permits**
  - Setback Permits, 0 Issued
  - CUP, 0 Issued
  - Variances, 0 Issued
  - 911 addresses, 0 Issued

Feedlots

None

Cottonwood County Drainage

Dylan Oeltjenbruns-Drainage Inspector

Date: February 25, 2025

Past Events

- FEMA Appeal for Damage Locations
- Approval of funds from HSEM for 2023 Damage
- February 18-Final Hearing for first group of Redetermination of Benefits

Upcoming Events

- JD18CM Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- CD2 Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- Second FEMA Appeal

Summary Report

Once ISG is done with MDM plans, we will move forward with Fish and Wildlife to do a project to help mitigate the flooding of Cottonwood Lake. 18 projects of various sizes with multiple contractors are scheduled to date, with multiple more still being set up.

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

South Central MAWQCP Certification Specialist

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Herman Bartsch
AREA 6 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST
March 11th, 2025

Workload:

- Working with producers and SWCDs to complete assessments and certifications
- GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant – Planning website and shooting videos
- RCPP Training – St. Peter 2/14
- Hwy 14 Soil Health Event – Owatonna 2/18

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MAWQCP Numbers as of 3-3-25

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- 1,110,721 acres certified
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- 107 IPM Endorsements
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- 15 Irrigation Endorsements

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