**COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING**
**September 22, 2025**
**Cottonwood SWCD Office – 210 10th Street, Windom, MN**

**CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**
**AGENDA** – Approval
**MINUTES of August 28, 2025 Board Meeting**
**1. FINANCIAL – Annitra Moody** •Financial Report •Accounts Payable •2024 SWCD Financial Statements
•Third Quarter Compensation and Expenses

**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
- Request for Extension – 2024 Enhanced Shared Technical Services - $242,500
- FY2026 BWSR Non-Point Engineering and Enhanced Technical Assistance Grant Agreement - $370,000
- Next Meeting – Reviews before Meeting In-Person – Wednesday, January 7 – 10:30 a.m. - Virtual

**AREA V – Clark Lingbeek** – Mtg Recap – Thursday, February 19, 9:30 a.m. Virtual
**MASWCD – Clark Lingbeek**
- MASWCD Monthly Meeting
- MASWCD Resolutions and Ballot

**NRCS – Karen Boysen, Acting CST Lead**
**FSA – Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director**
**COMMISSIONER REPORT – Tom Appel**
- County Update

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE – Kay Gross**

- **BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341)**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Erin Asche & Sharon Grams | 25-CWMM-COT-006 | Westbrook 23 | SSTS – 1 no. | Incentive $5,000.00 |

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bruce Axford | 25-DMRW-COT-006 | Lakeside 18 | SSTS – 1 no. | Incentive $5,000.00 |
| Nick Muller | 25-DMRW-COT-009 | Dale 23 | SSTS – 1 no. | Incentive $5,000.00 |

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wayne Klassen | 17-14(WBIF-WW-24) | Mountain Lake 21 | SSTS – 1 no. | Incentive $5,000.00 |

- **BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341)**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kyle Asp | 25-CWMM-COT-001 | Storden 17 | SSTS Incentive | Incentive $5,000.00 |

- **Talcot Lake Project** – Waiting for Notice from Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

- **String Lake Project** – 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
  Support Letter from Cottonwood SWCD – Motion to Approve
  Grant Application Finalized and Submitted
  Match Donations - Ray Elston ($15,000)
  Deer Hunters ($5,000 plus requesting an additional $5,000 from State MDHA Office
  Cottonwood Game & Fish Protective League $10,000

- **Training -** BWSR Academy October 20-23 – Registration - $255 per person plus lodging and meals

**-OVER-**

- **Meetings**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| September | 22-24 | Environmental Fair – Marshall | Staff |
| September | 22 | SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual | Supervisors, Staff, Tom A |
| September | 23-24 | Manager's Co-Hort – St Paul | Kay |
| September | 24-25 | Manager's State Meeting – St Cloud | Kay |
| October | 2 | Area II/RCRCA – Redwood Falls | Clark |
| October | 6 | MASWCD Resolution Review – Managers – Virtual | Kay, Becky |
| October | 7 | MASWCD Awards Meeting – Virtual | Becky |
| October | 8 | Des Moines Tech Meeting – Office/Virtual | Staff |
| October | 8-10 | MN Planning/Zoning Conference – Alexandria | Alex |
| October | 16 | Des Moines Policy Board – Windom/Virtual | Daryl, Kay, Becky, Tom A |
| October | 17 | GBERBA Executive Board – Office/Virtual | Clark, Kay, Becky |
| October | 20-21 | BWSR Academy – Brainerd | Staff, Alex, Dylan, Adriene |
| October | 27 | SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual | Supervisors, Staff, Tom A |
| October | 29 | GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual | 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 – Monday, October 27 at 8:30 a.m. – Cottonwood SWCD Office**

# SEPTEMBER TRANSACTIONS

**District Checking Account Balances 8-28-2025 (Bank Midwest)** **$685,216.26**

**RECEIPTS: (since last board meeting)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Interest August - 2025 Bank Midwest (Checking Account $90.24 and Sweep Account $845.36) | $935.60 |
| BWSR-RCPP Cost Share | $180,000.00 |
| BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-01-24-03 | $500.00 |
| BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-02-24-03 | $500.00 |
| BWSR - Reimbursement Easement Work - 17-04-24-09 | $2,500.00 |
| Cottonwood County Ag Society-Reimbursement for Printing Fair Books | $300.00 |
| Cottonwood County-July 27-Aug 23 Contract $7192.96, P & Z $940.75 | $8,133.71 |
| MN DNR - ReLeaf Grant - Mt Lake | $8,297.00 |
| Southwest Prairie TSA - Administrative Contract - July 27- Aug 23 | $3,622.05 |
| Southwest Prairie TSA - Reimbursement for Field Day (Russell Hedrick) | $1,827.67 |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** **$206,616.03**

**DISBURSEMENTS: (since last board meeting)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Direct Deposit | Payroll 08-10-25 to 08-23-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest | $16,903.90 |
| Direct Deposit | Payroll 08-24-25 to 09-06-25 Plus Pera, MN Dept of Rev, Bank Midwest | $21,469.15 |
| Direct Deposit | Rebecca Buchholz - Payout 75 hrs Annual Leave & 75 Comp Time | $4,888.94 |
| Direct Deposit | Kay Gross - Payout 100 hrs Annual Leave & 50 Comp Time | $5,709.94 |
| 26889 | Cigna Health - Accident Ins - September 2025 | $9.70 |
| 26890 | Fidelity Security - Vision Ins September 2025 | $6.61 |
| 26891 | The Hartford - LTD September 2025 | $167.68 |
| 26892 | Murray SWCD - SWPTSA Admin Assistance - August | $2,840.40 |
| 26893 | Schwalbach Hardware - Hoses & Connectors and Misc | $99.26 |
| 26894 | Soil Regen-Speaker Fee - Russell Hedrick | $4,194.54 |
| 26895 | Dale McMullen-Mow Grass/ Spray, Etc for CCFS | $565.00 |
| 26896 | Mike Wojahn - Mow Grass for CCFS | $60.00 |
| 26897 | Higley Ford-Oil Change & Filter for Ford F150 | $69.98 |
| 26898 | Running's - Coupler & Adapter | $21.98 |
| 26899 | Staples Enterprises - August | $390.66 |
| 26900 | SWMASWCD-Sept Area 5 Registration 4 @ $15=$60 | $60.00 |
| 26901 | SWMASWCD-Sept Area 5 Registration 1 @ $15=$15 | $15.00 |

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **$57,472.74**

**BALANCE BEFORE BOARD MEETING** **$834,359.55**

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**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**
**9/22/2025**
(to be approved at this board meeting)

| Payable | | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 26902 | Cottonwood County Auditor- Insurance - October 2025 | $3,112.44 |
| 26903 | BWSR - 2025 Academy Registration | $1,160.00 |
| 26904 | Citizen - Site Hosts (3) Digital ad-Field School($15), Shopper ad-FS($225.40), Citizen-FS ( $147.70) | $433.10 |
| 26905 | Cottonwood County Auditor - County Rent - October 2025, Phone Usage | $2,294.74 |
| 26906 | Elan Financial Services - Meals, Office Supplies, Lodging | $699.14 |
| 26907 | Gordon Flesch - Copier | $437.63 |
| 26908 | Hy-Vee - Misc Supplies | $98.56 |
| 26909 | Indoff Inc. - Copy Paper | $97.95 |
| 26910 | NCPERS - Group Life Insurance - October 2025 | $96.00 |
| 26911 | ODP Business Solutions - Office Supplies | $151.84 |
| 26912 | Verizon - JetPack - 1 Month | $50.60 |
| 26913 | Windom Printing - Soil Health Cards | $74.00 |
| 26914 | Herman Bartsch - Mileage & Cell | $394.40 |
| 26915 | Rebecca Buchholz - Cell | $40.00 |
| 26916 | Kay Gross - Mileage, Cell, & Hotel | $1,005.35 |
| 26917 | Breanna Wagner - Stickers for Students for Elem Field Days | $17.08 |

**TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **$10,162.83**

**District Checking Account Balance** **$824,196.72**

**Balances as of 9-22-2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 - 2nd Quarter ($527.96 - Included in Total) | **$56,999.10** |
| **Account Balances: Checking (2)/Savings/Petty Cash/CD:** | **$936,952.23** |

# Southwest Prairie Technical Service
## Balance Sheet Detail
### As of August 31, 2025

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Class | Clr | Split | Amount | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | | | | | | | | 1,313,770.14 |
| **Current Assets** | | | | | | | | | 1,108,320.46 |
| **Checking/Savings** | | | | | | | | | 1,095,398.18 |
| **Checking Account** | | | | | | | | | 271,885.24 |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 08/06/2025 | 4290 | Cottonwood SWCD | Admin-July 1-... | | X | Accounts Paya... | -4,443.57 | 267,441.67 |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 08/06/2025 | 4291 | Elan Finanical Servi... | meals, gas | | X | Accounts Paya... | -384.51 | 267,057.16 |
| Liability Check | 08/07/2025 | 4292 | MN PEIP | | | X | -SPLIT- | -2,919.28 | 264,137.88 |
| Liability Check | 08/13/2025 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Created by P... | | X | Direct Deposit ... | -7,912.67 | 256,225.21 |
| Paycheck | 08/14/2025 | DD1693 | Harrison, Jacob L | Direct Deposit | FY20 ESTS | | -SPLIT- | 0.00 | 256,225.21 |
| Paycheck | 08/14/2025 | DD1694 | Hoogendoorn, Russell | Direct Deposit | FY23 NP... | | -SPLIT- | 0.00 | 256,225.21 |
| Paycheck | 08/14/2025 | DD1695 | Skoglund, Michael | Direct Deposit | FY23 NP... | | -SPLIT- | 0.00 | 256,225.21 |
| Liability Check | 08/14/2025 | auto | EFTPS | 41-1811267 | | X | -SPLIT- | -3,026.14 | 253,199.07 |
| Liability Check | 08/14/2025 | auto | MN Revenue | 1947844 | | X | State Withholdi... | -557.00 | 252,642.07 |
| Liability Check | 08/14/2025 | auto | MSRS | | | X | Federal Withho... | -100.00 | 252,542.07 |
| Liability Check | 08/14/2025 | auto | PERA | | | X | -SPLIT- | -1,631.51 | 250,910.56 |
| Liability Check | 08/14/2025 | auto | MSRS | | | X | HCSP-Def C | -475.00 | 250,435.56 |
| Liability Check | 08/14/2025 | auto | MSRS | | | X | HCSP-Def C | -30.00 | 250,405.56 |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 08/14/2025 | 4293 | Chandler Co-op | gas | | X | Accounts Paya... | -134.80 | 250,270.76 |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 08/14/2025 | 4294 | Green Garden Place... | 07/01/2025-0... | | X | Accounts Paya... | -11,004.06 | 239,266.70 |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 08/20/2025 | 4295 | Verizon | | | X | Accounts Paya... | -192.82 | 239,073.88 |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 08/22/2025 | 4296 | Ratwik, Roszak & M... | | | | Accounts Paya... | -1,873.00 | 237,200.88 |
| Liability Check | 08/27/2025 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Created by P... | | X | Direct Deposit ... | -7,912.65 | 229,288.23 |
| Paycheck | 08/28/2025 | DD1696 | Harrison, Jacob L | Direct Deposit | FY20 ESTS | X | -SPLIT- | 0.00 | 229,288.23 |
| Paycheck | 08/28/2025 | DD1697 | Hoogendoorn, Russell | Direct Deposit | FY23 NP... | X | -SPLIT- | 0.00 | 229,288.23 |
| Paycheck | 08/28/2025 | DD1698 | Skoglund, Michael | Direct Deposit | FY23 NP... | X | -SPLIT- | 0.00 | 229,288.23 |
| Liability Check | 08/28/2025 | auto | EFTPS | 41-1811267 | | X | -SPLIT- | -3,026.18 | 226,262.05 |
| Liability Check | 08/28/2025 | auto | MN Revenue | 1947844 | | X | State Withholdi... | -557.00 | 225,705.05 |
| Liability Check | 08/28/2025 | auto | MSRS | | | X | Federal Withho... | -100.00 | 225,605.05 |
| Liability Check | 08/28/2025 | auto | MSRS | | | X | HCSP-Def C | -475.00 | 225,130.05 |
| Liability Check | 08/28/2025 | auto | MSRS | | | X | HCSP-Def C | -30.00 | 225,100.05 |
| Liability Check | 08/28/2025 | auto | PERA | | | X | -SPLIT- | -1,631.51 | 223,468.54 |
| Deposit | 08/29/2025 | | | Deposit | | X | Interest on Che... | 375.42 | 223,843.96 |
| Total Checking Account | | | | | | | | -48,041.28 | 223,843.96 |
| **Savings Interest Account** | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| Total Savings Interest Account | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| **Select Business Savings** | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| Total Select Business Savings | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| **Sweep Account** | | | | | | | | | 823,512.94 |
| Deposit | 08/29/2025 | | | Deposit | | | Interest on Che... | 1,294.88 | 824,807.82 |
| Total Sweep Account | | | | | | | | 1,294.88 | 824,807.82 |
| Total Checking/Savings | | | | | | | | -46,746.40 | 1,048,651.78 |

**Monthly Treasurer's Report**
**Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area**
**August 2025**

| Use of Cash | Beginning Balance 8/1/2025 | Receipts | Disbursements | Ending Balance 8/31/2025 | EXPIRES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Checking Account | $ 271,885.24 | 375.42 | $ 48,416.70 | 223,843.96 | |
| Select Business Svg | $ - | | | - | |
| Interest Money | $ - | | | - | |
| Compensated Absences | $ - | | | - | |
| Sweep Account | $ 823,512.94 | 1,294.88 | | 824,807.82 | |
| CD | $ - | | | - | |
| **Total** | **$ 1,095,398.18** | **1,670.30** | **$ 48,416.70** | **1,048,651.78** | |
| **Program Summary** | | | | | |
| JPO Fund Balance | $ 109,660.49 | 1,670.30 | | 111,330.79 | |
| Technical Services | $ 294,465.33 | | $ 48,416.70 | 246,048.63 | |
| GRANTS | $ 606,369.04 | | | 606,369.04 | |
| Training | $ 12,108.17 | | | 12,108.17 | |
| Education/Outreach | $ 18,795.15 | | | 18,795.15 | |
| Compensated Absences | $ 54,000.00 | | | 54,000.00 | |
| NACD Grant | $ - | | | - | |
| | **$ 1,095,398.18** | **1,670.30** | **$ 48,416.70** | **1,048,651.78** | |
| **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 | $ 190,380.96 | | $ 12,539.13 | 177,841.83 | 12/31/2025 |
| FY24 Local Match | $ - | | | - | |
| FY24 Administration | $ 36,512.11 | | | 36,512.11 | |
| FY24 NPEA | $ 103,448.27 | | | 103,448.27 | 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 | |
| | $ 1,091,909.80 | | **Total** | **1,079,370.67** | |

# SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

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


**DATE:** **SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

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

**FROM:** **KAY GROSS, ADMINSTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

**SUBJECT:** **COORDINATOR REPORT**

**Soil Health/Training Contract Position**
Great turnout in Cottonwood County – 74 participants for the Russell Hendrick event with Pipestone hosting 58 participants and Dawn 83 participants. Approximately 70 were in attendance at the Field School Event on August 19.

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.

**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.
Danielle is working with SWCD staff to understand and help local landowners with the MAWQCP additional cost-share available for practices ($5,000 per project). Danielle has been busy working with local landowners to apply and also review applications for some participants.

**State TSA Managers Meeting**
Next meeting is set for September 4.

**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** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 68 hrs Administration | 32.25 hrs Administration | 51.75 hrs Administration | 58 hrs Administration |
| $4,602.53 | $2,414.84 | $4,257.49 | $4,622.88 |
| 12 Mentors | 11 Mentors | 13 Mentors | 17 Mentors |
| 115 Contacts | 86 Contacts | 38 Contacts | 119 Contacts |
| 19 Meetings | 25 Meetings | 32 Meetings | 22 Meetings |
| 334.75 Hours | 222.25 Hours | 252.25 Hours | 331.8 Hours |
| $27,121.25 | $17,898.75 | $20,376.25 | $27,250.50 |
| 18,582 acres | 23,406 acres | 28,184 acres | 55,064.50 acres |

Total Expended - $108,544.48 Total Acres - 125,236.5 ($0.58/acre)

The Cottonwood SWCD will also be hiring a SWPTSA – Soil Health Team Lead, starting in early October.

**TSA Manager Meeting**
Will work towards having a TSA Manager's meeting in September.

**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).

210 10th St
Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

# COTTONWOOD
# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Date:** September 19, 2025

**Name:** Becky Buchholz (Senior Technician)

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

**Past Events:**

- August 27, 2025 – HR 2.0 for Public Sector Training, St. Cloud, MN
- September 10-11, 2025 – SWCD Governance 101, St. Cloud, MN
- September 17, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, virtual
- September 17, 2025 – Cottonwood 1W1P Tech meeting, virtual
- September 18, 2025 – Area V, Marshal, MN
- September 19, 2025 – Des Moines Exec, Windom, MN
- September 19, 2025 – GBERBA Policy, Windom/virtual

**Upcoming 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
- October 27, 2025 – Cottonwood SWCD board meeting, Windom
- October 29, 2025 – GBERBA Tech, online

**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 had one batching period July 25, 2025 and may be the only batching period until July 2026. Still waiting to hear back if anybody was accepted or not.
    - RIM Drinking Water is the revamped RIM Wellhead, it offers more flexible options including: 25 years or perpetual easements, grazing, perennial cropping rotations, etc.
    - 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.
    - I have received my Level 2 Conservation Planner status.
- 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. We do have a contribution agreement with MASWCD for reimbursement for 2025 plans and status reviews.

**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.

**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: 2
    - De minimis: 1
    - Conservation exemption: 1

# COTTONWOOD
## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

***Program Technician Report for September 22, 2025***

**Past Priorities:**

- Cover Crop Field School: August 19th, 2025
- Elementary Field Days Pollinator Jeopardy: September 8th-11th.

**Current Priorities:**

- **Projects:**
  - Flyers/Banners/Brochures for RCPP Program
  - RIM and State CS Spot-checks this Summer!
  - 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)
  - Step 2 towards Pollinator Steward Certification: Complete Habitat and Outreach Events by Aug 2025.
- **Trainings:**
  - Level 1 Conservation Planner Webinars.
  - JAA for Vegetative BMPs such as Conservation Cover and Critical Area Planting.
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Attend Quarterly Tree Commission Meetings for Windom.
  - Tree Site Visits with landowners throughout Cottonwood County.

**Future Priorities:**

- **Outreach & Education:**
  - Environmental Fair Glaciers Presentation: September 23rd-24th (monthly meetings)
  - Outreach to Windom/Mt Lake Schools when school starts in Fall
- **Trainings:**
  - Urban Practices/Small Scale Ag Webinars and Trainings
  - Winter Tree ID
- **Meetings/Events:**
  - Tree Care Workshop: November 2025

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# COTTONWOOD
## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

***Program Technician Report for September 22, 2025 – Nathan Harder***

**Completed Activities from Previous Month:**

- **Trainings/Meetings attended**
  - Attended GBERBA Tech and some of Cottonwood Tech meetings
- **Tree Program**
  - Completed the adjustments to trees planted for DNR grant in Mt Lake and finished closing out that project
  - Site visits and tree plan updates: 3 completed
- **Soil Health**
  - Review meetings for Russell Hedrick and CC Field School, and plans for next year
  - Began working on speakers and planning for Hwy 14 Tour meetings
  - Started working on paperwork for RCPP contracts
  - Attended the Samuelson Seeds customer dinner
  - Participated in MOSH Farmer Networks meeting
- **Other Activities**
  - Began working with Dustin Krick to look into Grade Stabilization potential project near Westbrook
  - Carried out 3 septic installation inspections
  - Working on feedlot inspections and reporting
  - Met on-site with Russ & Mike from TSA and Scott Veenker at Fish Lake Turner project

**Priorities for Month Ahead:**

- **Trainings/Meetings planned**
  - MOSH LGU call
  - BWSR Academy
- **Tree Program**
  - Make adjustments to trees planted in Windom
- **Soil Health**
  - Work on RCPP contract paperwork with Dawn
- **Other Activities**
  - Trash pickup on Hwy 71

# 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
September 15th, 2025

**Workload:**

- MAWQCP Reviews
- Brown, Faribault, and Renville County Assessments and Certifications
- Vertical till, nutrient management, and climate smart MAWQCP grants
- Windom Cover Crop Field School – 8/19
- Tillage and Tile Drainage Field Day – 9/9
- RCPP Soil Health cover crop and no-till/strip-till plan reviews

| AREA 6 | Applications | Assessments | Certifications |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Blue Earth SWCD** | **18** | **16** | **10** |
| **Brown SWCD** | **21** | **16** | **8** |
| **Faribault SWCD** | **46** | **38** | **30** |
| **LeSueur SWCD** | **23** | **16** | 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** | **245** | **194** | **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

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**Planning and Zoning Technician**

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Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-832-8287

# COTTONWOOD
# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**Date: September 25, 2025**
**Name:** Alex Schultz

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

**Past Events:**

- **Aug 28- Board of Adjustment meeting**
- **Sept 8- MACFO FMT Meeting**
- **Sept 10- Ag Inspector Board meeting**

**Upcoming Events:**

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

**Planning and Zoning:**

- **Planning Commission Meeting- The Sioux Rock Quarry is in the process of a stay being granted for the time being. This will be to see if the Lower Sioux and the owner of the quarry can work out a deal without the County being involved. I don't know what the outcome will be but this is good news for the County**
- **Board of Adjustments- Variance hearing on Orvil Klassen with Grain bins within setback area did pass**
- **Permits**
  - Setback Permits, 7 Issued
  - CUP, 0 Issued
  - Variances, 1 Issued
  - 911 addresses, 0 Issued

**Feedlots**

**10 inspections have been done with the goal of 14 in mind. We are ahead of schedule thanks to Nathan inspecting and me uploading onto the data website**

# Cottonwood County Drainage

Dylan Oeltjenbruns-Drainage Inspector

Date: September 28, 2025

Past Events

- Final Hearing for 2nd group of ROB's-August 20

Upcoming Events

- JD18CM Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- JD24CB Landowner Meeting-Date TBD
- Continuation Hearing for 2nd Group of ROB's

Summary Report

Projects still in full swing. Working through information for both Plum Creek and Big Bend wind projects. JD24 project starting to gain traction again.

GBERBA

# Greater Blue Earth River Basin

Sept 2, 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
- Took in **8** new applications and completed **15** assessments in the month of August, in direct response to the Soil Health Financial Assistance Equipment grant.
- **2 of 2** recertifications complete
- Working on getting a speaker for the Hwy 14 tour

**Events/Dates:**

- 8/6/25 – Farmfest – Morton, MN
- 8/7/25 – Cottonwood Co Fair – Windom, MN
- 8/19/25 – Cover Crop Field School – Windom, MN
- 8/28/25 – MN State Fair
- 9/18/25 – Lac Qui Parle Event details TBD – Dawson, MN

**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 | 56 | 55 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Jackson | **39** | **38** | 24 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Lac Qui Parle | 18 | 18 | **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 | **72** | **70** | 37 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Redwood | **57** | **50** | 27 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Rock | **72** | **67** | 37 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Yellow Med. | **39** | 38 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Totals** | **485** | **465** | **257** | 16 | 13 | 6 | 29 |

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*Group leader at the Cover Crop Field School 8/19/25*

# Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

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

September 10th, 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:**

- County trash pick up 8/16
- DNR Diagnosing Stream Workshop 8/23 – 8/25
- Sheep farmer interview CCMI Blog
- Higher education informational interview 8/16
- SWCD part 3 informational Interview 8/30

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