COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
January 22, 2026

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on January 22, 2026 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Chair Daryl Tasler at 8:37 a.m.

Members Present in Office or Media (WebEx):	Chairman, Daryl Tasler (Office) Vice Chairman, Tom Muller (Office) Secretary, Jeremy Nerem (Office) PR&I, Dave Bucklin (Office)
Absent:	Treasurer, Cody Duroe
Others Present:	Tom Appel, County Commissioner District Administrator, Kay Gross District Senior Technician, Becky Buchholz District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Agenda: Motion by Bucklin, second by Muller to approve the agenda with the addition of PRAP – Performance Review and Assistance Program Cottonwood SWCD and County.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Nerem, second by Tasler to approve the December 16, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the consent agenda including the 2026 Board Positions, Committees, Banking Institution, Mileage Rate and Official Newspaper, Copies, Health and Life Insurance and District Monthly Payables; Grant Signing Authority and BWSR Final Financial Reports – Elink, SWCD Aid Payment 2027 and Limited License to Use Copyrighted Material.
Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Y Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin - Y
Motion carried.

Tom Muller took over Chairman duties.

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

Accounts Payable: Motion by Nerem, second by Tasler to approve and pay January accounts payable totaling $33,930.30.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Engagement Letter for 2025 Audit

Motion by Bucklin, second by Tasler to approve the Engagement Letter to Peterson and Company for the 2025 Audit which will cost $6,700.00.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Bank Midwest – Check Signers

Motion by Tasler, second by Nerem to approve the deletion of Clark Lingbeek and add Dave Bucklin for check signing authority.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCRCA (Cottonwood 1W1P): Bucklin
GBERBA: Bucklin, 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 Tasler, second by Nerem to approve the Southwest Prairie January Administrative Report and December Financials and December/January vouchers.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Area V MASWCD: Gross – Next Meeting – February 19, 9:30 a.m. virtual
MASWCD: Gross – Helping Mona with Area 5
MASWCD: Buchholz – Legislative Days – March 17 & 18
NRCS: Loren Clark, 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
Job Approval Authority – Breanna Wagner and Nathan Harder
Motion by Bucklin, second by Nerem to approve the Skills Matrix Worksheet for Breanna Wagner for Residue and Tillage Mgmt – No-Till; Cover Crops; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation and Nathan Harder for Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCPP (Grant #3-4) – Ranking and Committee Batching-Approval and Amendment – 1-22-2026 - $120,000, $120,000
Contract 17-2-1 Moving $678.00 local funds to Grant #3 (November)

Contract 17-3-2	Ranking Points 45	Total Acres 575ac - 1 yrs	Cover Crop	Total Payment $25,875
Contract 17-3-3	Ranking Points 30	Total Acres 148 (150)ac - 3 yrs	Cover Crop	Total Payment $26,880
Contract 17-3-5	Ranking Points 60	Total Acres 5,026.22 – 1 yr	Strip-Till-No-Till	Total Payment $175,917.70
Contract 17-3-7	Ranking Points 50	Total Acres 334.21ac – 2 yrs	Strip-Till-No-Till	Total Payment $23,394.70

Motion by Nerem, second Tasler by to approve the RCPP (Grant #3-4) – Ranking and Committee Batching 1-22-2026 with Contract 17-2-1 Moving $678.00 local funds to Grant #3 (November); Contract 17-3-2 (Ranking Points 45) Cover Crops (Grant Funds - $25,875); Contract 17-3-3 (Ranking Points 30) Cover Crops (Grant Funds - $26,880); Contract 17-3-5 (Ranking Points 60) Strip-Till-No-Till (Grant Funds – 175,917.70); Contract 17-3-7 (Ranking Points 50) Strip-Till-No-Till ($23,394.70).
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

FY2026 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P25-0197) Well Sealing Contract and Payment
Mark Highby 2026-01 Ann 1 Well Decommissioning Cost $1,464.38 C-S $525.00

Motion by Tasler, second by Bucklin to approve FY2026 Local Water Management – NRBG Grant (P26-0407) Well Sealing Contract and Payment for Highby (2026-01) Well Decommissioning ($525.00).
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Deer Hunters and Ducks Unlimited
Motion by Bucklin, second by Nerem to approve the registration for staff to attend the Deer Hunters and Ducks Unlimited banquets 2026 and supply wood duck boxes as giveaways.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Soil Health Workshop – Highway 14 CLASIC
Motion by Nerem, second by Tasler to approve the Cottonwood SWCD as the Financial Coordinator for the event and to supply giveaways.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

BWSR – FY2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Program Grant Agreement – November (P26-0912) December (P26-0914)
Motion by Nerem, second by Tasler to approve the BWSR – FY2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Program Grant Agreement – November and December totaling $240,000 with an Effective Date of January 14, 2026 and Expiration Date of December 31, 2028.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

BWSR – FY2026 BWSR Buffer Implementation Program Grant Agreement – Buffer Law
Motion by Bucklin, second by Tasler to approve the BWSR – FY2026 BWSR Buffer Implementation Program Grant Agreement – Buffer Law totaling $25,000 with an Effective Date of January 7, 2026 and Expiration Date of December 31, 2028.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services – Work Order Contract – 17-25-W003
Motion by Tasler, second by Nerem to approve the State of Minnesota – Professional and Technical Services – Work Order Contract 17-25-W003 Effective Date January 12, 2026 to January 31, 2029 for $2,500.00 (17-02-25-09).
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

2025 Pay Equity Report and Explanation of Changes Letter
Motion by Muller, second by Tasler7 to approve the 2025 Pay Equity Report and Explanation of Changes Letter, sign and submit to the Office of Management and Budget.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Website Compliance by 2027 – Bring back final proposal

PRAP – Performance Review Assistance Program – Cottonwood SWCD and Cottonwood County
Kick-Off March 16, 2026

BWSR – Soil Health Delivery – Request for Interest - $50,000 – No Motion Needed
FY26-27 – BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management – RFP - Cottonwood Bown Judicial Ditch No. 24
Award notifications late January 2026
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.

January/February Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
January 30 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual; February 5 0 Area II/RCRCA Meeting – Redwood Falls; February 13 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; February 19 - Area V MASWCD Meeting – Virtual; February 19 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; February 26 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office.

SWCD Employee Meetings
January 26 - MACDE Meeting – Virtual; January 27 - Planning Commission Meeting – BARC; January 27-29 - Drainage Conference – Alexandria; January 28 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual; January 28 - Soil Health Mentor Meeting – Marshall; January 30 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual; February 3 - Nutrient Management Conference – Mankato; February 4 - Drainage Redetermination Meeting – Westbrook; February 5 - Shoreland Training – St. Joseph; February 11-12 - Manager Co-Hort – St. Paul; February 13 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; February 18 - Hwy 14 Lamberton Tour – Research Center; February 19 - Area V MASWCD Meeting – Virtual; February 19 - Des Moines Executive Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; February 25 - GBERBA Technical Committee – Virtual/Windom; February 26 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Virtual/Office; February 28 - MDHA Des Moines Deer Hunters Banquet – Windom.

Motion by Tasler, second by Bucklin to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of January/February.
Roll Call Vote: Muller - Y Nerem – Y Bucklin – Y Tasler - 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 Tom Muller at 11:32 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on <u>Thursday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**