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

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL
AGENDA – Approval
MINUTES of June 27, 2025 Board Meeting

1. FINANCIAL – Annitra Moody •Financial Report •Accounts Payable •Audits (Cottonwood SWCD & GBERBA)

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS
RCRCA – **Clark Lingbeek**
GBERBA – Clark Lingbeek
1W1P DES MOINES – Kay Gross
1W1P COTTONWOOD/LITTLE COTTONWOOD – Kay Gross
- Coordinator Hired – Courtney Williams from the Lyon SWCD

1W1P BLUE EARTH – Kay Gross
SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE JPO – Tom Muller
- Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers, Financial and Administrative Report

AREA V – Clark Lingbeek – Next Mtg – Thursday, September 18
MASWCD – Clark Lingbeek
NRCS – Karen Boysen, Acting CST Lea
FSA – Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director
COMMISSIONER REPORT – Tom Appel
- County Update

3. ADMINISTRATIVE – Kay Gross

- **BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177)**

Nick Muller	25-DMRW-COT-009	Dale 23	SSTS Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00
Tom Hartberg	25-DMRW-COT-010	Great Bend 34	Cover Crops 179.25 ac	Incentive $24,198.75

- **BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341)**

Kyle Asp	25-CWMM-COT-001	Storden 16	SSTS Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00
Lyle Gertner	25-CMMM-COT-002	Storden 2	WASCOB	Cost $105,600.00 C-S $48,786.00
Hunter Pankonin (MN Supreme Feeders)	25-CMMM-COT-003	Highwater 11	Cover Crops 211.76 ac	Incentive $38,116.80

BWSR – C-S Contract Final Payment - SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement – FY2024 Conservation Contracts - (P24-0236)

Rod Junker	24-05	Midway 6	Windbreak-Shelterbelt	Cost $3,482.33 C-S $3,500.00

- **BWSR – Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement – FY2025 Conservation Contracts - (P25-0107)**

Mikkala Hup	25-03	Selma 8	Windbreak-Shelterbelt	Cost $3,691.71 C-S $3,500.00

- **BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177)**

Michael Fisher	25-DMRW-COT-007	Lakeside 30	Septic System	Incentive $5,000.00

- **GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Cancellation - 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

- **FY2025 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P25-0197) Well Sealing Contract and Payment**

Abe Crowell	2025-03	Great Bend 17	Well Decommissioning	Cost $1,800.00 C-S $525.00

- **State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services Work Order Contract**
  July 25, 2025 – January 31, 2029 – Easement 17-01-25-09 - $2,500.00

-OVER-

- **Talcot Lake Project** – Awaiting on word from DNR if staff/Commissioner needed to testify

- **String Lake Project** – Becky and Dylan are working on Easement – both the legal side and on the ground
  Permitting will be started in the coming months – Drainage Authority
  Will work with Ray Elston on Snowmobile Club and Game and Fish donations

- **Professional Services Agreement**

Field to Flyway Engineering LLC and Cottonwood SWCD - $30,000 May 2025 – December 31, 2026
90% engineering plans, draft and submit CPL Grant and work with various permitting agencies
We will request reimbursement from County Commissioners

- **Agricultural Professional Agreement** – Dale McMullen – August 1, 2025 – August 1, 2026 – 200 hrs $85/$90hr

- **Cottonwood County Lease Agreement – 2026** – January 1 – December 31, 2026 - $2,211.62/month $26,539.44/year

- **Training** – Public Sector 2.0 – August 27 – St. Cloud – 2 nights
  Registration - $75/person plus lodging and meals – 3 Staff

- **Meetings**

August	6-9	Cottonwood County Fair - Windom	Staff
August	7	Area II/RCRCA – Redwood Falls	Clark
August	11	Plant ID Training – Montevideo	Breanna
August	15	GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual/Office	Clark, Staff
August	19	Field School – Field Day – North 71	Supervisors, Staff
August	20	GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office	Staff
August	21	Des Moines Executive Board – Virtual/Office	Tom, Staff
August	26	NRCS/SWCD Monthly Check-In – WebEx	Staff
August	26-27	Public Sector 2.0 Training – St Cloud	Kay, Becky, Annitra
August	28	Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office	Supervisors, Staff, Tom A

4. **SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Becky Buchholz**
5. **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Breanna Wagner**
6. **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Nathan Harder**
7. **MAWQCP SPECIALIST – Herman Bartsch**
8. **MAWQCP SPECIALIST – Danielle Evers**
9. **MN CONSERVATION CORP – Adriene Matthews**
10. **PLANNING & ZONING TECH – Alex Schultz**
11. **COTTONWOOD COUNTY DRAINAGE INSPECTOR – Dylan Oeltjenbruns**

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, August 28 at 8:30 a.m. – Cottonwood SWCD Office

JULY TRANSACTIONS

District Checking Account Balances 6-27-2025 (Bank Midwest)	**$663,926.34**
Correction on Voucher, Check Register - **NOT** Check #26782	**$4.92**

RECEIPTS: (since last board meeting)

Interest June - 2025 Bank Midwest (Checking Account $87.32 and Sweep Account $791.24)	$878.56
Tree and Tube Sales/Pruning/Deposits	$7,288.78
BWSR - Reimbursement Title Comm, Recording Documents 17-03-24-03	$3,031.25
BWSR - Reimbursement Title Comm, Recording Documents 17-01-24-01	$1,331.75
Des Moines River Watershed - June	$831.59
GBERBA - Coordinator - June Contract	$9,011.30
GBERBA - MAWQCP Area 6 - June	$4,728.60
GBERBA - MAWQCP - Local Funds	$6,000.00
GBERBA- Reimbursement for Quickbooks Subscription	$999.00
Kay Gross - Reimbursement	$44.75
Southwest Prairie TSA - Administrative Contract - June	$2,967.12
Southwest Prairie TSA - Reimbursement for Lawyer Fees	$621.00
State of MN - 1st 1/2 State Aid	$64,368.41
State of MN - Well Observation	$2,400.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$104,502.11**

DISBURSEMENTS: (since last board meeting)

Direct Deposit	Payroll 06-15-25 to 06-28-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$19,710.02
Direct Deposit	Payroll 06-29-25 to 07-12-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$16,903.90
26816-26820	Supervisors' Compensation - 2nd Qtr 2025	$4,806.89
EFT062725	PERA-DCP & Bank Midwest	$929.02
1739	Jack Slades	$220.00
1740	Bergen Bar & Grill	$443.25
26821	David Bucklin-33 hours of Annual Leave	$1,334.86
26822	The Hartford - LTD July 2025	$167.68
26823	MASWCD - District Mgr Training ($4200), Stewardship Summit (3 @ $275 each)	$5,025.00
26824	Schwalbach Hardware - Supplies	$240.68
26825	Higley Ford-changed oil 2011 Ford	$77.97
26826	Runnings-Misc Office Supplies	$83.41
26827	Staples Enterprises-June	$764.51
26828	Sun Life Financial - STD July 2025	$7.40
EFT071825	MN Dept of Revenue - Sales & Use Tax 2nd Qtr Qtr 2025	$3,443.00
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**$54,157.59**
	BALANCE BEFORE BOARD MEETING	**$714,275.78**

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
7/24/2025
(to be approved at this board meeting)

Payable		Amount
26829	Cottonwood County Auditor- Insurance - August 2025	$3,112.44
26830	Citizen - Site Hosts (3) Digital ad ($40), String Lake ($111), Dave (3 papers) $222, R Hedrick ($579.60)	$997.60
26831	Cottonwood County Auditor- County Rent - August 2025, Postage, Plat Books	$2,378.88
26832	Cottonwood County Recorder - Judy K Holt Conservation Easement #17-03-24-09	$46.00
26833	Crystal Clean Car Wash - June Washes	$26.00
26834	Elan Financial Services (formally Cardmember Services) - Office Supplies, Postage, Subscription Renewal	$1,441.54
26835	Gordon Flesch-Copier	$214.00
26836	Hy-Vee-Misc Office Supplies	$347.11
26837	Jack Slades	$432.00
26838	KDOM	$224.00
26839	Mike Larson-Tent and table rental-R Hendrick	$1,110.00
26840	Lyon SWCD-Enviromental Fair	$2,000.00
26841	Dale McMullen-Mentor	$935.00
26842	Murray SWCD - SWPTSA Admin Assistance	$2,272.32
26843	NCPERS - Group Life Insurance - August 2025	$96.00
26844	Schramel Law Office - Easement 17-02-24-09 Mary Lou Walinga	$1,580.00
26845	Ramont Schrock-Mentor	$225.00
26846	Verizon - JetPack - 1 Month	$54.61
26847	Herman Bartsch - Mileage & Cell	$420.30
26848	Kay Gross - Mileage, Cell, & Memorial Gift	$374.40
26849	Rebecca Buchholz-Cell	$40.00
26850	Higley Ford-Expedition -6 spark plugs	$484.30
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	**$18,811.50**
	District Checking Account Balance	**$695,464.28**

Balances as of 7-24-2025

PETTY CASH (Included in District Fund Balance)	**$50.00**
6 Month CD - Bank Midwest - Interest - 2025 ($1,182.64 - Included in Total)	**$55,706.41**
Savings Account - Bank Midwest - Interest - 2nd Quarter ($527.96 - Included in Total)	**$56,999.10**
Account Balances: Checking (2)/Savings/Petty Cash/CD:	**$808,219.79**

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

Use of Cash	Beginning Balance 6/1/2025	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance 6/30/2025	EXPIRES
Checking Account	$ 395,729.47	573.95	$ 41,303.34	355,000.08	
Select Business Svg	$ -			-	
Interest Money	$ -			-	
Compensated Absences	$ -			-	
Sweep Account	$ 820,970.86	1,249.23		822,220.09	
CD	$ -			-	
Total	**$ 1,216,700.33**	**1,823.18**	**$ 41,303.34**	**1,177,220.17**	
Program Summary					
JPO Fund Balance	$ 106,037.95	1,823.18		107,861.13	
Technical Services	$ 376,881.83			376,881.83	
GRANTS	$ 647,672.38		$ 41,303.34	606,369.04	
Training	$ 12,108.17			12,108.17	
Education/Outreach	$ 20,000.00			20,000.00	
Compensated Absences	$ 54,000.00			54,000.00	
NACD Grant	$ -			-	
	$ 1,216,700.33	**1,823.18**	**$ 41,303.34**	**1,177,220.17**	
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	$ -			-	12/31/2025
FY23 Local Match				-	
FY23 ESTS Administration	$ 10,938.76		$ 2,272.32	8,666.44	
FY23 NPEA Grant	$ -			-	12/31/2025
FY23 NPEA Local Fund	$ -			-	
FY23 Administration	$ -			-	
FY24 ESTS	$ 205,987.89		$ 15,606.93	190,380.96	12/31/2025
FY24 Local Match	$ 16,210.47		$ 16,210.47	-	
FY24 Administration	$ 36,512.11			36,512.11	
FY24 NPEA	$ 187,525.13		$ 84,076.86	103,448.27	12/31/2025
FY24 Local Match	$ -			-	
FY24 Administration	$ 15,000.00			15,000.00	
FY24 NPEA Supplies/Equip	$ 5,774.80			5,774.80	
FY24 Soil Health Staffing Grant	$ 469,820.79			469,820.79	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	
	$ 1,214,519.95		Total	1,096,353.37	

Southwest Prairie Technical Service
Balance Sheet Detail
As of June 30, 2025

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
ASSETS									1,461,254.84
Current Assets									1,229,622.61
Checking/Savings									1,216,700.33
Checking Account									395,729.47
Liability Check	06/04/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,912.66	387,816.81
Bill Pmt -Check	06/04/2025	4260	Gary's Service			X	Accounts Paya...	-300.32	387,516.49
Paycheck	06/05/2025	DD1678	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	387,516.49
Paycheck	06/05/2025	DD1679	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	387,516.49
Paycheck	06/05/2025	DD1680	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	387,516.49
Liability Check	06/05/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.18	384,490.31
Liability Check	06/05/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-557.00	383,933.31
Liability Check	06/05/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	383,833.31
Liability Check	06/05/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	382,201.80
Liability Check	06/05/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	381,726.80
Liability Check	06/05/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	381,696.80
Liability Check	06/10/2025	4261	MN PEIP			X	-SPLIT-	-2,919.28	378,777.52
Bill Pmt -Check	06/10/2025	4262	Elan Finanical Servi...	software, gas,...		X	Accounts Paya...	-6,375.29	372,402.23
Bill Pmt -Check	06/10/2025	4263	Chandler Co-op			X	Accounts Paya...	-276.91	372,125.32
Bill Pmt -Check	06/11/2025	4264	Cottonwood SWCD	admin-May 20...		X	Accounts Paya...	-3,774.04	368,351.28
Liability Check	06/18/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,912.66	360,438.62
Paycheck	06/19/2025	DD1681	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	360,438.62
Paycheck	06/19/2025	DD1682	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	360,438.62
Paycheck	06/19/2025	DD1683	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	360,438.62
Liability Check	06/19/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.16	357,412.46
Liability Check	06/19/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-557.00	356,855.46
Liability Check	06/19/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	356,755.46
Liability Check	06/19/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	355,123.95
Liability Check	06/19/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	354,648.95
Liability Check	06/19/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	354,618.95
Bill Pmt -Check	06/23/2025	4265	Verizon			X	Accounts Paya...	-192.82	354,426.13
Deposit	06/30/2025			Deposit		X	Interest on Che...	573.95	355,000.08
Total Checking Account								-40,729.39	355,000.08
Savings Interest Account									0.00
Total Savings Interest Account									0.00
Select Business Savings									0.00
Total Select Business Savings									0.00
Sweep Account									820,970.86
Deposit	06/30/2025			Deposit			Interest on Che...	1,249.23	822,220.09
Total Sweep Account								1,249.23	822,220.09
Total Checking/Savings								-39,480.16	1,177,220.17

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

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

DATE: **JULY 24, 2025**

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

FROM: **KAY GROSS, ADMINSTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

SUBJECT: **COORDINATOR REPORT**

Soil Health/Training Contract Position
Dawn is back and has been working hard with Area Soil Health Events!!! Great turnout in Cottonwood County – 70 participants for the Russell Hendrick event.
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. And also assisting with area trainings, soil health events, and working with the Soil Health Staffing quarterly meetings and reporting.

Next big event for Cottonwood County and surrounding area is the 'Field School' Event being held on Tuesday, August 19 at the Mike Wojahn Farm north of Windom on Hwy 71.

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). And the application process should open in August to apply for equipment funding through the Department of Agriculture.

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 – Sept 2024		**Oct – Dec 2024**		**Jan – March 2025**		**April – June 2025**	
68 hrs	Administration	32.25 hrs	Administration	51.75 hrs	Administration	58 hrs	Administration
	$4,602.53	$2,414.84		$4,257.49		$4,622.88	
12	Mentors	11	Mentors	13	Mentors	17	Mentors
115	Contacts	86	Contacts	38	Contacts	119	Contacts
19	Meetings	25	Meetings	32	Meetings	22	Meetings
334.75	Hours	222.25	Hours	252.25	Hours	331.8	Hours
$27,121.25		$17,898.75		$20,376.25		$27,250.50	
18,582 acres		23,406 acres		28,184 acres		55,064.50 acres	

Total Expended - $108,5443.48 Total Acres - 125,236.5 ($0.58/acre)

The Cottonwood SWCD will also be hiring a SWPTSA – Soil Health Team Lead, starting in early October.

TSA Manager Meeting
Will work towards having a TSA Manager's meeting in July.
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, Septmeber 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN.

210 10th St
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: July 16, 2025

Name: Becky Buchholz (Senior Technician)

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

Past Events:

- June 18, 2025 – Cottonwood 1W1P Tech and Policy meeting, Springfield, MN
- June 25, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, virtual
- June 26, 2025 – Area V meeting, Windom, MN
- June 27, 2025 – Cottonwood SWCD board meeting, Windom, MN
- July 9, 2025 – Des Moines Tech, Windom, MN

Upcoming Events:

- July 17, 2025 – Des Moines Joint Powers Board meeting, Windom, MN
- July 16, 2025 – RIM Drinking Water Program, webinar
- July 24, 2025 – Cottonwood SWCD Board meeting, Windom, MN
- July 31, 2025 – Watonwan Rest Area Teams, online
- August 15, 2025 – GBERBA Exec, online/Mankato, MN
- August 20, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, online
- August 21, 2025 – Des Moines Exec, Windom, MN
- August 27, 2025 – HR 2.0 for Public Sector Training, St. Cloud, 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
    - RIM Grasslands did not receive additional funding starting July 1, 2026.
    - RIM 1W1P will only have one batching period July 25, 2025 and may be the only batching period until July 2026.
- 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 my Level 2 Conservation Planner status.
- One CREP batching period was open until June 6th with the CCRP sign up. BWSR is unsure if there will be another CREP batching period, there was a high volume of applications that came in and minimal State appropriations set for July 1. A second CCRP sign up was announced through July 18th, and BWSR did open up CREP with very limited scope with the same deadline, such as wetland restorations must only have peatland criteria, among other things.
    - 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.
- I am working on 2027 CRP status reviews and going to be completing the CRP plans for those reenrolling and enrolling in 2025. We do have a contribution agreement with MASWCD for reimbursement for 2025 plans and status reviews.

SSTS:

- Continuing to send out letters as septic disclosure forms come in and as property transfers occur. I continue to forward any non-compliance with the property transfer clause in the ordinance to the county attorney.
- 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 Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota has a $5,000 incentive for IPHT and FTPGW (shoreland and DWSMA only) for SSTS replacements that use other financial assistance
- 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 is now an online based application process.

WCA

- I will be working closely with Devin Ryan (BWSR) as I administer WCA and learn how the program is run.
- I have issued the following so far in 2025
    - Drainage exemptions: 1
    - Ag exemptions: 2
    - De minimis: 1
    - Conservation exemption: soon to be 1

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for July 18, 2025

Past Priorities:

- July 1st: Grass with a Purpose – Austin, MN
- July 10th: Native Plant ID – Ordway Prairie
- Russell Hedrick Day (currently planning and on Cottonwood/outreach committee): July 16th, 2025
- Host Windbreak Training: July 17th, 2025

Current Priorities:

- **Projects:**
  - RIM and State CS Spot-checks this Summer!
  - Potential cost-share project site visits for landowners in the Des Moines & Cottonwood River Watersheds
  - Cost-share projects for Windbreak/Shelterbelts throughout Cottonwood County.
  - Work on flyers and posters for outreach as needed.
  - Keep up with Social Media accounts for Cottonwood SWCD (Facebook & Instagram)
  - Step 2 towards Pollinator Steward Certification: Complete Habitat and Outreach Events by Aug 2025.
- **Trainings:**
  - Level 1 Conservation Planner Webinars.
  - JAA for Vegetative BMPs such as Conservation Cover and Critical Area Planting.
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Attend Quarterly Tree Commission Meetings for Windom.
  - Tree Site Visits with landowners throughout Cottonwood County.

Future Priorities:

- **Outreach & Education:**
  - Cottonwood County Fair: August 6th-9th
  - Elementary Field Days Pollinator Jeopardy: September
  - Environmental Fair Glaciers Presentation: September 23rd-24th (monthly meetings)
  - Outreach to Windom/Mt Lake Schools when school starts in Fall
- **Trainings:**
  - August 11th: Native Plant ID Training in Montevideo, MN
  - Urban Practices/Small Scale Ag Webinars and Trainings
  - Winter Tree ID
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Cover Crop Field School: August 19th, 2025 (currently planning)
  - Tree Care Workshop: November 2025

Breanna Wagner
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COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for July 23, 2025

Completed Activities from Previous Month:

- **Trainings/Meetings attended**
  - Area 5 Supervisors meeting – Amo Creamery tour
  - Helped in hosting Russell Hedrick field day
  - Hosted a Windbreak Training in Cottonwood County with Gary Wyatt and Caleb Langworthy
  - MOSH quarterly call
  - Attended GBERBA Policy/Tech meeting and gave update about Soil Health grant activity
- **Tree Program**
  - Working with DNR forestry to finish up details of the ReLeaf grant for Mt Lake
  - Conducted 7 site visits to look at tree projects
- **Soil Health**
  - Hand weeding at Cover Crops test plot
  - Worked with Dale McMullen to update his soil health mentor contract.
  - Worked with Matt Lund to check if interested in soil health mentor program.
  - Working on getting 3 Soil Health field signs installed.
- **Other Activities**
  - Worked on getting white truck scheduled for tire and brake change
  - Dave Bucklin retirement party
  - Worked on updating mailing/call list
  - Starting to work on feedlot inspections

Priorities for Month Ahead:

- **Trainings/Meetings planned**
  - Cottonwood County Fair – presentations
  - Plant ID training at Montevideo – Aug 11
  - Nutrient Management Day at Brandon Fast Farm – Aug 12
  - Cover Crop Field School – Aug 19
- **Tree Program**
  - Continue with site visits and update our order sheets for 2026
- **Soil Health**
  - Finish installing soil health field signs
  -

- **Other Activities**
    -

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
July 7th, 2025

Workload:

- GBERBA soil health interviews, video descriptions, and farmer profile creation
- Faribault County Assessments and Certifications
- No-till and cover crop plans and grants
- MAWQCP Reviews
- MAWQCP Facilitated Training

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	**18**	**16**	**10**
Brown SWCD	**20**	**15**	**6**
Faribault SWCD	**44**	**37**	**30**
LeSueur SWCD	**23**	**16**	9
Martin SWCD	**37**	**27**	**21**
McLeod SWCD	**18**	**13**	**7**
Nicollet SWCD	**3**	2	1
Renville SWCD	**34**	**29**	**18**
Sibley SWCD	**5**	**5**	**3**
Waseca SWCD	**20**	**19**	12
Watonwan SWCD	**16**	**13**	**9**
Total	**238**	**192**	**126**

MAWQCP Numbers as of 6-23-25

- 1,653 producers certified
- 1,128,078 acres certified
- 7,760 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 56,321 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 167,066 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 72,001 lbs. of P per year
- 149 Soil Health Endorsements
- 109 IPM Endorsements
- 91 Wildlife Endorsements
- 202 Climate Smart Endorsements
- 15 Irrigation Endorsements

Herman Bartsch:
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GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin

June 30, 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
- Working on reviews for 2025, currently **23/27** completed, I am training Adriene to assist as well
- Working on co-organizing 3 field days for MAWQCP and soil health promotion in Area 5
- First two recertification assessments scheduled
- Working on getting Certified Planner Status

Events/Dates:

- 6/12/25 – Hwy 14 Speaker Brainstorm - Zoom
- 6/16/25- Russell Hedrick Meeting - Marshall
- 6/17/25 - MAWQCP Facilitated Training – Mankato
- 6/26/26 – Area V Meeting – Windom, MN
- 7/16-18/26 – Russell Hedrick Field Days co-sponsored by MAWQCP – Comfrey, Jasper, Dawson

Program Updates and Information:

- New FY Grant applications open on July 1st! **$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers, flat-rate incentive payments available for cover crops, reduced till, & winter out feeding
- MAWQCP has certified over **1,653 farms**, including over **1,128,078 current acres** with **7,760 new practices, 1,614 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include**: 56,321 tons** of TSS reduced per year, **167,066 tons** soil reduced per year, **72,001 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year
- Endorsements: **149** Soil Health, **109** Integrated Pest Management (IPM), **91** Wildlife, **202** 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	**56**	**55**	25	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	**20**	1	2	0	2
Murray	30	29	20	2	0	1	4
Nobles	21	21	**15**	0	1	0	3
Pipestone	70	67	37	3	1	0	1
Redwood	56	46	27	3	3	0	3
Rock	66	**63**	37	1	1	1	3
Yellow Med.	38	38	19	1	0	0	0
Totals	**471**	**449**	**253**	16	13	6	29

DANIELLE EVERS:
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Prepping for a field day event with a MAWQCP certified producer

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

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

June 8th , 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.
- 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 (Dave)

Upcoming Events:

- Informational Interview with MN Land Trust Staff 7/15
- GBERBA Meeting 7/11
- Conservation Planner Training 7/21 – 8/8

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

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COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: July 24, 2025
Name: Alex Schultz

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

Past Events:

- **June 21 – 23- MACAI short course**

Upcoming Events:

- **Aug 6 – 8- County Fair**

Planning and Zoning:

- **Planning Commission Meeting- The Sioux Rock Quarry was denied the Stay and may expand while the appeal process for their IUP is in the Court of Appeals. There have been four official appeals so far. There may be more to come**
- **Board of Adjustments- none**
- **Permits**
  - Setback Permits, 5 Issued
  - CUP, 0 Issued
  - Variances, 0 Issued
  - 911 addresses, 0 Issued

Feedlots

Feedlot inspections are in the process for Tony Dick, Steve Dick, Gary Remmers, Thibodeau, John Schwartz, Leonard Penner, and Larry Stuckenbroker

Cottonwood County Drainage

Dylan Oeltjenbruns-Drainage Inspector

Date: July 24, 2025

Past Events

- •July 9th- Landowner Meeting Second Group Redeterminations
- July 22nd-Joint ROB Meeting with Murray County
- July 23rd- Televised Branch H JD28

Upcoming Events

- JD18CM Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- Final Hearing for 2nd group of ROB's- August 20

Summary Report

Projects still in full swing.