



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 1st Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

Minutes from the October 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Chairperson Buchholz called the Thursday, October 10, 2024 meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The meeting was held in person at Tutti Fruitti Restaurant and Market Farm located at 38914 County Road 186, Sauk Centre, MN 56378.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call for Introductions.

Board members present in person were: Leland Buchholz, Wayne Wendel, Dale Katterhagen and Barb James.

Absent: Tom Williamson.

Others present in person were: Deja Anton, SWCD Manager, Adam Ossefoort, Division Director, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Tim Ebnet, Conservation Technician, Dylan Pratt, Conservation Technician, Josh Votruba, Conservation Technician, Kasen Christiansen, Conservation Technician, Alyssa Scheve, Conservation Technician, Darlene Drayna, NRCS, Riley Peterson, Pheasants Forever, Darren Mayers, BWSR, Barb Becker, County Commissioner and Bob Byers, County Commissioner.

Buchholz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to accept the revised agenda for the regular October 10, 2024 meeting. See changes and additions in red.

- 3.3. Remove the word tentative – Hauer
- 5.5 Remove the word tentative – Morawczynski
- 5.9 Add on: Payment request from Myron Kaminsky
- 6.4 Remove action item to approve Fund 79 Budget for 2025
- 8.5 Add on: News article due from Barb James by November 6, 2024

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James to approve minutes as disbursed from the September 12, 2024 board meeting. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Buchholz asked the board to review September 2024 Treasurer's Report. James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to accept September 2024 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$626,758.85 and disbursements totaling \$305,099.17.

Discussion: S. Katterhagen noted 88% of the total disbursement were approved cost share payments from September's board meeting.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.



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Buchholz called for conflict of interest. No conflict of interest was reported.

Reports:

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Becker reported the construction is still in progress with the rock wall and solid waste construction projects. The County will be starting negotiations soon with the Unions. Commissioner Byers reported he has been attending child care meetings.

Director Update: Ossefoort reported the methane digester was approved by the County Commissioners, the County will start in April with the County wide Comprehensive plan review, and are having public hearings regarding the cannabis ordinance.

SWCD Manger's Report: See Anton's written report in the board packet.

Introduction of new Pheasant Forever Farm Bill Biologist: Riley Peterson introduced herself.

SWCD Staff Report: Anton reported Scheve has been busy with soil health projects, easements and forestry. Anton reported Pratt has been busy with feedlot inspections and cover crop projects. Anton reported Christiansen has been working on easement, wetland requests, and other projects. Anton reported S. Katterhagen coordinated the 2024 Enviro fest and is processing feedlot registrations.

Staff Visual Report: Votruba presented his visual report. His report included photos from Benson's project. Dreher's project, RIM inspections, and a potential streambank project.

NRCS Report: Drayna reported fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. 2024 EQIP contracts included: two high tunnel systems, two ag waste projects, seven grazing systems, three forestry projects, and six contracts for cover crop and tillage. For the first round of FY2025 EQIP funds NRCS has 56 applications to rank. CSP funded five forestry contracts in 2024. First round deadline for FY2025 CSP funds is November 15, 2024.

1W1P SRWD Report: There will be a policy meeting on November 21, 2024.

1W1P Red Eye Report: No update.

1W1P Long Prairie Report: No update.

1W1P Crow Wing Report: There is a upcoming open house for public comment on the plan.

1W1P Mississippi Brainerd Report: There is upcoming policy meeting on October 28, 2024.

BWSR Report: Mayers noted BWSR Academy registration is open and Morrison SWCD is having a Forestry Field day tomorrow (10/11//2024). BWSR will be putting the grant policy and guidelines right into the grant agreement. The grant agreements will be longer, but the document will have all the reference materials in one document.



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Celebration: The Pheasants Forever position was filled. Welcome Riley Peterson. Congratulations Dale, Marie, Sarah and the entire SWCD staff for another excellent Envirofest! Thank-you Lee, Tom, and Jackie for being there! The corn maze was a hit, Lee and Dale! All those lost were recovered!

Decisions needed for encumbering cost share funds:

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering C23-3483 Long Prairie WBIF cost share funds for Jeff Schmidt, C#20241010-3.1 in the amount of \$746.25 for a well sealing project. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve encumbering FY23 Feedlot Performance funds for Joe Varner, C#20241010-3.2 in the amount of \$8,511.51 for engineering costs for an ag waste project. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve encumbering C25-0196 Long Prairie WBIF cost share funds for Josh Hauer, C#20241010-3.3 in the amount of \$21,532.50 for a pit closure project. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering C22-7830 Red Eye WBIF cost share funds for Jacob Colby, C#20241010-3.4 in the amount of \$3,284.06 for cover crop projects.

Discussion: Planting deadlines are based on what is being planted.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Decisions needed for cost-share contract amendments:

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve amendment request for additional soil health cost share funds from David Rach, C#20240912-3.6 the authorized cost share payment from \$2,132.63 to \$2,896.39 to include the cost of seeding operation omitted in the original contract. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Decision needed for payment of cost share funds:

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve payment request of FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Joel Anderson, C#2024.08.08-3.8 in the amount of \$450 for forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve payment request of FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Joan Gonsior, C#2024.07.11-3.4 in the amount of \$682.50 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve payment request of FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Judith Stueve, C#2024.08.08-3.10 in the amount of \$750 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.



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Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve payment request of FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Hatton/Zimmerman, C#2024.09.12-3.1 in the amount of \$663.75 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve payment request of FY24 Mississippi-Brainerd WBIF funds from Jeff Morawczynski, C#20240808-3.7 in the amount of \$750 for forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve payment request of FY24 Mississippi-Brainerd WBIF funds from Jim Johnson, C#20240808-3.12 in the amount of \$741.27 for a cover crop project. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve payment request of FY24 Mississippi-Brainerd WBIF funds from Rick Baum, JR, C#20240808-3.13 in the amount of \$1,317.49 for a cover crop project. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Discussion: Anton would like to see follow up from staff on cover crop projects to check up on the growth.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve payment request of FY25 Soil Health cost share funds from David Rach, C#2024.9.12-3.6 in the amount of \$2,884.23. The project came in costing less after the amendment was approved. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve payment request of FY23 Red Eye LCCMR funds from Myron Kaminsky, C#2024.07.11-3.6 in the amount of \$1,200 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

Decisions Needed for Operations:

Wayne made a motion, seconded by James to accept the 2024 Enviro Fest donation ending September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$3,175. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve September 18, 2025 as the date for 2025 Enviro Fest. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, and James. Abstained: Katterhagen. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve SWCD fee updated fee schedule effective 10/10/2024.

Discussion: Changes include to increase one-gallon potted stock to \$15/Tree + sales tax and to increase kits to \$70/kit + sale tax.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen and James

To approve Soil and Water Budget for 2025 was removed from the agenda.



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Discussion:

Open Meeting Reminder: Anton reminded the board of open meeting law procedures.

Updates from AREA II Meeting: Big Stone SWCD gave a presentation about a project and fish movement. Also proposing bylaw term changes, so members can serve more than one term.

2024 Resolution Packet: The board reviewed the 2024 resolutions and completed their ballot forms. In the future the board would like the Manager to summarize the resolutions during the meeting.

Pre-review of the County SWCD Agreement in prep for November Work Session: Anton handed out the agreement between the Soil and Water and Todd County. She reviewed line by line of items she would like the board to review.

The County 605 Budget: Per Anton this budget covers wages, benefits, phone postage, printing, membership fees, travel, meals, training, uniform and furniture costs for SWCD employees as agreed upon in the SWCD/BOC Agreement. Per Anton, Ossefoort has been working on clarity and transparency during the budgeting process.

- High level examples:
 - In 2022, the SWCD 605 actuals showed a net gain of \$11,873.
 - In 2023, the SWCD 605 actuals showed a net loss of \$7227
 - The two years combined showed a net positive balance of \$4546 in fund 605.
 - The goal of SWCD management is to keep the 605 average in the positive.
 - These numbers don't include Ossefoort's salary

SWCD "donated" Hours: Per Anton, the agreement states, the SWCD is to provide factual findings to the Planning & Zoning department upon request of the Commissioners and/or Division Director. This has been provided over the years the agreement has been in place. These hours are charged to SWCD grants whenever possible, so that the County/ P&Z gains from the program expertise of its soil and water employees not only by knowledge but financially as well. The value of this service for the first six months of 2024 is \$ 5,881.56.

Interest Value Estimates: Anton noted it's impossible to narrow down due to the fluidity of the funds, but say we currently took a conservative 10% of our cash and locked it away in a CD with an interest rate of 4% today. The annual interest earned on that \$139,304 equates to \$5,572.16. We have no idea how the county manages its funds and how they disburse our Fund 79 dollars. Some may be in smaller interest-rate savings accounts; others are possibly locked into CDs of substantial size. Some must be kept as fluid and gains nothing for the County. As an SWCD, the Board could order tracking of the interest per grant, but it would cost management additional time as well as reek havoc with the Auditor/ Treasurers office. What this example does provides is another perspective on the value of returns brought to the County from the activities of the SWCD.

Commissioner Byers noted the goal of the Commissioners is to build the best team in Todd County. He also noted, he understands how the numbers can fluctuate from year to year. It all depends on the ins and outs and that it's good to highlight.

Mayers with BWSR suggested to start tracking the interest.



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Informational:

The project status reported will be provided at next month's meeting.

The MASWCD Annual Convention will be held at the DoubleTree, Bloomington on December 2-4, 2024.

The board received a copy of the article that was submitted to the newspaper with updated rule changes for the Wetland Conservation Act.

Birchdale Township is looking at utilizing FY24 Riparian cost share funds for outlet stabilization project in Spring of 2025.

A news article is due from James by November 6, 2024. Anton suggested writing about the awards luncheon program.

The next Soil and Water Board meeting and work session will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. The location is to be determined.

Chairperson Buchholz adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

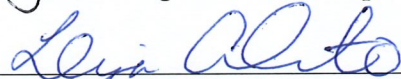
The Awards Luncheon program began at 11:00 a.m. The Awards luncheon program ended at 1:30 p.m.



Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Prepare

11-14-2024

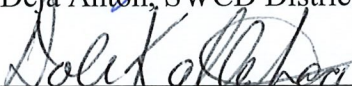
Date



Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

11-14-2024

Date



Dale Katterhagen, Secretary

12-14-2024
Date