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

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on July 24, 2025 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tom Muller at 8:31 a.m.

Members Present in Office or Media (WebEx):	Chairman, Daryl Tasler (Online) 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 Senior Technician, Becky Buchholz District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody County Commissioner, Tom Appel Guest, Jesse Terry

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 Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the June 27, 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 Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the July Financial Report as presented and submit for audit.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y
Abstained: Lingbeek
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Accounts Payable: Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve and pay July accounts payable totaling $18,811.50.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y
Abstained: Lingbeek
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Audits – Cottonwood SWCD and GBERBA

RCRCA: Lingbeek
GBERBA: Lingbeek 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 July Administrative Report and June Financials and July vouchers.
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, September 18
MASWCD: Lingbeek, Gross
NRCS: Karen Boysen, Acting CST – Cottonwood – Jackson – Martin – Watonwan – Not in Attendance
FSA: Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director – Not in Attendance
Cottonwood County Commissioner: Commissioner Tom Appel

ADMINITRATOR REPORT: 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	Septic System	Incentive $5,000.00
Tom Hartberg	25-DMRW-COT-010	Great Bend 34	Cover Crops 179.25 ac	Incentive $24,198.75

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve BWSR Cost-Share Contract - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177) for Muller (25-DMRW-COT-009) Septic System ($5,000.00) and Hartberg (25-DMRW-COT-010) Cover Crops ($24,198.75).
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 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341)

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

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve BWSR Cost-Share Contract - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341) for Asp (25-CWMM-COT-001) Septic System ($5,000.00) and Gertner (25-CWMM-COT-002) WASCOB ($48,786.00) and Pankonin (25-CMMW-COT-003) Cover Crops ($38,116.80).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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 $5,000.00 C-S $3,482.33

Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve BWSR – C-S Contract final payment - SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement – FY2024 Conservation Contracts - (P24-0236) for Junker (24-05) Windbreak-Shelterbelt ($3,482.33).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Motion by Duroe second by Lingbeek to approve BWSR – Cost-Share Contract final payment - SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement – FY2025 Conservation Contracts - (P25-0107) for Hup (25-03) Windbreak-Shelterbelt ($3,500.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177) for Fisher (25-DMRW-COT-007) Septic System ($5,000.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

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

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

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve FY2025 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P25-0197) Well Sealing Contract and Payment for Crowell (2025-03) Well Decommissioning ($525.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services Work Order Contract
Motion by Nerem, second by Duroe to approve the State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services Work Order Contract starting July 25, 2025 – January 31, 2029 for Easement 17-01-25-09 not to exceed $2,500.00.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

String Lake Project - Update
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
Moton by Duroe, second Nerem by to approve the Professional Service Agreement between Field to Flyway Engineering LLC and Cottonwood SWCD for $30,000 with a start date of May 2025 ending December 31, 2026.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Agricultural Professional Agreement
Motion by Nerem, second by Muller to approve the Agricultural Professional Agreement between Dale McMullen and the Cottonwood SWCD starting August 1, 2025 – August 1, 2026 with payment rates 2025 - $85/hr and 2026 - $90/hr up to 200 hours.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Cottonwood County Lease Agreement – 2026 – January 1 – December 31, 2026 - $2,211.62/month $26,539.44/year
Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the 2026 Lease Agreement with Cottonwood County with a rental agreement of $2,211.62 per month.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Training – (Approved Already) Stewardship Summit – SWCD Governance & Leadership Essentials
Sept 10 & 11 – St. Cloud Registration - $275/person plus lodging and meals – ? Supervisors
Public Sector 2.0 – August 27 – St. Cloud – 2 nights
Registration - $75/person plus lodging and meals – 3 Staff

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the Public Sector 2.0 for SWCD staff including registration, lodging and meals.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

July/August Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
August 7 - Area II/RCRCA – Redwood Falls; August 15 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; August 19 - Field School – Field Day – North 71; August 21 - Des Moines Executive Board – Virtual/Office; August 28 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office.

SWCD Employee Meetings
August 6-9 - Cottonwood County Fair – Windom; August 11 - Plant ID Training – Montevideo; August 15 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; August 19 - Field School – Field Day – North 71; August 20 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office; August 21 - Des Moines Executive Board – Virtual/Office; August 26 - NRCS/SWCD Monthly Check-In – WebEx; August 26-27 - Public Sector 2.0 Training – St Cloud; August 28 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office.

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

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 Vice Chair Tom Muller at 10:35 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on <u>Thursday, August 28 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**