COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
February 27, 2025

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on February 27, 2025 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Daryl Tasler at 8:33 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:	None
Others Present:	District Administrator, Kay Gross District Technician, Dave Bucklin District Technician/Farm Bill, Becky Buchholz District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody County Commissioner, Tom Appel

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Agenda: Motion by Lingbeek, 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 Lingbeek, second by Muller to approve the January 23, 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 February 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 Duroe to approve and pay January accounts payable totaling $27,326.77.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Bank Midwest – Signature Cards (Please sign)

Quickbook Contract Hours

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve contracting with Jerry Bauer for Quickbook accounting assistance at $45/hr up to 100 hours. This will be on ongoing arrangement with the Board being updated monthly as to progress.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Daryl Tasler left and Tom Muller took over meeting – 9:01 a.m.

RCRCA: Lingbeek

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the Redwood-Cottonwood River Control Area – Joint Power Agreement update and to authorize Clark Lingbeek to sign on behalf of the Cottonwood SWCD.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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 Lingbeek to approve the Southwest Prairie February Administrative Report and January Financials and February vouchers.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Daryl Tasler arrived back 9:32 a.m.

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

MASWCD: Lingbeek, Buchholz **– Legislative Day at Capital**
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

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

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve the local cost-share contracts – County Capacity 2023 for Schoper (SWCD-24-05) Windbreak/Shelterbelt $1,676.80 and Davis (SWCD-24-06) Farmstead Windbreak $2,500.00.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract - 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) for Bloch (23-01) totaling $10,800.00 (FY23 - $7,952.15; FY24 - $660.14; FY25 $1,160.28 and District Riparian State Aid - $1,027.43).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Motion by Nerem, second by Muller to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract – WBIF – FY23-25 Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C23-0008) for Kretsch Family Ltd Ptsp (23-SMRW-COT-032) Terrace ($20,175.09).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Motion by Muller, second by Duroe to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177) for Bloch (25-SMRW-COT-004) Cover Crops ($4,050.00).
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)

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

Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contract - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092) for Ibeling (WBIF-WW-24-17-13) Grass Waterway ($14,930.25); Klassen (WBIF-WW-24-17-14) SSTS Incentive ($5,000.00) and Haberman (WBIF-WW-24-17-15) Grass Waterway ($5,464.65).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the 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) for Dammann (22-05) WASCOBS ($10,025.50).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

MAWQCP – GBERBA Contract and Payment Authorization

Jacob Tippin MAWQCP 17-5-41 Worksheet Completed Incentive $100.00

Motion by Nerem, second by Duroe to approve MAWQCP – GBERBA Contract and Payment Authorization for Jacob Tippin MAWQCP 17-5-41 ($100.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Soil Health Practices Grant – Discussion - Tabled
Potential Talcot Lake Project

Tom Muller left at 10:30 a.m.

Board Meeting Date Change

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the changing of the March 2025 Board Meeting date to Friday, March 21, 2025 starting at 8:30 a.m.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Training
Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve three staff to attend the Public Sector Human Resource Training in St. Cloud – April 8-10 – with Registration ($150/person) and including Lodging & Meals.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

March Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
March 4-5 - MASWCD Legislative Briefing – St Paul; March 6 - Area II/RCRCA – Marshall; March 14 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; March 20 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; March 21 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office.

SWCD Employee Meetings
March 3 - Area Manager/Employee Meeting – Slayton; March4-5 - MASWCD Legislative Briefing – St Paul;
March 5 - Soil Health Staff Meeting – Mankato; March 5-6 - Drainage Conference – Willmar; March 6 - TSA State Managers Meeting – Virtual; March 10-11 - Brome Training – Marshall; March 11 - Environmental Fair Meeting – Marshall; March 12 - Des Moines Technical Meeting – Virtual/Office; March 14 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; March 20 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; March 20 - SSTS Talking Tour – Marshall; March 21 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; March 25-27 - MCFO Annual Feedlot Conference – Detroit Lakes; March 26 - GBERBA Technical Committee – Virtual/Windom; March 27-28 - State Managers Meeting – St. Cloud.

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

10:57 a.m.
Going into Closed Session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 subd, 3(b) based upon the attorney client privilege.

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to close the meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statue 13D.05 subdivision 3(b) based upon the attorney client privilege to discuss the threat of legal action by a former employee and what action the Board would like to take in response.

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to reopen SWCD Board Meeting.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – 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>Friday, March 21 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**