COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
March 21, 2025

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on March 21, 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) PR&I, Clark Lingbeek (Office)
Absent:	Treasurer, Cody Duroe
Others Present:	District Administrator, Kay Gross District Technician, Dave Bucklin District Senior Technician, 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 Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the February 27, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Accounts Payable: Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve and pay March accounts payable totaling $13,131.57.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

First Quarter Compensation and Expenses

January 2 – RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Marshall - $125.00; January 6 – Southwest Prairie TSA Personnel Reviews – Office - $125.00; January 13 – Southwest Prairie TSA Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; January 16 – Des Moines Policy Board Meeting – Windom; January 16 – GBERBA Soil Health Landowner Meeting – St James - $125.00; January 17 – Private Lands Meeting – Willmar; January 23 – SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual - $125.00; January 24 – GBERBA Policy Meeting – Mankato - $125.00.
February 4 – MASWCD Legislative Priorities Meeting – Virtual; February 7 – Area II/RCRCA Meeting – Redwood Falls - $125.00; February 14 – GBERBA Executive Meeting – Windom/Virtual - $125.00; February 19 – Hwy 14 Soil Health Event – Lamberton; February 19 Cottonwood 1W1P Meeting – Springfield; February 15 – Des Moines Executive Board Meeting – Office - $125.00; February 20 – SW MASWCD Area 5 Meeting – Office - $125.00; February 27 – Cottonwood SWCD Meeting – Office/Virtual - $125.00.
March 4-5 – MASWCD Legislative Briefing – St Paul - $125.00; March 6 – RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Marshall - $125.00; March 14 – GBERBA Policy Meeting – Office/Virtual - $125.00; March 19 – Talcot Lake Information Meeting – Office; March 20 – Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual - $125; March 21 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual - $125.00; March 31 – Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – Marshall - $125.00.

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the First Quarter Supervisor Compensation and Expenses.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

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

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
Potential Talcot Lake Project
Tom Muller left the meeting at 10:32

Soil Health Practices (RCPP) Grant Policy and Ranking Scoresheet
Motion by second Lingbeek, by to Nerem approve the Soil Health Practices (RCPP) Grant Policy and Ranking Scoresheet.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Jeremiah Franz	17-16(WBIF-WW-24)	Carson 15	WASCOBS (3)	Cost $30,497.10	C-S $25,922.54
City of Mountain Lake	17-17(WBIF-WW-24)	Midway 33	Tree/Shrub Est.	Cost $3,000.00	C-S $2,550.00
Michael Mueller	17-18(WBIF-WW-24)	Midway 29	Septic Incentive		Incentive $5,000.00

Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contract - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092) for Franz (WBIF-WW-24-17-16) WASCOBS ($25,922.54); City of Mountain Lake (WBIF-WW-24-17-17) Tree/Shrub Establishment ($2,550.00) and Mueller (WBIF-WW-24-17-18) Septic Incentive ($5,000.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Landon Johnson	25-DMRW-COT-005	Great Bend 4	Septic Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00
Bruce Axford	25-DMRW-COT-006	Lakeside 18	Septic Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177) for Johnson (25-DMRW-COT-005) Septic Incentive ($5,000.00) and Axford (25-DMRW-COT-006) Septic Incentive ($5,000.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

2025-2026 Guidelines on Use of SWCD Aid Payments
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Tasler to approve the 2025-2026 Guidelines on Use of SWCD Aid Payments for the Cottonwood SWCD. These will be posted on the SWCD website.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Farmer Mentor Agreement – Between Cottonwood SWCD and Ramont Harder Schrock
Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the Farmer Mentor Agreement between the Cottonwood SWCD and Ramont Harder Schrock starting April 1 22, 2025 – March 31, 2026 for up to 200 hours at $75/hour and $80/hour (into 2026).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Threatened and Endangered Species Limited License Agreement for Copyrighted Materials
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve Becky Buchholz to sign the Limited License Agreement for Threatened and Endangered Species Copyrighted Materials with the Department of Natural Resources.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Request to Exceed Vacation Hours
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the exceeding of vacation hours maximum by District Administrator and move those hours to sick leave. May look for a buyout of hours in April.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

March/April Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
March 31 - Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – Marshall; April 3 - Area II/RCRCA – Redwood Falls; April 7 - Soil Health Mentor Meeting – Office/Virtual; April 11 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual; April 17 - Des Moines Policy Committee Meeting – Windom; April 24 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office.

SWCD Employee Meetings
March 24 - Cottonwood Co. Board of Adjustment – Office; March 25-27 - MCFO Annual Feedlot Conference – Detroit Lakes; March 26 - GBERBA Technical Committee – Virtual/Windom; March 27 - Second Grade Presentations – Windom School; March 27-28 - State Managers Meeting – St. Cloud; March 31 - Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – Marshall; April 2 - Ninth Grade Presentations – Windom School; April 7 - Soil Health Mentor Meeting – Office/Virtual;
April 7 - Seventh Grade Presentations – Windom School; April 8 - Sixth Grade Presentations – Windom School; April 8-10 - HR Training – St. Cloud; April 10 - First Grade Presentations – Mountain Lake School; April 11 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual; April 14-18 - Tree Deliveries – Schumacher's and Bailey's; April 17 - Des Moines Policy Committee Meeting – Windom; April 17 - WCA TEP Training – St. Cloud; April 23 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office; April 24 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; April 24-25 - Tree Pick-up – Office/DNR Site.

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of March/April.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Nerem – 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, April 24 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**