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 October 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

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

Chairperson Katterhagen called the Thursday, October 8, 2026 meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A call for introductions was made.

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

Others present were: Adam Ossefoort (Division Director), Deja Anton (District Manager), Sarah Katterhagen (Program Coordinator), Josh Votruba (Conservation Technician), Kasen Christiansen (Conservation Technician), Alyssa Scheve (Conservation Technician), Jessica Moore (Conservation Technician), Luke Thoma (NRCS), Bob Byers (Todd County Commissioner) and Tim Denny (Todd County Commissioner).

Approval of Agenda: Katterhagen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson, to accept the revised agenda with the following changes:

- 3.2 Update Goodwin funding amount to $24,626.25
- 3.3 Remove Fletcher request
- 3.4 Add Christensen request for cost share funding
- 3.5 Add Gagnon request for cost share funding
- 4.1 Add amendment request from Big Swan Lake Improvement Association
- 5.11 Add Big Swan Lake Improvement Association request for payment
- 5.12 Add Fairy, Lily, Long Lake Association request for payment
- 7.2 Add review of 2026 Plan of Action for 2027
- 7.3 Add approve date for 2027 Enviro Fest

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

Approval of Minutes: James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve the September 10, 2026 regular board meeting minutes as distributed. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Wendel made a motion, seconded by James, to accept the September's 2026 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling $536,831.74 and disbursements totaling $283,095.24.

Discussion: S. Katterhagen reviewed the revenues and disbursements.

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

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Call for Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was reported.

Celebrations: 2026 Enviro Fest was a success. Dale and Marie Katterhagen were acknowledged for hosting the event for the past 31 years.

Commissioner's Report: Byers reported that Todd County Development is assisting with opening a childcare center south of Long Prairie and future plans include getting a childcare center in the north part of Todd County. Funds were donated for the one south of Long Prairie. Commissioner Denny reported the County will be hosting public informational meetings on October 27, 2026, on data centers. Ossefoort will check into having the public informational meetings recorded and streamed.

Katterhagen expressed interest in attending. Katterhagen noted, if other Supervisors are interested in attending to let Anton know, so a public notice is posted.

Director Report: Ossefoort reported in addition to data center ordinance, Planning and Zoning is working on the buffer ordinance, septic cost share program and low interest loan program for septic systems. At this point Ossefoort noted, the County will not be reapplying for the septic revolving loan program.

SWCD Manager Report: Anton's presentation is available upon request. Anton highlighted recent events, meetings and happenings in each Supervisor's District. The presentation included status of structural encumbered projects.

Staff Visual Report: Kipf was not present. The visual report was reviewed by Anton.

Report on Staff Accomplishments:

Anton reported:

- S. Katterhagen is working on the Long Prairie WBIF financials, helped with Enviro Fest and is serving on the website compliance team.
- Christiansen is working with Wadena Soil and Water on a wetland project and worked with Public Works for the award signs.
- Votruba has been busy with the E.A.R.T.H assessments, cost share project spot checks and had a station at Enviro Fest.
- Moore has completed (1) feedlot inspection, working on (3) cover crop projects and received JAA.
- Scheve has been working with a landowner near Schwanke Creek, completed an easement assessment, completed the onboarding requirements with MPCA and received JAA.

NRCS Report: Thoma reported the NRCS office is reviewing payments, reviewing a total of 72 applications which include 12 Ag Waste, 20 grazing, and rest are a mix of requests. The applications will be ranked in the first part of January. Thoma informed the board that there was a recent news release on the Regenerative Ag RCPP incentives program.

FSA Report: No Report

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1W1P Reports:

- **Sauk River Report:** No report.
- **Red Eye Report:** No report.
- **Long Prairie Report:** No report.
- **Crow Wing Report:** A policy meeting will be on October 28, 2026 from 9:30 to 11:00 in Staples.
- **Mississippi Brainerd Report:** No report.

BWSR Report: Arne reported BWSR is working on forestry grants with TNC. BWSR will potentially be looking at RCPP funding for forestry. Arne also reported a few Watershed plans are at their midpoint. There has been a lot of discussion around fraud and Arne said to expect changes in the future with the grant agreements.

Williamson also reported from the AREA II meeting, the West Central TSA will no longer need a separate audit.

Decisions needed for encumbering cost share funds

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve encumbering P23-2945 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for HRZ LLC, C#20261008-3.1 in the amount of $918 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Wendel, to approve encumbering C23-3483 Long Prairie WBIF, C25-0196 Long Prairie WBIF, FY24 County Riparian Aid, and FY26 County Riparian Aid cost share funds for Goodwin, C#20261008-3.2 in the amount of $24,626.25 for water and sediment control basin project. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Fletcher request was removed from agenda during the initial approval of the agenda.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve encumbering C27-0133 Long Prairie WBIF and P25-0856 Soil Health Delivery cost share funds for Christensen, C#20261008-3.4 in the amount of $3,150 for a cover crop project pending approval from Long Prairie Steering Committee. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Bebus made a motion, seconded by James, to approve encumbering P26-0856 Soil Delivery cost share funds for Gagnon, C#20261008-3.5 in the amount of $2,243.45 for a cover crop project. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Decisions needed for cost share contract amendments

Bebus made a motion, seconded by James, to approve an amendment request in the amount of $13,447.73 from Big Swan Lake Improvement Association, C#08.14.2025 for new cost share total of $477,055.73 due to unexpected increases in fuel and treatment expenses.

Discussion: The board would like to continue to receive updates on the alum treatment project.

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

Decision needed for payment of cost share funds

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve payment of C25-0169 Swan Phosphorus cost share funds for Big Swan Lake Improvement Association in the amount of $6,885 for engineering. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Bebus made a motion, seconded by Williamson, to approve payment of P23-2945 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for Lenarz, C#2026.08.13-3.2 in the amount of $750 for a woodland stewardship plan.

Discussion: The plan was approved after the agenda was sent out by the DNR.

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

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James, to approve payment of P26-0856 Soil Health Delivery cost share funds for Kneisl, C#20260824-2 in the amount of $3,705 for a cover crop project located in the Red Eye Watershed. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Bebus made a motion, seconded by James, to approve payment of C24-0198 Mississippi Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Baum, C#2026.03.12-3.1 in the amount of $1,527.54 for a cover crop project pending receiving seed tags. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve payment of C26-0178 Mississippi Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Johnson, C#20260910-3.5 in the amount of $1,436.46 for a cover crop project pending receiving seed tags. (project costing less than encumbered). Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson, to approve payment of C25-0310 Crow Wing WBIF cost share funds for Weise, C#20260813-3.7 in the amount of $709.62 for a cover crop project (project costing less than encumbered). Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson, to approve payment of P26-0856 Soil Health Delivery cost share funds for Kohlhase, C#20260813-3.1 in the amount of $699.90 for a cover crop project located in the Red Eye Watershed. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Wendel, to approve payment of P26-0856 Soil Health Delivery cost share funds for Rach, C#20260824-1 in the amount of $702.23 for a cover crop project located in the Long Prairie Watershed. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve payment of C24-0198 Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Reiffer, C#20260611-3.1 in the amount of $28,965.90 for exclusion fencing project pending recording of the affidavit. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

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James made a motion, seconded by Wendel, to approve payment of C23-3483 Long Prairie WBIF cost share for Westerberg, C#2025.10.09-3.4 in the amount of $37,034.82 for a water and sediment control basin project pending recording of the affidavit.

Discussion. All the final invoices were received after the agenda was sent out. The project was designed for four inches of rain and 24-48 hour drain period based on a 25-year cycle.

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

Bebus made a motion, seconded by James, to approve payment of C25-0169 Swan Phosphorus cost share funds in the amount of $234,441.73 for Alum treatment project. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve payment of MNDK Fresh Water 3951-001 cost share funds for Fairy, Lily, Long Lake Association in the amount of $1,532.46 for a spraying project located in the Sauk River Watershed.

Discussion: Project costing less than encumbered due to only getting the spraying portion completed this fall. The spraying was completed with a drone. Discussion was also held on invasive cattails.

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

Decisions needed for operations

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James, to approve newly acquired JAA as presented on the screen for Anton, Votruba, Christiansen, Scheve, and Moore. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Votruba, Christiansen, Scheve and Moore left the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve contract for services between Todd SWCD and Stearns SWCD for MAWQCP program effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, in the amount of $8,000 per year. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

Bebus made a motion, seconded by James, to approve request from Jacob May to terminate 2019 cost share contracts for Forage and Biomass planting with a penalty of 20% on the total amount authorized which equates to a penalty of $753.77. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Bebus, Williamson, and Wendel. Motion carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus, to approve moving November's meeting to a strictly to an operational and budget meeting, with the potential to cancel if no urgent requests come up, and a Liaison meeting with the Commissioners would immediately follow the meeting.

Discussion: Anton noted that the Board worked hard on the current Plan of Action and feels it isn't necessary to have a work session in November.

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

Discussion items

2026 MASWCD Resolutions: Board reviewed the 2026 MASWCD Resolutions and submitted their individual votes for the office to submit their votes to MASWCD.

Review of 2026 Plan of Action for 2027: Anton will bring to December or January for approval of 2027 Plan of Action.

Approve Date for 2027 Enviro Fest: Board consensus to host 2027 Enviro Fest on September 16, 2027.

Contracts and documents approved by the Chair

Kimber, C#20261008-3.2 request for C27-0107 Red Eye WBIF cost share funds in the amount of $745.50 for a cover crop project was approved by Katterhagen on October 7, 2026.

Informational

Radio Show: Broadcasts continue every second Friday of the month.

Awards Luncheon: October 8, 2026

BWSR Academy: Anton will be attending for one day, and Christiansen and Scheve will be attending for three days.

MASWCD Annual Convention: Will be held November 30, 2026 -December 2, 2026. Katterhagen and Bebus plan on attending. Williamson and Wendel will check to see if they are available to attend. James is unable to attend.

Berscheit Cost Share Payment: The payment that was approved at September's board meeting was adjusted to $11,704.92, not $13,745.79 as no amendment was received.

C24-0198 Mississippi Brainerd WBIF Grant: Todd SWCD requested for extension to June 30, 2026 and this was approved by Policy Committee on 9/8/2026 and request was submitted to BWSR.

P27-0539 2027 Buffer Allocation: The RFI was submitted on September 29, 2026 in the amount of $20,000.

P27-0327 2026 Soil Health Delivery: The RFI was submitted on September 29, 2026 in the amount of $40,000.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the Todd County Historic Courthouse, Commissioner's Board Room located at 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN 56347

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Katterhagen adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

The awards luncheon program followed at the Long Prairie Country Club from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Preparer — 11-12-26 Date

Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager — 11/12/26 Date

Tom Williamson, Secretary — 11/12/26 Date