COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
October 27, 2025
Cottonwood SWCD Office – 210 10th Street, Windom, MN

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL
AGENDA – Approval
MINUTES of September 22, 2025 Board Meeting
1. FINANCIAL – Annitra Moody •Financial Report •Accounts Payable •2024 SWCD Financial Statements
2. COMMITTEE REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS
RCRCA – **Clark Lingbeek, Kay Gross, Becky Buchholz**
GBERBA – Clark Lingbeek
1W1P DES MOINES – Becky Buchholz, Kay Gross
1W1P BLUE EARTH – Kay Gross
SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE JPO – Tom Muller
- •Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers, Financial and Administrative Report
- •Approve Grant Agreement Extension – 2024 Enhanced Shared Technical Services - $242,500
- •Approve ShelterPoint – PFML – Rate – 0.59% - $1,501 year (50/50 split with employees)
- •Next Meeting – Reviews before Meeting In-Person – Wednesday, January 7 – 10:30 a.m. - Virtual

AREA V – Clark Lingbeek – Next Meeting – Thursday, February 19, 9:30 a.m. Virtual
MASWCD – Clark Lingbeek - MASWCD Resolutions and Ballot – MASWCD State Convention – Dec 1-3 Bloomington
NRCS – Karen Boysen, Acting CST Lead
FSA – Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director
COMMISSIONER REPORT – Tom Appel
- •County Update

3. ADMINISTRATIVE – Kay Gross
- •**Job Approval Authority –** Nathan Harder – Skills Matrix Worksheet –
Cons Crop Rotation; Residue and Tillage Mgmt – No-Till; Cover Crops; Residue and Tillage Mgmt – Reduced Till

- •**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - 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

- •**Cottonwood SWCD – Local Cost-Share Contract Final Payment – County Capacity 2023**

Clarence Davis SWCD-24-06 Germantown 10 Farmstead Windbreak Cost $3,326.09 C-S $2,500.00

- •**BWSR Cottonwood–Middle MN CRP Incentive Contract Payment–2025 CRP State Incentive Program (P25-0846)**

Daniel Jensen	25-CRP-COT-001	Westbrook 34	39.78 ac – 15 yrs – CP38E	Incentive $5,000.00
Curt Peterson	25-CRP-COT-003	Highwater 27	6.9 ac – 10 yrs – CP38E	Incentive $690.00
Cottonwood Corner LLC (Eucken)	25-CRP-COT-004	Amboy 33	2.10 ac – 15 yrs – CP5A	Incentive $315.00
Karen Gallagher	25-CRP-COT-005	Amboy 33	2.2 ac – 15 yrs – CP5A	Incentive $330.00
Troy Callanan/Todd Callanan	25-CRP-COT-006	Delton 9	25.8 ac – 15 yrs – CP38E	Incentive $3,870.00
Wayne Pankonin	25-CRP-COT-007	Charlestown 28	14.8 ac – 20 yrs – CP23	Incentive $1,480.00

- •**BWSR – Des Moines - CRP Incentive Contract Payment – 2025 CRP State Incentive Program (P25-0453)**

Mary Lou Walinga	25-CRP-COT-001	Great Bend 9	13.7 ac – 15 yrs – CP38E-25	Incentive $10,000.00
Ron Jorgenson	25-CRP-COT-002	Dale 21	14.2 ac – 10 yrs – CP38E	Incentive $7,100.00
David & Diane Wells	25-CRP-COT-003	Dale 7	126.0 ac – 10 yrs – CP2	Incentive $10,000.00
David Jorgenson/Shalom Hill	25-CRP-COT-004	Amo12	72.04 ac – 10 yrs-CP1	Incentive $10,000.00

- •**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Amendment – 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
Amendment to extend the install date from 12-31-2025 to 12-31-2026

John & Lori Schaffer 23-DMRW-COT-039 Southbrook 26 Streambank/Shoreline Restoration Cost $26,435.00
Amendment to extend the install date from 12-31-2025 to 12-31-2026 C-S $17,000.00

-OVER-

•**BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - 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
Tony Dick	DMRW-25-COT-002	Great Bend 1/Dale 23,26,36 Cover Crops – 3 yrs – 435 ac $35/ac	C-S $45,675.00
Tony Dick	DMRW-25-COT-003	Stacking Incentive – 3 yrs – 435 ac $20/ac	Incentive $26,100.00

•**GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092)**

Kelly Dunkelberger	17-08(WBIF-WW-24)	Dale 9	SSTS – 1 no.	Incentive $5,000.00	
Bruce & Lisa Turner	17-20(WBIF-WW-24)	Lakeside 4	Grade Stabilization	Cost $18,694.00	C-S $15,889.98

•**BWSR – FY2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Program Grant Agreement – September (P26-0098)**
$120,000 Allocation Effective Date: October 8, 2025 Expiration Date December 31, 2028

•**RCPP (Grant #1) – Ranking and Committee Batching-Approval – 9-22-2025 - $180,000**
Contract 17-1-1 Ranking Points – 35 Total Acres – 3,844 Strip-Till Total Payment: $134,540.00
Contract 17-1-2 Ranking Points – 35 Total Acres – 2,379 Strip-Till Total Payment: $83,265.00
Grant Funds - $45,460 Local Funds - $37,805

•**RCPP (Grant #2) – Ranking and Committee Batching-Approval and Amendment – 10-27-2025 - $120,000**
Contract 17-1-2 Ranking Points – 35 Total Acres – 2,379 Strip-Till Total Payment: $83,265.00
Amend Local Funds to September Grant ($120,000) $37,805
Contract 17-2-1 Ranking Points – 45 Total Acres – 3,551 Strip-Till Total Payment: $124,285.00
Approve Grant Funds (#2) – Grant Funds - $82,195 Local Funds - $42,090

•**Soil Health Mentor Contract** – Doug Bos

•**BWSR – FY2026 Buffer Law – Request for Interest - $25,000**

•**BWSR – FY2026 & 2027 SWCD Program & Operations Grant Agreement**
$37,894 Allocation – Conservation Delivery – October 14, 2025 – December 31, 2028
$33,760 Allocation – Conservation Contracts – October 14, 2025 – December 31, 2028

•**State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services – Work Order Contract – 17-25-W099**
Effective Date October 20, 2025 – January 31, 2029 - $12,600
•**State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services – Work Order Contract – 17-25-W002**
Effective Date September 19, 2025 – January 31, 2029 - $5,000 – 17-01-25-01 & 17-02-25-01

•**Talcot Lake Project** – Approved for Engineering – Will be working with DNR to draft a JPA with the Cottonwood SWCD
•**String Lake Project** – Meeting on October 29 to determine next steps
•**Meeting Date Change** - Tuesday, November 25 – 8:30 a.m.
•**Meetings**

October	29	GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual	Staff
October	29	String Lake Meeting – Office/Virtual	Staff
November	6	Area II/RCRCA – Marshall	Clark
November	5-6	Manager Co-Hort – St Paul	Kay
November	12	Feedlot Meeting – Marshall	Alex, Nathan
November	14	GBERBA Policy-Technical Meeting - Mankato	Clark, Staff, Tom A
November	18	Area V Managers Meeting – Slayton	Staff
November	20	Des Moines Executive Meeting – Office/Virtual	Tom/Daryl, Staff
November	25	SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual	Supervisors, Staff, Tom A
December	1-3	MASWCD State Convention – Bloomington Registration, Lodging, Mileage and Meals	Supervisors, Staff

4. **SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Becky Buchholz**
5. **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Breanna Wagner**
6. **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Nathan Harder**
7. **MAWQCP SPECIALIST – Herman Bartsch**
8. **MAWQCP SPECIALIST – Danielle Evers**
9. **MN CONSERVATION CORP – Adriene Matthews**
10. **PLANNING & ZONING TECH – Alex Schultz**
11. **COTTONWOOD COUNTY DRAINAGE INSPECTOR – Dylan Oeltjenbruns**

Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, November 25 at 8:30 a.m. – Cottonwood SWCD Office

OCTOBER TRANSACTIONS

District Checking Account Balances 9-22-2025 (Bank Midwest)	**$824,196.72**

RECEIPTS: (since last board meeting)

Interest September - 2025 Bank Midwest (Checking Account $87.33 and Sweep Account $1026.37)	$1,113.70
BWSR-NPEA	$370,000.00
BWSR-RCPP Cost Share	$120,000.00
BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-03-24-09	$2,500.00
BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-03-24-09	$1,127.25
BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-04-24-09	$2,704.75
Des Moines River Watershed - Aug	$2,060.67
Des Moines River Watershed - Sept	$570.87
Des Moines River Watershed - Project Development-Staff Time	$450.84
Des Moines River Watershed - Radio Ad reimbursement	$576.00
GBERBA - Coordinator - August Contract	$5,584.50
GBERBA - MAWQCP Area 6 - August	$4,979.90
GBERBA - Reimbursement for rainfall simulator parts	$98.51
GBERBA - Russell Hedrick speaking fee reimbursement	$2,564.85
Lac Qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed Dist-reimbursement	$2,564.85
Southwest Prairie TSA - Administrative Contract - Aug 23-Sept 20	$3,488.22
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$520,384.91**

DISBURSEMENTS: (since last board meeting)

Direct Deposit	Payroll 09-07-25 to 09-20-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$16,903.93
Direct Deposit	Payroll 09-21-25 to 10-04-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$16,903.89
Direct Deposit	Payroll 10-05-25 to 10-18-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$16,903.94
26918-26922	Supervisors' Compensation - 3rd Qtr 2025	$3,622.60
EFT092525	PERA-DCP, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest	$669.40
EFT10625	Intuit Quickbooks - Renewal til Oct 3, 2026	$2,210.00
EFT10725	MN Dept of Revenue - Sales & Use Tax 3rd Qtr Qtr 2025	$542.00
26923	MACDE Training-Managers Meeting	$20.00
26924	BWSR - 2025 Academy Registration-was short	$30.00
26925	Cigna Health - Accident Ins - October 2025	$9.70
26926	Fidelity Security - Vision Ins October 2025	$6.61
26927	The Hartford - LTD October 2025	$167.68
26928	Met Life - Dental Ins October 2025	$96.12
26929	Sun Life Financial - STD October 2025	$7.40
26930	Higley Ford-Oil Change & Filter for Ford Expedition	$69.98
26931	Staples Enterprises - October	$481.56
26932	Gordon Flesch - Copier	$244.00
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**$58,888.81**
	BALANCE BEFORE BOARD MEETING	**$1,285,692.82**

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
10/27/2025
(to be approved at this board meeting)

Payable		Amount
26933	Fidelity Security - Vision Ins November 2025	$6.61
26934	Met Life - Dental Ins November 2025	$96.12
26935	Sun Life Financial - STD November 2025	$7.40
26936	Cottonwood County Auditor- Insurance - November 2025	$3,112.44
26937	Citizen - Site Hosts (3) , Renew Subscriptions (Citizen $60, Observer $57)	$162.00
26938	City of Mountain Lake-Reimburse for Tree Removal	$7,248.00
26939	Cottonwood County Auditor - County Rent - November 2025, Phone Usage, Phone Adapter	$2,142.88
26940	Crystal Clean Car Wash - September Washes	$10.00
26941	Elan Financial Services - Meals, Office Supplies, Lodging	$1,048.83
26942	Grunewald Frame & Glass-Brake disc rotor & pads, 4 tires (Ford Expedition)	$1,268.51
26943	KDOM-Watershed Advertising (DM, Watonwan, Cottonwood)	$1,728.00
26944	MASWCD - Registration for State Convention	$2,025.00
26945	Murray SWCD - SWPTSA Admin Assistance - Aug-Sept	$2,272.32
26946	NCPERS - Group Life Insurance - November 2025	$96.00
26947	ODP Business Solutions - Office Supplies	$547.30
26948	Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney P.A. - Prevailing Wage	$368.00
26949	Soil Regen-1/2 2026 speaker fee ($3500) & soil testing	$4,040.00
26950	Verizon - JetPack - 1 Month	$50.60
26951	Clarence Davis-C/S Trees	$2,500.00
26952	David Bucklin-Enviromental Awareness Day& Envirmental Fair Days	$365.70
26953	Annitra Moody - Meal, Office Supplies, & Hotel	$423.07
26954	Breanna Wagner - Registration, Mileage, Office Supplies	$223.00
26955	Dale McMullen-3rd Qtr Mentor	$1,657.50
26956	Kay Gross - Mileage, Cell, & Hotel	$1,545.28
26957	Nathan Harder - Mileage & Hotel	$612.90
26958	Ramont Schrock-3rd Qtr Mentor	$637.50
26959	Herman Bartsch - Mileage & Cell	$373.40
26960	VOID	
26961	Rebecca Buchholz - Cell	$40.00
26962	Todd Bloch-Cover Crops	$10,800.00
26963	SWTSA- FY26 NPEA Grant	$370,000.00
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	**$415,408.36**
	District Checking Account Balance	**$870,284.46**

Balances as of 10-27-2025

PETTY CASH (Included in District Fund Balance)	**$50.00**
6 Month CD - Bank Midwest - Interest - 2025 ($1,182.64 - Included in Total)	**$55,706.41**
Savings Account - Bank Midwest - Interest - 3rd Quarter ($533.69 - Included in Total)	**$57,532.79**
Account Balances: Checking (2)/Savings/Petty Cash/CD:	**$983,573.66**

Monthly Treasurer's Report
Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area
September 2025

Use of Cash		Beginning Balance 9/1/2025	Receipts		Disbursements	Ending Balance 9/30/2025	EXPIRES
Checking Account	$	223,843.96	322.17	$	43,172.77	180,993.36	
Select Business Svg	$	-				-	
Interest Money	$	-				-	
Compensated Absences	$	-				-	
Sweep Account	$	824,807.82	1,181.51			825,989.33	
CD	$	-				-	
Total	**$**	**1,048,651.78**	**1,503.68**	**$**	**43,172.77**	**1,006,982.69**	
Program Summary							
JPO Fund Balance	$	111,330.79	1,503.68			112,834.47	
Technical Services	$	246,048.63				246,048.63	
GRANTS	$	606,369.04		$	39,503.10	566,865.94	
Training/education/outreach	$	30,903.32		$	3,669.67	27,233.65	
Compensated Absences	$	54,000.00				54,000.00	
NACD Grant	$	-				-	
	$	**1,048,651.78**	**1,503.68**	**$**	**43,172.77**	**1,006,982.69**	
eLINK Grants							
FY21 ESTS Grant	$	-	-			-	12/31/2023
FY21 Local Match	$	-				-	
FY21 Administration	$	-				-	
FY22 ESTS Grant						-	12/31/2024
FY22 Local Match	$	-				-	
FY22 ESTS Administration						-	
FY22 NPEA Grant	$	-				-	12/31/2024
FY22 NPEA Local Match	$	-				-	
FY22 NPEA Administration	$	-				-	
FY23 ESTS Grant	$	-				-	12/31/2025
FY23 Local Match						-	
FY23 ESTS Administration	$	5,786.17		$	5,786.17	-	
FY23 NPEA Grant	$	-				-	12/31/2025
FY23 NPEA Local Fund	$	-				-	
FY23 Administration	$	-				-	
FY24 ESTS	$	177,841.83		$	5,272.27	172,569.56	12/31/2026
FY24 Local Match	$	-				-	
FY24 Administration	$	36,512.11				36,512.11	
FY24 NPEA	$	103,448.27		$	694.80	102,753.47	12/31/2025
FY24 Local Match	$	-				-	
FY24 Administration	$	15,000.00				15,000.00	
FY24 NPEA Supplies/Equip	$	5,774.80				5,774.80	
FY24 Soil Health Staffing Grant	$	468,257.49				468,257.49	12/31/2027
FY25 ESTS Grant	$	204,400.00				204,400.00	12/31/2026
FY25 ESTS Administration	$	38,100.00				38,100.00	
FY25 ESTS Local Match	$	24,250.00				24,250.00	
	$	1,079,370.67		**Total**		**1,067,617.43**	

Southwest Prairie Technical Service
Balance Sheet Detail
As of September 30, 2025

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Class	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
ASSETS									1,267,023.74
Current Assets									1,061,574.06
Checking/Savings									1,048,651.78
Checking Account									223,843.96
Bill Pmt -Check	09/08/2025	4297	Cottonwood SWCD	August 2025 ...		X	Accounts Paya...	-3,622.05	220,221.91
Bill Pmt -Check	09/08/2025	4298	Murray County	microsoft office		X	Accounts Paya...	-249.55	219,972.36
Bill Pmt -Check	09/08/2025	4299	Elan Finanical Servi...	folders, gas		X	Accounts Paya...	-341.27	219,631.09
Liability Check	09/10/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,912.69	211,718.40
Paycheck	09/11/2025	DD1699	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	211,718.40
Paycheck	09/11/2025	DD1700	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	211,718.40
Paycheck	09/11/2025	DD1701	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	211,718.40
Liability Check	09/11/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.12	208,692.28
Liability Check	09/11/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-557.00	208,135.28
Liability Check	09/11/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	208,035.28
Liability Check	09/11/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	206,403.77
Liability Check	09/11/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	205,928.77
Liability Check	09/11/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	205,898.77
Bill Pmt -Check	09/12/2025	4300	Pipestone SWCD-	Russell Hedri...		X	Accounts Paya...	-1,842.00	204,056.77
Liability Check	09/12/2025	4301	MN PEIP			X	-SPLIT-	-2,919.28	201,137.49
Bill Pmt -Check	09/12/2025	4302	SWMASWCD	Area V Meetin...		X	Accounts Paya...	-15.00	201,122.49
Bill Pmt -Check	09/12/2025	4303	Chandler Co-op			X	Accounts Paya...	-33.22	201,089.27
Bill Pmt -Check	09/15/2025	4304	Murray County	microsoft invo...		X	Accounts Paya...	-294.98	200,794.29
Bill Pmt -Check	09/15/2025	4305	BWSR	academy- Mik...		X	Accounts Paya...	-170.00	200,624.29
Bill Pmt -Check	09/16/2025	4306	Cottonwood SWCD	Russell Hendr...		X	Accounts Paya...	-1,827.67	198,796.62
Bill Pmt -Check	09/16/2025	4307	Jacob Harrison	gas		X	Accounts Paya...	-51.80	198,744.82
Bill Pmt -Check	09/16/2025	4308	Verizon			X	Accounts Paya...	-204.10	198,540.72
Liability Check	09/24/2025		QuickBooks Payroll ...	Created by P...		X	Direct Deposit ...	-7,912.68	190,628.04
Paycheck	09/25/2025	DD1702	Harrison, Jacob L	Direct Deposit	FY20 ESTS	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	190,628.04
Paycheck	09/25/2025	DD1703	Hoogendoorn, Russell	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	190,628.04
Paycheck	09/25/2025	DD1704	Skoglund, Michael	Direct Deposit	FY23 NP...	X	-SPLIT-	0.00	190,628.04
Liability Check	09/25/2025	auto	EFTPS	41-1811267		X	-SPLIT-	-3,026.12	187,601.92
Liability Check	09/25/2025	auto	MN Revenue	1947844		X	State Withholdi...	-557.00	187,044.92
Liability Check	09/25/2025	auto	MSRS			X	Federal Withho...	-100.00	186,944.92
Liability Check	09/25/2025	auto	PERA			X	-SPLIT-	-1,631.51	185,313.41
Liability Check	09/25/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-475.00	184,838.41
Liability Check	09/25/2025	auto	MSRS			X	HCSP-Def C	-30.00	184,808.41
Bill Pmt -Check	09/30/2025	4309	Ratwik, Roszak & M...				Accounts Paya...	-649.00	184,159.41
Bill Pmt -Check	09/30/2025	4310	Cottonwood SWCD				Accounts Paya...	-3,488.22	180,671.19
Deposit	09/30/2025			Deposit		X	Interest on Che...	322.17	180,993.36
Total Checking Account								-42,850.60	180,993.36
Savings Interest Account									0.00
Total Savings Interest Account									0.00
Select Business Savings									0.00
Total Select Business Savings									0.00

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

210 10th Street, Windom, MN 56101 Phone: 507-832-8287

DATE: **OCTOBER 27, 2025**

TO: **SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA MEMBERS**

FROM: **KAY GROSS, ADMINSTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

SUBJECT: **COORDINATOR REPORT**

Training Contract Position
Continuing to work with District staff in gaining Job Approval Authority and also working with the Administration to help report and assist with our quarterly meetings for the Soil Health Staffing Grant. And also assisting with area trainings, soil health events, and working with the Soil Health Staffing quarterly meetings and reporting.

Agricultural Professional Mentor – Soil Health
Doug Bos started as the Agricultural Professional Soil Health Mentor for Area 5 and with a year contract for 1000 hours. He will be working with SWCD staff and area producers to assist with soil health initiatives, program and practices questions and educational activities.

MAWQCP Technical Assistance
Continued work with local landowners to receive worksheet and ulimately certification through MAWQCP.
Danielle also has JAA for Ecological Services and Non-Structural practices if that service is needed by your office.

State TSA Managers Meeting
Next meeting is set for March 6.

BWSR Soil Health Staffing Grant
The first round reporting has been completed for 2024. With the start of the grant in April 2024 here are our 2024 numbers.

April – Sept 2024	**Oct – Dec 2024**	**Jan – March 2025**	**April – June 2025**	**July – Sept 2025**
68 hrs Admin	32.25 hrs Admin	51.75 hrs Admin	58 hrs Admin	44.5 hrs Admin
$4,602.53	$2,414.84	$4,257.49	$4,622.88	$3,633.75
12 Mentors	11 Mentors	13 Mentors	17 Mentors	19 Mentors
115 Contacts	86 Contacts	38 Contacts	119 Contacts	171 Contacts
19 Meetings	25 Meetings	32 Meetings	22 Meetings	22 Meetings
334.75 Hours	222.25 Hours	252.25 Hours	331.8 Hours	518.5 Hours
$27,121.25	$17,898.75	$20,376.25	$27,250.50	$41,702.50
18,582 acres	23,406 acres	28,184 acres	55,064.50 acres	103,649 acres

Total Expended - $152,095.73 Total Acres – 220,969.50 ($0.69/acre)

TSA Manager Meeting
Will work towards having a TSA Manager's meeting in November 18.

TSA Board Meeting
The next schedule TSA Board meeting will be held in during the month of Wednesday, January 7, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. through WebEx (virtually) with reviews at 9:00 a.m.

210 10th St
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: October 16, 2025

Name: Becky Buchholz (Senior Technician)

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Farm Bill Assistance, SSTS, AgBMP Loans, WCA

Past Events:

- September 22, 2025 – Cottonwood SWCD Board meeting, Windom
- October 6, 2025 – SWCD Resolution Zoom meeting, online
- October 7, 2025 – MASWCD Awards committee, online
- October 8, 2025 – Des Moines Tech Committee, Windom/online
- October 15, 2025 – Cottonwood Middle MN Tech Committee, online
- October 16, 2025 – Des Moines Joint Powers Board, Windom/online
- October 17, 2025 – GBERBA Exec, online

Upcoming Events:

- October 27, 2025 – Cottonwood SWCD board meeting, Windom
- October 29, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, online
- October 29, 2025 – String Lake meeting, Windom
- October 30, 2025 – Red Rock Technical Team meeting, Windom/online?
- November 14, 2025 – GBERBA Tech/Policy, Mankato
- November 19, 2025 – CWMM Tech meeting, online
- November 20, 2025 – Des Moines Executive Committee, Windom
- December 1-3, 2025 – MASWCD State Convention, St. Paul

Farm Bill Assistance:

- Current RIM programs available: RIM Drinking Water, RIM Wetland, RIM Grasslands, RIM 1W1P (only for finished 1W1P areas), RIM Riparian & Floodplain.
    - RIM Grasslands did announce they have some funding left and are accepting applications
    - RIM Wetlands has one sign up remaining that ends August 31 and is not accepting any more applications until July 2026. IF soils are considered peatlands, there are funds available for those specific wetland subtypes.
    - RIM 1W1P: No applications were accepted from Cottonwood SWCD, 2 scored too low and 1 they did not have enough funding but encouraged us to apply again
    - RIM Drinking Water is the revamped RIM Wellhead, it offers more flexible options including: 25 years or perpetual easements, grazing, perennial cropping rotations, etc. and is currently accepting applications.
    - CREP is closed until next year
    - RIM Riparian & Floodplain is out of funding until July 2026
    - RIM Working Lands/Grazing does have funding currently. This RIM program focuses on land currently under grazing by livestock, owners will be required to have a Prescribed Grazing Plan developed and follow it as part of this RIM program.

- Submitted documentation to receive Level 3 Conservation Planner to ARC, Dave Voigt and I had a meeting, a few more AgLearn courses to do because requirements changed from when I submitted my request until now. Then we will reevaluate. My access to AgLearn is connected to the federal USDA laptop, so until the government opens back up I cannot complete these courses.
- BWSR did finalize an amendment to the current CREP agreement:
    - Deadline extended from 9/30/2026 to 9/30/2029
    - Acreage cap from 60,000 to 75,000
    - Expanded eligible counties (54 to 66)
    - Expanded CP2 practice outside of Wellhead Protection Areas (details coming)
- Assisting landowners with RIM and other programs on their lands.
- I completed the 2025 CRP plans, the expiring 2027 status reviews, and have been working on seeding checkouts and final PIP incentive checkouts for FSA. I am waiting for NRCS to come back from the federal shutdown to get signatures for reimbursement from the MASWCD Contribution Agreement.

SSTS:

- Continuing to send out letters as septic disclosure forms come in and as property transfers occur. I continue to forward any non-compliance with the property transfer clause in the ordinance to the county attorney.
- The Watonwan Watershed is now out of SSTS incentives.
- The Des Moines Watershed has a $5,000 incentive for IPHT, FTPGW (in DWSMA and shoreland only), and low-income for SSTS replacements that use other financial assistance (low interest loans, grants, etc).
- The Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota has a $5,000 incentive for IPHT and FTPGW (shoreland and DWSMA only) for SSTS replacements that use other financial assistance
- The county received a $750,000 loan for SSTS loans and is ready for disbursement now. We used up approximately half of the funds in 2024. At this time, I expect to use up the remaining funds this year in 2025. I will look for more funds overwinter.

AgBMP Loan Program

- Interest in the loan program has increased this year, due to the low interest rate in comparison to traditional lenders.
- As of today, we have limited funds that were added to our loan funds and I will be continuing a waitlist.
- Main uses: septic system replacement, ag waste, conservation tillage, replacement wells
- The loan program is now an online based application process.

WCA

- I will be working closely with Devin Ryan (BWSR) as I administer WCA and learn how the program is run.
- I have issued the following so far in 2025
    - Drainage exemptions: 1
    - Ag exemptions: 3
    - De minimis: 1
    - Conservation exemption: 1

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for October 16, 2025

Past Priorities:

- Environmental Fair Glaciers Presentation: September 23rd-24th (monthly meetings)
- Step 2 towards Pollinator Steward Certification: Complete Habitat and Outreach Events by Aug 2025.

Current Priorities:

- **Projects:**
  - Flyers/Banners/Brochures for RCPP Program
  - Flyers/Banners/Brochures for Watonwan/Des Moines/Cottonwood WS.
  - Finish RIM and State CS Spot-checks this Fall!
  - Potential cost-share project site visits for landowners in the Des Moines & Cottonwood River Watersheds
  - Cost-share projects for Windbreak/Shelterbelts throughout Cottonwood County.
  - Work on flyers and posters for outreach as needed.
  - Keep up with Social Media accounts for Cottonwood SWCD (Facebook & Instagram)
- **Trainings:**
  - Level 1 Conservation Planner Webinars.
  - BuffCAT trainings for Buffer Law.
  - JAA for Vegetative BMPs such as Conservation Cover and Critical Area Planting.
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - BWSR Academy: October 20th – October 23rd in Baxter, MN
  - Hwy 14 planning meetings.
  - Attend Quarterly Tree Commission Meetings for Windom.
  - Tree Site Visits with landowners throughout Cottonwood County.

Future Priorities:

- **Outreach & Education:**
  - Outreach to Windom/Mt Lake Schools when school starts in Fall
- **Trainings:**
  - SSTS Continuing Ed: Rochester, MN December 15th-16th.
  - RIM overviews with Becky this Fall/Winter.
  - Urban Practices/Small Scale Ag Webinars and Trainings
  - Winter Tree ID
  - WCA Trainings in 2026
- **Meetings/Events:**

Breanna Wagner
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COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Program Technician Report for October 27, 2025 – Nathan Harder

Completed Activities from Previous Month:

- **Trainings/Meetings attended**
  - Cottonwood & Des Moines Tech meetings
  - Hwy 14 Lamberton stop planning meeting
  - RCPP update meeting
  - BWSR Academy
- **Tree Program**
  - Completed the adjustments to trees planted for DNR grant in Windom
  - Began working on new application for DNR ReLeaf grant
- **Soil Health**
  - MOSH LGU meeting
  - Working on RCPP applications
  - Met with Kim and Herman to talk over videos and website work, also looking into extending grant funding for education project with Jill from BWSR
- **Other Activities**
  - Trash pickup along Hwy 71
  - Took Expedition in for tire and brake change
  - Conducted 2 feedlot inspections
  - Working with TSA to get surveys done for Dustin Krick grade stab and Todd Bloch Waterway

Priorities for Month Ahead:

- **Trainings/Meetings planned**
  - Hwy 14 planning meetings
  - County Feedlot Officer meeting in Marshall Nov 12
  - GBERBA Tech/Policy in Mankato Oct 14
- **Tree Program**
  - Complete and send in application for DNR ReLeaf grant Mountain Lake
- **Soil Health**
  - Check in with Herman and Kim before GBERBA Tech/Policy meeting
- **Other Activities**
  - Possible post-harvest event participation with Burton Stoesz

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

South Central MAWQCP Certification Specialist

Serving the Counties of: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, McLeod, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

GBERBA Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Herman Bartsch
AREA 6 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST
October 6th, 2025

Workload:

- MAWQCP Reviews
- Brown, Faribault, and LeSueur County Assessments and Certifications
- Processing New MAWQCP applications
- Vertical till, nutrient management, and climate smart MAWQCP grants
- RCPP Soil Health cover crop and no-till/strip-till plan reviews
- Farming for Soil Health - Southern MN – Video reviews & Promotion
- UMN Forever Green – Winter Camelina, Hybrid Rye Training – 10/6

AREA 6	Applications	Assessments	Certifications
Blue Earth SWCD	**18**	**16**	**10**
Brown SWCD	**21**	**16**	**8**
Faribault SWCD	**46**	**38**	**30**
LeSueur SWCD	**24**	**17**	9
Martin SWCD	**38**	**27**	**21**
McLeod SWCD	**18**	**13**	**7**
Nicollet SWCD	**3**	2	1
Renville SWCD	**34**	**29**	**18**
Sibley SWCD	**6**	**5**	**3**
Waseca SWCD	**22**	**19**	12
Watonwan SWCD	**16**	**13**	**9**
Total	**246**	**195**	**128**

MAWQCP Numbers as of 9-8-25

- 1,688 producers certified
- 1,157,803 acres certified
- 7,858 new practices installed or planned to be installed
- Sediment delivery to surface waters reduced by 56,624 tons per year
- Soil loss reduced by 166,200 tons per year
- Phosphorus loss reduced by 74,152 lbs. of P per year
- 153 Soil Health Endorsements
- 111 IPM Endorsements
- 94 Wildlife Endorsements
- 209 Climate Smart Endorsements
- 15 Irrigation Endorsements

Herman Bartsch:
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Alex Schultz
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Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

COTTONWOOD
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: October 27, 2025
Name: Alex Schultz

Topics: Past Events, Upcoming Events, Planning and Zoning, Feedlots and Ag. Inspecting

Past Events:

- **Sept 30- Plum Creek wind and road use agreement meeting**
- **Oct 8 - 10- MACPZA Conference**
- **Oct 20 – 23 – BWSR Academy**

Upcoming Events:

- **Nov 12 – CFO Regional meeting in Marshall**
- **Nov 20 – MACFO Board Meeting**

Planning and Zoning:

- **Planning Commission Meeting- 2 permits issued for buildings within shoreland**
- **Board of Adjustments- none**
- **Permits**
  - Setback Permits, 5 Issued
  - CUP, 1 Issued
  - Variances, 0 Issued
  - 911 addresses, 2 Issued

Feedlots

12 out of 14 inspections are finished

Cottonwood County Drainage

Dylan Oeltjenbruns-Drainage Inspector

Date: October 27, 2025

Past Events

- Continuation Hearing for 3rd Group of ROB's-October 21st
- Special Meeting JD24-October 21st

Upcoming Events

- JD18CM Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- JD24CB Landowner Meeting-Date TBD

Summary Report

JD24 project starting to gain traction again.

GBERBA

Greater Blue Earth River Basin

Sept 29, 2025

DANIELLE EVERS

AREA 5 MAWQCP CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST

Serving the Counties of: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, & Yellow Medicine

Projects and Workload:

- Continuing to meet with producers for assessments, mapping, & uploading documents for state verification
- Working on reviews for 2025, currently **25/27** completed, Adriene has been assisting as well
- **2 of 2** recertifications complete
- RCPP Ranking has been generating applications in September
- Speakers determined for Hwy 14 Tour: Pat Duncanson and Randy Depuydt

Events/Dates:

- 9/17/25 – Planning meetings for Hwy 14 and 2026 Field Day - Zoom
- 9/18/25 – Area V Meeting – Marshall, MN
- 10/9/25 – Lac Qui Parle Event – Dawson, MN
- 10/21-23/25 – BWSR Academy

Program Updates and Information:

- FY26 Grant applications open. **$5,000 75%** cost-share through the MDA for producers, flat-rate incentive payments available for cover crops, reduced till, & winter out feeding
- MAWQCP has certified over **1,678 farms**, including over **1,148,957 current acres** with **7,819 new practices, 1,626 new BMP's**
- Estimated benefits include**: *56,273 tons** of TSS reduced per year, ***166,200 tons** soil reduced per year, ***72,175 lbs** Phosphorous reduced per year
- Endorsements: **152** Soil Health, **111** Integrated Pest Management (IPM), **93** Wildlife, **207** Climate Smart, **15** Irrigation

TO DATE NUMBERS *Numbers in bold have changed from the last report

Area 5	Apps.	Assessments Completed	Certifications	Endorsements			
				IPM	Soil Health	Wildlife	Climate
Cottonwood	**57**	55	25	0	0	1	4
Jackson	39	38	24	3	3	1	4
Lac Qui Parle	**21**	20	12	1	1	1	4
Lincoln	37	36	20	1	1	1	1
Lyon	42	40	20	1	2	0	2
Murray	30	30	22	2	0	1	4
Nobles	23	23	14	0	1	0	3
Pipestone	**74**	70	37	3	1	0	1
Redwood	57	50	27	3	3	0	3
Rock	**76**	**70**	37	1	1	1	3
Yellow Med.	**39**	38	19	1	0	0	0
Totals	**495**	**470**	257	16	13	6	29

DANIELLE EVERS:
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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Agriculture and Water Outreach Corpsmember
Conservation Corps of MN and IA
Adriene Matthews

October 1st, 2025

Workload:

- Inputting landowner's data and mapping farms that have been assessed by Herman Bartsch and Danielle Evers into ArcGIS mapping tool.
- Attend farm verification site visits with Danielle and Herman.
- Speak with landowners regarding replacing their tree groves.
- Attend Soil health Meetings with the SWCD technicians.
- Attend cover crops trainings.
- Complete MAWQCP interviews by myself.
- Tree planting

Projects:

- Assist Breanna Wagner and Nathan Hader with documenting well locations in ArcGIS Pro.
- Creating outreach opportunities for MAWQCP and landowners.
- Map landowners' fields for MAWQCP
- Interview conservation workers for CCMI blog (Danielle And Herman)
- Creating a professional networking workshop for CCMI cohort

Upcoming Events:

- CCMI Career Meeting 10/14 & 10/28
- BWSR Academy 10/20 – 10/23

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