COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
December 16, 2025

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on December 16, 2025 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Chair Daryl Tasler at 9:40 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 Senior Technician, Becky Buchholz District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody Dave Bucklin

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Agenda: Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Lingbeek, second by Tasler to approve the November 25, 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 December 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 Lingbeek to approve and pay December accounts payable totaling $32,637.76.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Fourth Quarter Compensation and Expenses: The following meetings and expenses were approved for payment: Des Moines Executive Board Meeting – Office/WebEx; October 17 – RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Redwood Falls - $125.00; October 4 & 8 – Interviews – Office; October 17 – GBERBA Executive Meeting – Office/WebEx- $125.00; October 27 – SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx - $125.00.

November 6 - RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Marshall - $125.00; November 14 - GBERBA Policy Board/Technical Committee Meeting – Mankato/WebEx - $125.00; November 20 – Des Moines Executive Board Meeting – Office/WebEx - $125.00; November 25 – SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx - $125.00.

December 1-3 – MASWCD State Convention – Bloomington – $125.00/Day; December 4 – RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Redwood Falls - $125.00; December 9 – Personnel Committee – Employee Reviews – Office - $125.00; December 16 – SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx - $125.00; December 18 – Des Moines Executive Board Meeting – Office/WebEx - $125.00; December 19 – GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Office/WebEx - $125.00; December 22 – RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Virtual - $125.00
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the fourth quarter compensation and expenses for the District Supervisors.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Year-End Payroll and Payables
Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the Year-End Payroll and Accounts Payable disbursements by end of December 31, 2025.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Certificate of Deposit Renewal – 12-25-2025 (182 days)
Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the renewal of the Certificate of Deposit ($55,706.41 + December 2025 interest) for 182 days at a rate of 3.50% and APY at 3.53%.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCRCA (Cottonwood 1W1P): Lingbeek
GBERBA: Lingbeek, Gross and Buchholz
Des Moines Partnership: Muller, Tasler, Buchholz and Gross
1W1P Blue Earth: Gross
Southwest Prairie TSA: Muller and Gross
Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers and Financial Report
Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the Southwest Prairie December Administrative Report and November Financials and December vouchers.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Reviews and Meeting date changed to Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Area V MASWCD: Lingbeek, Gross – Next Meeting – February 19, 9:30 a.m. virtual
MASWCD: Lingbeek – Election Options for SWCD ----- Talked to Mona and Offered Help
NRCS: Loren Clark (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 - Report

ADMINITRATOR REPORT: Kay Gross
BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval– WBIF – FY23-25 Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C23-0008)
David & Beatrice Muller Trust 23-DMRW-COT-042 Dale 17 Grass Waterway – 900 L. F. Cost $2,500.00 C-S $2,142.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Tasler to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract – WBIF – FY23-25 Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C23-0008) for Muller Trust (23-DMRW-COT-042) Grass Waterway ($2,142.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - A Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Abstained: Muller
Opposed: None.
Motion carried

BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341)
Gary Mattison 25-CWMM-COT-006 Highwater 22 Well Decommissioning Cost $1,600.00 C-S $800.00

Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341) Mattison (25-CWMM-COT-006) Well Decommissioning ($800.00)
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341)
Joel Wellner 25-CWMM-COT-004 Delton 9 Water & Sediment Control Basin Cost $15,657.99 C-S $11,900.85

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Muller to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract Final Payment - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341) Wellner (25-CWMM-COT-004) WASCOB ($11,900.85).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCPP (Grant #3-4) – Ranking and Committee Batching-Approval and Amendment – 12-16-2025 - $120,000, $120,000

Contract 17-3-2 Ranking Points 45	Total Acres 750ac - 3 years	Cover Crop	Total Payment $101,250
Contract 17-3-3 Ranking Points 30	Total Acres 150ac - 3 years	Cover Crop	Total Payment $27,000
Contract 17-3-4 Ranking Points 25	Total Acres 179.25ac – 2 years	Strip-Till-No-Till	Total Payment $12,547.50
Contract 17-3-5 Ranking Points ??	Total Acres ?? – 2-3 years	Strip-Till-No-Till	Total Payment Unknown
Contract 17-3-6 Ranking Points ??	Total Acres ?? – 2-3 years	Strip-Till-No-Till	Total Payment Unknown
Contract 17-3-7 Ranking Points ??	Total Acres ?? – 2-3 years	Strip-Till-No-Till	Total Payment Unknown
Contract 17-3-8 Ranking Points 30	Total Acres 142ac – 3 years	Cover Crop	Total Payment $25,560

Motion by Nerem, second Muller by to approve the RCPP (Grant #3) – Ranking and Committee Batching 12-16-2025 with Contract 17-3-2 (Ranking Points 45) Cover Crops (Grant Funds - $101,250) and Contract 17-3-3 (Ranking Points 30) Cover Crops (Grant Funds - $27,000); Contract 17-3-4 (Ranking Points 25) Strip-Till-No-Till (Grant Funds - $12,547.50); Contract 17-3-5 (Ranking Points ??) Strip-Till-No-Till ($Unknown); Contract 17-3-6 (Ranking Points ??) Strip-Till-No-Till ($Unknown); Contract 17-3-7 (Ranking Points ??) Strip-Till-No-Till ($Unknown) and Contract 17-3-8 (Ranking Points 30) Cover Crop ($25,560).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

FY2025 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P25-0197) Well Sealing Contract and Payment
Ron Peters 2025-05 Dale 36 Well Decommissioning Cost $1,600.00 C-S $525.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve FY2025 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P25-0197) Well Sealing Contract and Payment for Peters (2025-05) Well Decommissioning ($525.00).
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem - Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

BWSR – Soil Health Delivery – Request for Interest - $50,000 – No Motion Needed

Talcot Lake Project - Update
Approved for the $1 million engineering phase. Request to work with the Southwest Prairie TSA staff to help facilitate our Joint Powers Agreement with the DNR.

String Lake Project - Update
Awaiting the funding cycle – December 30, 2025; Deer Hunters – Received the additional $5,000 from State MDHA Office.

FY26-27 – BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management – RFP - Cottonwood Bown Judicial Ditch No. 24
Grant application will be submitted through Cottonwood County and Dylan Oeltjenbruns with assistance from the Cottonwood SWCD and ISG.

Recommendations from Personnel Committee
Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the SWCD Employee Reviews and Personnel Committee recommendations starting January 1, 2026 including a 8% COLA. Other changes include Administrative Assistant move from Grade 8 Range C to Grade 8 Range D; Area 6 Certification Specialist from Grade 11 Range J to Grade 11 Range K.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Resignation – Clark Lingbeek – Nominating District 1
Motion by Muller, second by Tasler to approve the resignation of Supervisor Clark Lingbeek, Nominating District 1, effective December 31, 2025.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Appoint – David Bucklin – Nominating District 1
Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the appointment of David Buckin, Supervisor Nominating District 1, effective January 1, 2026 to complete the term vacated by Clark Lingbeek from January 1 – December 31, 2026.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller – Y Nerem – Y Lingbeek - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCRCA and GBERBA Committees – Starting January 5th.

December Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
December 22 - Area II/RCRCA – Virtual; January 5 - Area II/RCRCA – Marshall; January 13 - Southwest Prairie TSA Reviews/Mtg – Office/Virtual; January 15 - Des Moines Policy Meeting – LEC/Virtual; January 22 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; January 30 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Office/Virtual.

SWCD Employee Meetings
January 5 - Area II/RCRCA – Marshall; January 5 - MN Rivers WRAPS Meeting – Virtual; January 6 - Commissioner Meeting – Courthouse; January 7-8 - Manager Co-Hort – St. Paul; January 12 - Des Moines WRAPS Meeting – Virtual; January 13 - Southwest Prairie TSA Reviews/Mtg – Office/Virtual; January 14 - Des Moines Technical Meeting – Office/Virtual; January 15 - Des Moines Policy Meeting – LEC/Virtual; January 22 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; January 28 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; January 30 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Office/Virtual.

Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of December/January.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – 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 Chair Daryl Tasler at 11:42 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on <u>Thursday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**