COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
April 24, 2025

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on April 24, 2025 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Daryl Tasler at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present in Office or Media (WebEx):	Chairman, Daryl Tasler (Office) Vice Chairman, Tom Muller (Office) Secretary, Jeremy Nerem (Office) Treasurer, Cody Duroe (Office) PR&I, Clark Lingbeek (Office)
Absent:	
Others Present:	District Administrator, Kay Gross District Technician, Dave Bucklin District Senior Technician, Becky Buchholz District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody County Commissioner, Tom Appel DNR Hydrologist, Tom Kreske DNR Shallow Lakes Specialist, Maggie Gross Field to Flyway Engineering, Aaron Weinandt Landowner, Ray and Pat Elston

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Agenda: Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the March 21, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Financial Report: Motion by Muller, second by Duroe to approve the April Financial Report as presented and submit for audit.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Accounts Payable: Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve and pay April accounts payable totaling $81,852.50.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Geologic Atlas Project Update – Nathan Harder

RCRCA: Lingbeek
GBERBA: Lingbeek, Bucklin and Gross
1W1P Des Moines: Muller, Tasler and Gross
1W1P Cottonwood/Little Cottonwood: Lingbeek, Gross
1W1P Blue Earth: Gross

Southwest Prairie TSA: Muller and Gross
Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers and Financial Report
Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the Southwest Prairie April Administrative Report and March Financials and April vouchers.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Computer and Software Upgrade - $4,808.00
Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve a computer upgrade for Southwest Prairie TSA Engineering Technician totaling $4,808.00.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Area V MASWCD: Lingbeek, Gross
Next Meeting – Thursday, June 26 (Cottonwood Co) Amo Creamery

9:30 a.m. Talcot Lake Project – Maggie Gross, DNR Shallow Lakes Specialist – Discussion
DNR will be the lead for the project in presenting the proposal to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage - $8 million dollar project which is 'not scalable'. The application is due on May 23. Pass through agreement between the County and/or SWCD.

Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the committee of Tasler, Nerem and staff to decide the SWCD position on entering a grant contract agreement with the MN DNR as a pass-through agent for the Talcot Lake Project.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

10:00 a.m. String Lake Project
Permitting for String Lake Project – waiving fee for work completed by Ray Elston for spring passage. Rock-riffle structure project would cost $500,000 with 10% local match. This project would qualify for a grant proposal for the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. Going to the Commissioner Meeting on May 6th to discuss proposal.

MASWCD: Lingbeek, Gross
NRCS – Non-Supervisory District Conservationist: Kiara Tomassini, Loren Clarke – Not in Attendance
Cottonwood County Commissioner: Commissioner Tom Appel

ADMINITRATOR REPORT: 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

Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve the local cost-share contracts – County Capacity 2023 for Haugen (SWCD-24-07) Windbreak/Shelterbelt $2,500.00.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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 Septic Incentive Incentive $5,000.00

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contract - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092) for Peschges (WBIF-WW-24-17-19) Septic Incentive ($5,000.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Managers Professional Development Co-Hort - Update

Request to Exceed Vacation Hours and/or Payout on Vacation and Comp Time Hours
Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the payout of 200 annual leave hours for the District Administrator. This will bring the annual leave hours down to 86.5 hours and compensatory time at 154.25 hours.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Training - Native Plant Community and Plant Identification 2025
Motion by Nerem, second by Muller to approve the Native Plan Community and Plant Identification training for SWCD staff.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

April/May Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
May 2 - Area II/RCRCA – Marshall; May 15 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Windom; May 22 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; May 30. - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual.

SWCD Employee Meetings
April 24-25 - Tree Pick-up – Office/DNR Site; May 15 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Windom; May 20 – MACDE Meeting – Virtual; May 22 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; May 28 – GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office; May 30. - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual.

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of April/May.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek – Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by the Chairman Daryl Tasler at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on <u>Thursday, May 22 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

_____ _____
District Supervisor **District Administrator**