COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
May 22, 2025

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on May 22, 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 (Virtual) 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 Senior Technician, Becky Buchholz (virtual) District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody County Commissioner, Tom Appel DNR Shallow Lakes Specialist, Maggie Gross NRCS: Karen Boysen, Acting CST – Cottonwood – Jackson – Martin - Watonwan FSA: Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL
Agenda: Motion by Duroe, 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 April 24, 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 Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the May 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 Duore, second by Lingbeek to approve and pay May accounts payable totaling $15,972.46.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

FSA: Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director – Report
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 May Administrative Report and April Financials and May 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, June 26 (Cottonwood Co) Amo Creamery – One Way Catering $15/plate plus tax/gratuity Community Center - $180/Senior Dining Site
NRCS: Karen Boysen, Acting CST – Cottonwood – Jackson – Martin – Watonwan - Report

MASWCD: Lingbeek, Gross
Cottonwood County Commissioner: Commissioner Tom Appel

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 - $7.5 million dollar project which is proposal is scalable, with Phase 1 (Engineering) Phase 2 (Project) – non-scalable. The application is due on May 23. Pass through agreement between the County and/or SWCD.
Trying to remember the points we want in the JPA with DNR for Talcot Lake – just so it is listed in our minutes tomorrow….

1. Only for this project
2. SWCD/County have no lasting ownership or management of the project/area after completion of project.
3. SWCD/County are in no way obligated for any project cost/damage overruns during the project or following completion.
4. When paying contractor/vendor invoices – SWCD will submit invoice to DNR then funding directed to SWCD for payment
   (this could be a delay from 45 – 90 days – because payments will go through SWCD Board Meetings)
5. Contractors/Vendors – stated in contracts – could be a delay in reimbursement of invoices – because of timing and any delays from State.
6. SWCD will be compensated for work/hours completed using their Calculated Hourly Rate – and funds will be set aside for administration ($150,000-$200,000).

Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve entering into a Joint Powers Agreement for the Talcot Lake Dam Project with the above mentioned stipulations, provide a letter of support for the project and assist with Lessard-Sams testimony later this year.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

String Lake Project
Permitting for String Lake Project will be completed through Cottonwood County Drainage department and Conservation Partnership Legacy Grant RFP will be completed by County Drainage/SWCD/DNR. Cottonwood County approved the moving forward with engineering plans and committed $30,000 for completion of those plans.

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

Michael Fisher	25-DMRW-COT-007	Great Bend 23	Septic Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00
Clark Lingbeek	25-DMRW-COT-008	Lakeside 30	Septic Incentive	Incentive $5,000.00

Motion by Duroe, 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 Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y
Abstained: Lingbeek.
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

BWSR – C-S Contract Final Payment - SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement – FY2025 Conservation Contracts - (P25-0107)

Todd Simon	25-02	Carson 35	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Cost $7,585.39	C-S $3,350.00

Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the contract final payment BWSR – SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement – FY2025 Conservation Contracts - (P25-0107) Simon (25-02) Windbreak/Shelterbelt $3,350.00.
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
Lanny Engler 2025-02 Rosehill 28 Well Decommissioning Cost $1,250.00 C-S $525.00

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the contract and payment FY2025 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P25-0197) Well Decommissioning for Engler (2025-2) $525.00.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Ag Soil Regen LLC Contract and Approval to Incur Costs for High Yield In Your Field Event
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve the Ag Soil Regen LLC contract for speaking fees ($2,000/day) and travel/lodging ($500/day) for Russell Hendrick July 16-18 and to incur costs associated with the event 'High Yield in Your Field' event.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Cottonwood SWCD – Conservation Contracts Program Policy – Update
Motion by Nerem, second by Duroe to approve updated Conservation Contracts Program Policy 'State Cost-Share Policy' for the Cottonwood SWCD May 2025.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCPP Soil Health Grant Policy – Update
Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the updated RCPP Soil Health Grant Policy for the Cottonwood SWCD.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Resolution – Advocating for Additional State Funding for Farmstead and Field Windbreaks to Replace Ash Trees Affected by Emerald Ash Borer
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the submission of the Resolution Advocating for Additional State Funding for Farmstead and Field Windbreaks to Replace Ash Trees Affected by Emerald Ash Borer to the Southwest Area 5 MASWCD for approval.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

BWSR – Swift Contract Amendment #1 – Expiration Date – December 31, 2024 to September 20, 2026
Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the BWSR Swift Contract Amendment #1 Expiration Date from December 31, 2024 to September 20, 2026. (Wetland Banking Easement SWCD staff work).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Equipment Purchases
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the purchase of two stand up desks totaling up to $500/each.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Retirement Events – Friday, June 27 and Monday June 30.

Training - Grass with a Purpose – July 1 - Austin, MN and CRP Management – July 23 – Litchfield, MN
Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the Grass with Purpose and CPR Management Trainings for SWCD staff.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Duroe – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

May/June Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
May 30 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual; June 3 - EQIP Local Work Group Meeting – Lakefield; June 3 - String Lake Stakeholder Meeting – Windom; June 5 - Area II/RCRCA – Marshall; June 13 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; June 18 - Cottonwood 1W1P Policy Comm. Mtg. – Springfield; June 20 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Windom; June 26 - Area 5 MASWCD Meeting/Tour – Windom; June 27 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office Supervisors; June 30 - Southwest Prairie TSA Board Meeting – Marshall.

SWCD Employee Meetings
May 27 - Resolution Review By Managers – Zoom; May 27 - NRCS/SWCD Monthly Check-In – WebEx; May 28 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office; May 29 - County Planning Commission – BARC; May 30 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual; June 3 - EQIP Local Work Group Meeting – Lakefield; June 3 - String Lake Stakeholder Meeting – Windom; June 5-6 - MCPZA Conference – Alexandria; June 11 - Ag Inspectors Meeting – St Cloud; June 13 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; June 14 - Windom Riverfest Parade - – Windom; June 16 - Blue Earth Watershed Advisory Com. Mtg – Blue Earth; June 16 - Pow-Wow Parade – Enry Fee $25 – Mountain Lake; June 18 - Native Plant ID Training – Montevideo; June 18 - Cottonwood 1W1P Policy Comm. Mtg. – Springfield; June 20 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Windom; June 24 - NRCS/SWCD Monthly Check-In – WebEx; June 25 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual/Office; June 26 - Area 5 MASWCD Meeting/Tour – Windom; June 27 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; June 30 - Southwest Prairie TSA Board Meeting – Marshall.

Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of May/June.
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>Friday, June 27 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**