



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 March 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Chairperson Wendel called the Thursday, March 13, 2025 meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

The meeting was held in person at the Historic Courthouse in the Commissioner's Board room located at 215 1st Ave S, STE 104, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call for Introductions.

Board members present in person were: Wayne Wendel, Dale Katterhagen, Barb James, Tom Williamson and Larry Bebus.

Dale Katterhagen joined the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Others present in person were: Adam Ossefoort, Division Director, Deja Anton, District Manager, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Dylan Pratt, Conservation Technician, Josh Votruba, Conservation Technician, Kasen Christiansen, Conservation Technician, Alyssa Scheve, Conservation Technician, Luke Thoma, NRCS, Riley Peterson, Pheasants Forever, Bob Byers, County Commissioner and Tim Denny, County Commissioner.

Jackie Bauer, Todd County Coordinator joined the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Wendel asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept the revised agenda for the regular March 13, 2025 meeting.

- 6.5. Add on: Approve 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award
- 6.6. Add on: Approve 2025 Land Stewardship of the Year Award
- 6.7. Add on: Approve letter of support for the Science Museum
- 6.8. Add on: Approve updating membership for Soil Health and Grazing coalition
- 8.13 Add on: Youth Skills Intern
- 8.14 Add on: Letter to Governor's Office regarding AIS program received favorably
- 8.15 Add on: Interviews for Nutrient Management/Feedlot position moved back to 1:45 p.m.

Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Bebus to approve the minutes as distributed from the January 9, 2025 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to the approve minutes as distributed from the February 18, 2025 joint meeting with Todd County Commissioners with updating spelling of Offus to Offutt. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.



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Wendel asked the board to review January and February 2025 Treasurer's Report. Bebus made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept January 2025 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$147,350.74 and disbursements totaling \$74,354.20 and February 2025 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$159,145.13 and disbursements totaling \$16,962.65. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Wendel called for conflict of interest. Bebus reported conflict of interest in approving 2025 Land Stewardship award.

Celebrations: Todd SWCD celebrates 60 Years in Conservation. The summer tour will highlight 60 years in Conservation. The Annual report also has been completed and mailed out.

Reports:

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Denny reported the Commissioners have new committee assignments for 2025. The Governor is making a lot of cuts and the Commissioner's are doing their best to stay on top of all the changes that may impact the County. Commissioner Byers reported the County is finishing up Union Negotiations. Byers reported 2026 budgeting will be challenging with all the potential cuts.

Katterhagen joined the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Director Report: Ossefoort reported the County Comprehensive Plan kick off meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 and the Annual Township meeting will be held in April. Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment requests have had a slow start. Also, the GIS department was under Ossefoort for a one year interim and recently the Todd County Commissioner's voted to move the GIS Department under the direction of the Recorder's office.

SWCD Manager Report: Anton distributed her Manager's report at the meeting. See the report for more details. Anton has been busy with end of the year reporting, grants, attending meetings, planning the feedlot meeting and site visits. Anton also wanted to stress the importance that the board explains to the producers that the SWCD is not the organization that is funding equipment purchases for landowner.

Staff Updates: Anton reported Pratt has completed some feedlot inspections for 2025, working on projects, working on the feedlot meeting and attended the Cow/Calf day meeting.

Anton reported Scheve has been attending trainings, sites visits, presenting at events and working on easements.

Anton reported Christiansen has been preparing for the WCA PRAP review, easements and conducting site visits.

Anton reported Votruba has been assisting in the WCA program, conducting site visits and helping customers with tree orders.

Anton reported S. Katterhagen was busy with the Audit and processing tree orders.



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Staff Visual Report: Peterson from Pheasants Forever visual report included the different trainings she had attended and site visits she has been on. CSP status reviews have been keeping her busy, along with easement and wetland restoration site visits. Peterson also presented at a conference about wildlife habitat and enhancements.

Peterson left the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

NRCS Report: Thoma reported the NRCS office has been busy processing payments, reviewing EQIP projects and providing technical assistance to landowners. Thoma also reminded the board NRCS financial assistance is for addressing a resource concern. NRCS funds do not pay for equipment for landowners or for landowners for seeding straight alfalfa.

1W1P- Sauk River Report: Williamson reported he attended a policy meeting on February 20, 2025. The meeting was informational, no major updates

1W1P Red Eye Report: Wendel reported he attended a policy meeting on March 10, 2025. Their policy meetings have been moved to one time per year, unless needed. The meeting was informational, no major updates.

1W1P Long Prairie Report: Katterhagen reported the next policy meeting will be April 17, 2025.

1W1P Crow Wing Report: Wendel reported he attended the annual meeting on February 5, 2025. The meeting was informational, no major updates. A reservation still hasn't signed on.

1W1P Mississippi Brainerd Report: No report.

BWSR Report: No report.

Decisions needed for encumbering cost share funds:

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering C24-0198 Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Adam and Maria Abrahamson, C#20250313-3.1 for a forest stewardship plan in the amount of \$1,109.25. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus to approve encumbering C24-0198 Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Lucas and Tania Hendrickson, C#20250313-3.2 for well sealing project in the amount of \$243.75. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering FY25 County Riparian Aid cost share funds for Joe Varner, C#20250313-3.3 to piggy back funds for a feedlot fix project in the amount of \$66,078.00.

Discussion: Board asked who is overseeing this project. Anton reported the TSP will be the one certifying the project.



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Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Decisions needed for cost share contract amendments:

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve amendment request for additional C23-3483 Long Prairie WBIF cost share funds for Darrick Becker, C#20240808-3.5, in the amount of \$28,988.25 for a new total cost share amount of \$51,296.25 for a feedlot fix project. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Decision needed for payment of cost share funds:

Bebus made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment of FY24 County Riparian Aid cost share funds to Kevin and Margaret Grondahl, C#2024.08.08-3.1 for a shoreline protection project in the amount of \$8,527.50. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Bebus to approve payment of C23-3483 Long Prairie WBIF cost share funds to Darrick Becker, C#20240808-3.5 for a feedlot fix project in the amount of \$51,296.25. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve payment of F23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds to LouAnna Mosher, C#20241212-3.1 for a forest stewardship plan in the amount of \$525. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Jackie Bauer, Todd County Coordinator joined the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve payment of FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds to Mike Kolodji, C#01.09.2025-3.1 for a forest stewardship in the amount of \$525. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Pratt, Votruba, Christiansen and Scheve left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Decisions needed for operations:

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve 2025 AREA II sponsorship in the amount of \$150. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve policy #20250313-6.2 for C25-0169 Tier One Priority: Big Swan Lake Phosphorus Reduction grant to allow cost share payment at the rate 90%. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the updated quality assurance form, which now includes the landowner indicating all the cost share funding sources they are working with for the project. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.



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No action was taken on the Irrigation scheduler project. Due to an open position, Todd SWCD will not be offering the Irrigation scheduler program to landowners and will review again for 2026.

Bauer and Denny left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Board reviewed the nominations for the Conservationist of the Year and the Land Stewardship of the Year awards.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to select nomination #5 as the 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award recipient. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to select nomination #12 as the 2025 Land Stewardship of the Year Award recipient. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Abstained: Bebus. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve a letter of support for the Science Museum to support federal request for funding for STEM educational materials for educators in rural and underserved communities. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Abstained: Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve membership for Soil Health and Grazing coalition in the amount of \$40. Affirmative: Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Abstained: Bebus. Motion Carried.

Discussion Items:

2024 Audit Material Findings: Anton reported to the board that they will see a new finding in the Audit due to Soil Aid funding coming in 2023 and being classified incorrectly in the 2023 Audit.

NACD Updates from 2/28/2025: Board reviewed the updates.

Informational:

Board reviewed project status report.

Soil and Water participates in open-mic the 2nd Friday of each month.

There may be an Amish Meeting this Spring in partnership with Planning and Zoning.

There will be a Contractor meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 in partnership with Planning and Zoning.

The 2025 feedlot registration cycle includes the following townships: Stowe Prairie, Bertha, Wykeham, Eagle Valley and Burleene.

The Annual Feedlot Meeting – Wanted Dead or Alive will be Thursday, March 20th at Central Lakes College.



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Bebus, Williamson and Anton will be attending the AREA II meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Litchfield Eagles Aerie #3424.

The local work group meeting and conservation tour will be held on June 18, 2025.

C25-0169 Tier one Priority: Big Swan Lake Phosphorus Reduction Grant agreement was signed for \$625,000. The grant agreement has been executed and the work plan has been submitted.

Request for proposal was submitted for RCPP Soil Health funds in the amount of \$180,000.

Board reviewed their PERA forms and submitted paperwork to Anton.

BWSR approved policy change to allow WBIF cost share funds to all farms that are not a large CAFO.

Youth Skills intern. Board is interested, but questioned why Sourcewell can't provide funding for the interns.

The letter to Governor's office regarding AIS program was received favorably.

The interview for the Nutrient Management/Feedlot position were moved back to 1:45 p.m. Katterhagen and Wendel will be part of the interview team.

The next scheduled meeting for the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at Historic Courthouse at 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

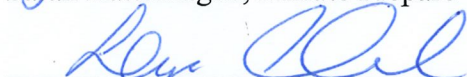
Bebus made a motion, seconded by James to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Prepare

4-10-25

Date



Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

4-10-25

Date



Barb James, Secretary

4-10-25

Date