COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
April 23, 2026

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on April 23, 2026 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jeremy Nerem at 8:31 a.m.

Members Present in Office or Media (WebEx):	Chairman, Tom Muller (Office – Came Late) Vice Chairman, Jeremy Nerem (Office) Secretary, Cody Duroe (Office) Treasurer, Daryl Tasler (Online – Visual and Audio and Office) PR&I, Dave Bucklin (Office)
Absent:	None
Others Present:	Tom Appel, County Commissioner District Administrator, Kay Gross District Senior Technician, Becky Buchholz District Administrative Assistant, Annitra Moody County Executive Director, Rhonda Crowell

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

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

Minutes: Motion by Bucklin, second by Duroe to approve the March 27, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.
Roll Call Vote: Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Accounts Payable: Motion by Duroe, second by Bucklin to approve and pay April accounts payable totaling $59,224.59.
Roll Call Vote: Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCRCA (Cottonwood-Middle MN Watershed): Bucklin, Buchholz
GBERBA: Bucklin, Gross and Buchholz
Des Moines Partnership: Muller, Tasler, Buchholz and Gross

Tom Muller – Arrived to Meeting – 8:40 a.m.

Southwest Prairie TSA: Muller and Gross

Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers and Financial Report

Motion by Muller, second by Bucklin to approve the Southwest Prairie April Administrative Report and March Financials and March/April vouchers.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve and forward the resolution Increase State Funding for SWCD Technical Service Areas.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the purchase of speaker, projector and screen for $938.94.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Prevailing Wage and Project not to NRCS Specs

Area V MASWCD: Gross – Next Meeting – June 18, Dawson
MASWCD: Buchholz – Legislative Days – Report
NRCS: Loren Clark, Acting CST – Cottonwood – Jackson – Martin – Watonwan – Not in Attendance (Report)
Locally Lead Conservation for FY26 – Watonwan Hosting this year – Needs to be before June 26
FSA: Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director – In Attendance
Cottonwood County Commissioner: Commissioner Tom Appel - Report

ADMINITRATOR REPORT: Kay Gross
BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval – FY26/27 – Conservation Contracts Grant Agreement (P26-0316)

John Niessen	26-01	Mountain Lake 22	Farmstead Windbreak	Cost $3,302.00 C-S $2,500.00
Warren Pankonin	26-04	Highwater 10	Farmstead Windbreak	Cost $1,210.00 C-S $968.00
Don & Tabitha Garloff	26-05	Mountain Lake 10	Farmstead Windbreak	Cost $2,323.58 C-S $1,858.86

Motion by Muller, second by Duroe to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval – FY26/27 – Conservation Contracts Grant Agreement (P26-0316) for Niessen (26-01) Farmstead Windbreak ($2,500.00); Pankonin (26-04) Farmstead Windbreak ($968.00) and Garloff (26-05) Farmstead Windbreak ($1,858.86).
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Todd Bloch	25-DMRW-COT-013	Dale 19	Grass Waterway 800 ft (1.2 ac) Rank 45	Cost $7,668.00 C-S $6,517.80

Motion by Duroe, second by Bucklin to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract Approval - WBIF FY25-27 - Des Moines River Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0177) for Bloch (25-DMRW-COT-013) Grass Waterway ($6,517.80).
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Brian & Connie Vaupel	25-CWMM-COT-010	Westbrook 9 Ranking 65	Pond for Water Use	Cost $58,920.00 C-S $48,974.00 County Drainage $7,000.00

Motion by Muller, second by Duroe to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract - WBIF FY25-27 – Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C25-0341) for Vaupel (25-CWMM-COT-010) Pond for Water Use ($48,974.00)
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

GBERBA MAWQCP Certification Program Contract and Payment Approval

Burton Stoesz	17-5-44	Worksheet Completion	Incentive $100.00

Motion by Muller, second by Bucklin to approve GBERBA MAWQCP Certification Program Contract and Payment Approval for Stoesz (17-5-44) Worksheet Completion ($100.00).
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

RCPP (Grant #) – Ranking and Committee Batching-Approval and Amendment – 4-23-2026

Tom Muller – Left the Meeting – 10:42 a.m.

State of MNDOT and Cottonwood SWCD Cooperative Construction Agreement and Cottonwood SWCD Resolution to Enter into MNDOT Agreement

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the State of MNDOT and Cottonwood SWCD Cooperative Construction Agreement ($40,000) and Cottonwood SWCD Resolution to Enter into the MNDOT Agreement for Trunk Hwy No. 62 at Bridge No. 17005 under State Project No. 170-36.
Roll Call Vote: Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

MN River Basin Commission
Website Compliance

Motion by Bucklin second by Duroe to approve contracting with Catalis for up to $9,500.00 terms which includes a four year contract.
Roll Call Vote: Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Training Request

Administrative Conference – Walker, MN June 16-18 (3) Registration $100; Lodging $179.10 and Meals.

Motion by Duroe, second by Bucklin to approve the training request for Administrative Conference – Walker, MN June 16-18 (3) Registration $100; Lodging $179.10 and Meals.
Roll Call Vote: Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Talcot Lake Project - Update

Approved for Engineering – DNR will be working on a JPA – Awaiting

String Lake Project - Update

Meeting held April 2; Project is going under DNR Fisheries Lessard-Sams Proposal; Working on Securing an Easement between County and Landowner.

March/April Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings

April 24 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual; May 7 - Area II/RCRCA – Lyon; May 15 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual; May 20 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; May 21 - Des Moines Exec Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual.

SWCD Employee Meetings

April 24 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual; April 27 - MACDE 2nd Quarter Meeting – Virtual; April 28 - HGM Training (WCA) – Rochester; April 28 - Environmental Fair Mtg – Virtual; April 29 - Blue Thumb Workshop – Cities; April 29 - Resolution Mtg – Virtual; April 29 - State Convention Mtg – Virtual; May 7 - Area II/RCRCA – Lyon; May 11-14 - Conservation Corps – Mt Lake and Windom; May 15 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual; May 20 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; May 21 - Des Moines Exec Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; May 27 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual.

Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of April/May.
Roll Call Vote: Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - 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 Vice Chair Jeremy Nerem at 11:28 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on <u>WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**