COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
May 20, 2026

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on May 20, 2026 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Muller at 8:36 a.m.

Members Present in Office or Media (WebEx):	Chairman, Tom Muller (Office) Vice Chairman, Jeremy Nerem (Office) Secretary, Cody Duroe (Office) Treasurer, Daryl Tasler (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

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

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

Minutes: Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the April 23, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Accounts Payable: Motion by Bucklin, second by Tasler to approve and pay May accounts payable totaling $44,006.24.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y 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
Southwest Prairie TSA: Muller and Gross
Southwest Prairie TSA Vouchers and Financial Report
Motion by Duroe, second by Tasle to approve the Southwest Prairie May Administrative Report and April Financials and April/May vouchers.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Area V MASWCD: Gross – Next Meeting – June 18, Dawson – **Number Attending!!!!**
MASWCD: No Report
NRCS: Loren Clark, Acting CST – Cottonwood – Jackson – Martin – Watonwan – Not in Attendance (Report)
County Resource Concern Surveys
FSA: Rhonda Crowell, County Executive Director – Not in Attendance
Cottonwood County Commissioner: Commissioner Tom Appel - Report

ADMINITRATOR REPORT: Kay Gross

BWSR Cost-Share Contract Amendment – FY26/27 – Conservation Contracts Grant Agreement (P26-0316)

Warren Pankonin 26-04 Highwater 10 Farmstead Windbreak Cost $1,210.00 C-S $968.00
We are now hand planting the trees – which increased the cost Cost Increase $1,815.00New C-S $1,452.00

Motion by Tasler, second by Bucklin to approve the BWSR Cost-Share Contract Amendment – FY26/27 – Conservation Contracts Grant Agreement (P26-0316) Pankonin (26-04) Farmstead Windbreak cost increase $1,815.00 and new cost-share $1,452.00.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

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

Romelle Wojahn 17-22(WBIF-WW-24) Dale 23 SSTS – 1 no Incentive $5,000.00

Motion by Nerem, second by Bucklin to approve the GBERBA Cost-Share Contract Approval - FY2024 (2.0) BWSR WBIF-Watonwan Watershed Implementation Grant Agreement (C24-0092) for Wojahn (WBIF-WW-24-17-22) Septic Incentive ($5,000.00).
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 Certification Completion Incentive $200.00

Motion by Tasler, second by Nerem to approve GBERBA MAWQCP Certification Program Contract and Payment Approval for Stoesz (17-5-44) Certification Completion ($200.00).
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

State of MNDNR and Cottonwood SWCD – Mountain Lake Releaf Grant

Motion by Bucklin, second by Nerem to approve the State of MNDNR and Cottonwood SWCD – Mountain Lake Releaf Grant Agreement ($65,672.50) effective May 5, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Request to Payout on Comp Time Hours

Motion by Tasler, second by Duroe to approve the payout of 216 compensatory time hours for the District Administrator.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y Nerem - Y Duroe – Y Tasler – Y Bucklin - Y
Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

MN River Basin Commission

Training Request Early & Mid-Season Plant ID–June 18 and August 31, Cannon Falls - Meals/Lodging – Registration Free
Motion by Duroe, second by Nerem to approve the training request for Early & Mid-Season Plant ID–June 18 and August 31, Cannon Falls - Meals/Lodging – Registration Free.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y 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

Project is going under DNR Fisheries Lessard-Sams Proposal; Working on Securing an Easement between County and Landowner – Preliminary Boundaries are being Reviewed

March/April Meeting Dates
Supervisor Meetings
May 21 - Des Moines Exec Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; June 4 - Area II/RCRCA – Redwood Falls; June 12 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Virtual; June 15 - Des Moines Exec Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; June 18 - Area V Meeting – Dawson; June 25 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; June 29 - Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – Marshall.

SWCD Employee Meetings
May 21 - Des Moines Exec Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; May 27 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual; June 8-12 - WCA Delineation Training – Shoreview; June 12 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – Virtual; June 13 - Riverfest Parade – Windom; June 15 - Des Moines Exec Committee Meeting – Office/Virtual; June 16-18 - Administrative Training – Walker; June 18 - Area V Meeting – Dawson; June 22 - Pow-Wow Parade – Mountain Lake; June 23 - Prairie Planting Training – Windom; June 24 - GBERBA Technical Committee Meeting – Virtual; June 25 - Cottonwood SWCD Board Meeting – Office/Virtual; June 29 - Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – Marshall; June 29 - Seedling Training – Lac Qui Parle County; June 30 - Area Manager's Meeting – Slayton.

Motion by Nerem, second by Tasler to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of May/June.
Roll Call Vote: Muller – Y 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 Chair Tom Muller at 10:22 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on <u>Thursday. June 25 at 8:30 a.m.</u> at the District Office.

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District Supervisor **District Administrator**