



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1

Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<https://www.co.houston.mn.us/department/soil-and-water/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD January 9, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on January 9, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by District Manager, Walter at 1:01 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson
Joe Driscoll
Matt Feldmeier
Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Others:

Dave Walter, Dan Wermager and Janice Messner-- SWCD staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Agriculture

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers & Appointments

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving Kenneth Anderson as the 2025 Chair, Matt Feldmeier Vice-Chair, Secretary Joe Driscoll, Treasurer Jerry Welke and Reporter Glenn Kruse.

Voting affirmative: Anderson, Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the following Committee Appointments for 2025:

Finance Committee: Welke & Driscoll

Personnel Committee: Feldmeier & Kruse

TSA7 Committee: Welke

Root River One Watershed, One Plan: Kruse *Alternate:* Feldmeier

Mississippi River – Winona/La Crescent One Watershed, One Plan: Welke *Alternate:* Driscoll

Bear Creek: Anderson

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Bob Scanlan with the MN Department of Agriculture reviewed a proposed work plan, joint powers agreement and budget with the board for the Spring Grove Township Walkover proposal. Discussion regarding the proposed budget followed. Scanlan will attempt to obtain additional funding for the project and report back at the February board meeting.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the monthly Root River SWCD board meetings to be held on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. May – October and 1:00 p.m. November – April at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Minutes: **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the minutes from the December 12, 2024 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Monthly Report: Welke recommended the December 2024 treasurer’s report be placed on file for audit.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving the financial responsibilities as follows:

Houston County Treasurer/Auditor – depository for all district funds and WinLaC IWIP funds

Merchants Bank – as the general checking account

Eitzen State Bank – investment designated reserve, cost share

MCIT – Bonding & Insurance Liability, Property, and Workman’s Compensation insurance

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Agency Reports:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report – No report.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter stated the 2025 Envirothon will be held May 6, 2025 at the Sportsman Club in Byron, MN. Supervisors were asked if they would be interested in judging the oral presentation at this year’s event. Welke said he would unless someone else would be interested.
- SE Regional Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative – Walter indicated he has been participating in planning meetings to formulate a bill to be presented to the state legislator for cover crop funding out of the State’s general budget. He explained a few of the characteristics including tiered fund based payments which is based on height of the cover crop plant. Walter will keep the board informed as progress is made.
- A discussion was held regarding the broadcast seeder and trailer that the district purchased. It was mutually decided to move forward with selling this equipment. Wermager contacted a landowner that has expressed interest in purchasing the seeder and Walter stated he may know of another individual that may be interested in the seeder. A brief discussion on the selling price for the seeder followed. The board would like to get \$5,000 for the seeder and would not like to go any lower than \$3,500.00. Driscoll indicated he may know of someone interested in the trailer. No additional discussion on the price followed.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Dave Walter, District Manager

- WCA – Walter stated he looked at a water crossing and driveway project and has received a request for a wetland determination on a solar field in Caledonia Township.
- AIS – No report

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter shared the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capital will be held March 4 – 5, 2025.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Crooked Creek – Walter shared debris that was removed from the Klinski structure will need to be burned, fencing around the R-4 structure needs to be removed and brush management maintenance is needed.

Bear Creek – No report.

Winnebago – No report.

Root River IWIP – No report.

WinLaC IWIP – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **Buffer Law** – Walter reported he is doing the county’s area spot checks and is towards the end of the checks. BuffCat updates will follow.
- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **BMP Projects** – Walter stated Meiners has been doing design work this past month.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner reviewed the monthly update report and reported half of the pre-ordered trees have been sold.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager shared the next sign-up period has started and he will be accepting applications until February 11, 2025. He stated he has started calling those that have expressed interest. He also reported he is doing before and after soil loss numbers on the projects from the first round of approvals.
- **Local Capacity County Match CWMA** – No report.
- **Project Development – Root River IWIP** – No report.
- **HELP Grant** – Wermager indicated the final reporting was completed and submitted.
- **I-90 Soil Health Tour** – Wermager stated this year’s event will be held February 7, 2025 at the Hokah Fire Station from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

Houston County Water Plan – Wermager shared the last scheduled meeting will be February 6, 2025. The action item will be the dissolution of the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter stated the next meeting will be January 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Olmsted SWCD in Rochester, MN.

OLD BUSINESS – Walter reported his findings on purchasing a new district truck. **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving the purchase of a 2025 GMC 1500 Double Pro V8 truck for \$41,578.90 through North County GM Quotation Contract #199799.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 27,539.62

LOCAL CAPACITY STATE COST SHARE PROGRAM (Funding up to 75% of cost estimate or 90% if combined with other non-state funding source)

FY21 Local Capacity County Appropriation (2020) Cost Share – Available Funds \$0.00

FY22 Local Capacity County Appropriation (2021) Cost Share – Available Funds \$0.00

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM (Funding percentage based on ranking)

FY23 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$7,000.00

FY23 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$5,000.00

FY23 WinLaC 1W1P Vegetative & Pollinator Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$5,000.00

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
4990	Ron Carlsen – Rent – January	\$ 1,287.00
4991	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 220.77
4992	MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust – Workers Comp = \$3,366.00; Liability Ins = \$3,493.00	\$ 6,859.00
4993	MASWCD – FY25 Dues	\$ 7,431.37
4994	Minnesota Revenue – 2024 Sales & Use Tax	\$ 768.00
4995	Sylling, Myron - #18FY24RR1W1P – Cover Crop	\$ 28,200.00
4996	IA DNR State Forest Nursery - Trees	\$ 325.00
4997	Quill LLC – Office Supplies	\$ 144.25
	Heintz Badger Valley Farms LLC - #08FY24RR1W1P – Roofs & Covers	\$
	Total	\$ 45,235.39
	Transfer of Funds from Cash General Fund to Bear Creek Watershed Investment Acct. 10033399	\$ 1,000.00
	Transfer of Funds from Cash General Fund to Winnebago Watershed Investment Acct. 10033340	\$ 1,000.00

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above listed accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
	Root River SWCD – Technical – 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$284.30; Admin – 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$3,047.76; WinLaC CRP Root River SWCD – Admin – 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$29.88	\$ 3,361.94
23	Fillmore SWCD – Technical – 4 th Qtr 2024	\$ 9,158.89
24	Winona County – Admin – 4 th Qtr 2024	\$ 4,976.13
	Total	\$ 17,496.96

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the above listed WinLaC 1W1P accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Supervisor Feldmeier suggested an invitation be extended to Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Specialist to attend our meeting, introduce himself and share updates.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, adjourning the meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

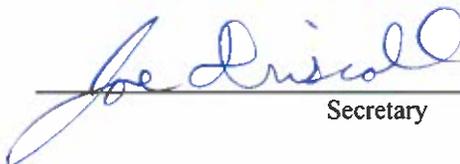
Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, February 13, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Ag Service Center

Approved:

2-13-25

Date



Secretary



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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

February 13, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on February 13, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson
Joe Driscoll
Matt Feldmeier
Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Others:

Dave Walter and Janice Messner– SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry, NRCS staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Agriculture; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Specialist.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions followed.

Houston County Environmental Specialist, Jeremy Burt, informed the board he is conducting feedlot inspections and is working on feedlot registrations. Registrations are required every four years. Burt fielded questions from both the board and others at the meeting.

Bob Scanlan with the MN Department of Agriculture reviewed the proposed budget and timeline for the Spring Grove Township Walkover proposal. He will be moving forward to obtain state signatures on the Joint Powers Agreement and will present it to the board in the near future for approval.

Minutes: Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the January 9, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the January 2024 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

Agency Reports:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report

- Hytry reported they have recently made payments for a brush management project and a grazing project. He shared the Inflation Reduction Act funding has been paused by the Trump administration. This effects eight projects. There are 15 – 20 EQIP applications being approved using funding from the General Farm Bill. These projects will be moving forward.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter stated he and Welke will be assisting with the 2025 Envirothon being held May 6, 2025 at the Sportsman Club in Byron, MN.
- SE Regional Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative – Walter indicated a bill is being formulated to be presented to the state legislator for cover crop funding out of the State’s general budget or possibly Clean Water Legacy funds.
- FY25 Soil Health Practices Grant (RCPP) – Walter shared this grant funding is similar to the Climate Smart Alliance Grant. The proposal is for \$120,000 in cost share assistances and \$20,000 for technical assistances. There are no administrative dollars tied to the grant. Admin time can be used as match. The current proposal allows us to say yes or no to the grant or opt in at a later date. Walter stated he would prefer to opt in at a later date since the Alliance Grant funds are currently available for landowners. It was acknowledged by all members of the board to opt in at a later date.
- Walter shared Nitrogen Management in SE MN seminar is being offered March 13, 2025 at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds in Rochester, MN. He is planning to attend.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, changing the March board meeting date to Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- Walter stated the utility trailer has been sold. The broadcast seeder is being stored at his residence. He stated there may be three parties interested in purchasing it. The board would like to get \$5,000 for the seeder and would not like to go any lower than \$3,500.00.

PROGRAM REPORTS:**Dave Walter, District Manager**

- **WCA** – Walter stated he is participating in trainings addressing the Ag exemption changes to the Wetland Conservation Act.
- **AIS** – No report

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter shared the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capital will be held March 4 – 5, 2025.

Walter indicated the SE MACDE Spring Meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2025 in Harmony, MN. Registration fee is \$20/staff member. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the registration fee for any staff member interested in attending.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Crooked Creek – No report.

Bear Creek – Walter stated work is needed on the spillway at the Patterson site. The landowner has not been enthusiastic about the needed work.

Winnebago – No report.

Root River IWIP – Walter indicated a Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2025.

WinLaC IWIP – Welke shared a Policy Committee meeting was held February 10, 2025. Election of officers, day-to-day lead and fiscal agent were all acted on. Jen Wahls did a report on forestry. Messner added work plan changes have been made shifting funds to various activities and shared Root River SWCD cost share funding had been reduced to assist with other grant expenditures. She also shared the 2024 WinLaC Accomplishments put together by Green Corp member Mary Gegen. Messner also shared the City of La Crescent is interested in installing a bio-retention basin on South Sixth Street and is requesting WinLaC urban stormwater funding. She stated an application will likely come to the board for consideration at the next board meeting.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **Buffer Law** – Walter reported he has started working on the buffer mapping.
- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **MDH Well Inventory** – Walter shared the SWCD has been approached to participate in the MDH Well Inventory project. There are approximately 300 uninventoried wells in the county. The proposal is to have SWCD staff contact landowners and to make record of the well's location and any information that can be gathered about the well and offer cost share assistance for sealing the wells.
- **BMP Projects** – Walter stated Meiners has been doing engineering work this past month.
- **EPA Update** – Messner shared she and Meiners participated in an EPA update meeting. Messner shared data on the number of RO systems that have been installed to date and applications received in the eight county focal area.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner reviewed the monthly update report and reported some pre-ordered trees are sold out but more are available through our vendors.
- **2023 Year-End Financial Statement** – Messner did a short presentation of the 2023 Year-End Financial Statement.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Walter stated the current sign-up period ends February 14, 2025. Meiners and Glaunert are helping upload applications. He also reported the Alliance Grant funds are currently froze.
- **Local Capacity County Match CWMA** – No report.
- **Project Development – Root River 1WIP** – No report.
- **I-90 Soil Health Tour** – Walter reported Welke, Driscoll and Anderson were all in attendance and they had good speakers. Approximately 20 including agency partners were in attendance.

Houston County Water Plan – Walter shared at the February 6th meeting the committee was dissolved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Walter reviewed all proposed Personnel Policy changes. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving all changes as presented with the exception of smoking, chewing, and vaping in District vehicles. It was moved to state No smoking, chewing or vaping is permitted in District vehicles.
Voting affirmative: Anderson, Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter stated the TSA7 meeting was held January 22, 2025 at the Olmsted SWCD in Rochester, MN. The budget and audit were discussed.

OLD BUSINESS – No report.

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
4999	Ron Carlsen – Rent – February	\$ 1,287.00
5000	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 177.32
5001	SE SWCD Technical Support JPB – Annual Membership Dues 2025	\$ 4,000.00
5002	Goodhue SWCD – Envirothon Dues 2025	\$ 175.00
5003	IA DNR State Forest Nursery - Trees	\$ 207.50
5004	SE MACDE – MACDE Dues = \$40.00 & Registration Spring Meeting = \$40.00	\$ 80.00
5005	VISA – RRIWIP Civic Engagement Event 2/7/25 = \$392.16; Annual Fee = \$25.00; Meal RCPP mtg. 2/11/25 = \$12.70	\$ 429.86
5006	Lodholz North Star Acres, Inc. – Trees – 25% Down Payment	\$ 13.19
		\$
	Total	\$ 6,369.87

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above listed accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC IWIP Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
25	Wabasha SWCD – Technical 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$11,951.51; Project Development 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$607.25; Projects Non-Structural = \$7,825.00	\$ 20,383.76
26	Olmsted SWCD – Project Development 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$167.12; Education = \$108.72; Technical 3 rd Qtr 2024 = \$4,111.28 & 4 th Qtr 2024 = \$8,737.63	\$ 13,124.75
27	SE MN Technical Support JPB – Technical 4 th Qtr.	\$ 1,540.74
	Total	\$ 35,049.25

Motion by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, approving the above listed WinLaC IWIP accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

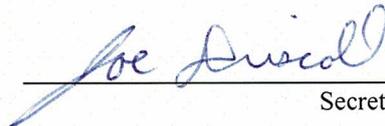
Walter reported a 2025 GMC pick-up was ordered with delivery in May. He also reported tips are reimbursable along with meal expenses.

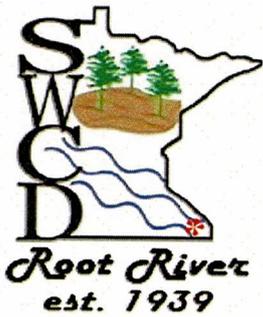
Chair Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, March 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 3-12-25
Date


Secretary



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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

March 12, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on March 12, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Glenn Kruse

Others:

Dave Walter, Dan Wermager, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner– SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry, NRCS staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Agriculture.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob Scanlan with the MN Department of Agriculture reviewed the proposed budget and timeline for the Spring Grove Township Walkover proposal. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving a Joint Powers Agreement between MN Dept. of Ag and Root River SWCD (*Spring Grove Township Walkover*) in the amount of \$135,000.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Minutes: **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving the minutes from the February 13, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Employee Time Records and Supervisor Per Diems: **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Employee Time Records and Supervisor Per Diems.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the February 2024 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

Agency Reports:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report

- Hytry indicated a date needs to be set prior to June for the Locally Led Conservation Work Group meeting. After discussing options it was mutually agreed upon to hold the meeting April 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- Hytry reported the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding continues to be paused. This effects five or six new project applications. Funding for completed IRA projects are being paid.

Hytry exited the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter shared Nitrogen Management in SE MN seminar is being offered March 13, 2025 at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds in Rochester, MN. He, Driscoll, Welke, Connor McCormick and Bob Scanlan will be attending.
- Walter reported the broadcast seeder is still for sale.
- Walter stated he would like to get Microsoft 365 and ARC Pro added to the computer he is using. He reported his computer crashed in the end of 2024 and is using a computer from a partner agency. Messner asked about having virus protection for all the district computers. Anderson requested pricing be put together and brought back to the board to be reviewed.
- Walter announced this year’s BWSR Tour scheduled for July will bring them to our area. He would like to feature the Schaffer project and the Klinski project. The Cattlemen’s Association will be grilling for the event.
- Walter indicated 70 SWCDs applied for the FY25 Soil Health Practices Grant (RCPP) funding. At a manager’s meeting held March 11th there was interest in setting a standardized rate for practices across the counties for this grant. There were various ideas of what the standardization should be. They will continue to work towards finding common ground for a standardized rate. Walter shared this grant is NRCS funded and it is hoped that the funding will be available in the end of March 2025.
- Scanlan addressed a question regarding a lawsuit against MN Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) and MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). An environmental group is suing MDA and MPCA for the lack of progress being made to address the high nitrates in SE Minnesota.
- Walter shared information regarding a Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Competing Applications. The preliminary permit will allow for proposing to study the feasibility of the proposed Mississippi Lock and Dam 8 Hydroelectric Project. The project is located at the US Army Corp of Engineers’ Mississippi Lock and Dam 8 in Vernon County, Wisconsin and Houston County, Minnesota. The proposed project would consist of a 275 ft. long, 220 ft. wide intake area located upstream of the powerhouse; a 220 ft. long and 95 ft. wide powerhouse located adjacent to the eastern side of the existing Corp dam; ten 0.875 megawatt (MW) horizontal propeller turbine generators; new power pole and substation constructed on a raised platform; single overhead three-phase 69 kilovolt line to the interconnection point; concrete guide walls constructed at the powerhouse tailrace and appurtenant facilities.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Dave Walter, District Manager

- WCA – No report.
- AIS – No report.

MASWCD & MACDE – No report.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Crooked Creek – No report.

Bear Creek – No report.

Winnebago – No report.

Root River IWIP – Wermager indicated the Policy Committee met on Monday, February 24, 2025. Officers were elected and available funding was discussed. FY22/23 grant has \$91,000 left and of the \$2.3 million of the FY24 grant approximately \$250,000 has been spent.

WinLaC IWIP – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **Buffer Law** – Meiners reported letters for spot checking are currently being mailed and spot checks will begin on Friday, March 14th.
- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – Meiners shared she has reached out to the landowners that had high nitrates reported from the Houston County Township Testing. Of the eight contacted seven are interested in the free RO system.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Meiners indicated the cost share project that we are funding with grant dollars started on Monday, March 10th. She was on-site to photo document the project.
- **MDH Well Inventory** – Meiners shared she put together a work plan and is waiting for it to be reviewed in-house before submitting it.
- **BMP Projects** – Meiners informed the board she recently surveyed two grade stabilization structure sites.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner reviewed the monthly update report and reported an order reduction was made at the end of February for three tree species. She also reported sales are down from where we were last year at this time.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager reported there were approximately 80 applications plus an additional ten nutrient management applications for the sign-up period that ended February 14, 2025. He stated federal funding is still froze for projects, but state funding is available allowing him to continue working on reporting for the new applications from the February sign-up.
- **Local Capacity County Match CWMA** – Wermager stated he did a check out on the final project with this funding.
- **Project Development – Root River 1WIP** – No report.
- **Great Lakes Cover Crop Project** – Wermager indicated this project is being offered through MN Dept. of Ag. It consists of measuring nutrients and biomass on cover cropped fields, taking clippings of the cover crops and photos of 11 fields.

Scanlan exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Walter reviewed an additional proposed Personnel Policy change regarding overtime. **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Feldmeier, approving the additional change as presented.

Voting affirmative: Anderson, Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Anderson inquired about the new pickup delivery. Walter stated it is scheduled to arrive in May. Walter indicated the Blue Book value of the GMC is approximately \$15,000 and he believes he has a buyer.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Joint Powers Agreement between MN Dept. of Ag and Root River SWCD in the amount of \$135,000 for technical, administrative and outreach services associated with Spring Grove Twp. walkover projects.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving signing authority for Dave Walter on cost share applications and amendment requests with the condition of discussing each authorization with the board chair or vice chair prior to the authorization. The signing authority is effective through December 31, 2025.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving the SE MASWCD Area 7 2025 Annual Dues in the amount of \$300.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$2,512.50*

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$103,220.28*

FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Peterson, Jason	31FY22/23RR1W1P	\$3,350.00	\$2,512.50	351 - Well Decommissioning	9/1/25

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving a cost share request for contract #31FY22/23RR1W1P Peterson, Jason for Well Decommissioning (351) in the amount of \$2,512.00 (75% cost share rate). Funding source: FY 22/23 Root River 1W1P Cost Share.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
RLM Family Limited Partnership	20FY24RR1W1P	\$11,650.00	\$10,485.00	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	10/1/25

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving a cost share request for contract #20FY24RR1W1P RLM Family Limited Partnership for a Grade Stabilization Structure (410) in the amount of \$10,485.00. Funding source: FY 24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

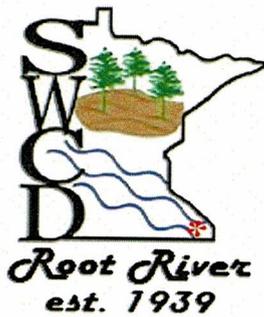
LOCAL CAPACITY STATE COST SHARE PROGRAM *(Funding up to 75% of cost estimate or 90% if combined with other non-state funding source)*

FY21 Local Capacity County Appropriation (2020) Cost Share – Available Funds \$0.00

FY22 Local Capacity County Appropriation (2021) Cost Share – Available Funds \$0.00

FY21 & FY22 Local Capacity County Appropriation Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Craig, Tim	#12-20CM CWMA Brush Management	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	6.66667 acres @ \$300/acre = \$2,000.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$2,000.00 (FY21)



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

April 10, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on April 10, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson
Joe Driscoll
Matt Feldmeier
Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Others:

Dave Walter, Dan Wermager, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner– SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry, NRCS staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Agriculture; Dave Copeland, BWSR.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the March 12, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the March 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

Agency Reports:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report

- Hytry reported the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding has seen no movement.
- Hytry shared ten CSP contracts were pre-approved.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter shared Nitrogen Management in SE MN seminar was held March 13, 2025 at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds in Rochester, MN. He, Driscoll and Welke were in attendance. Walter shared highlights of the seminar.
- Walter reported the broadcast seeder was sold for \$3,500.00.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Dave Walter, District Manager

- **WCA** – Walter reported a landowner was cutting trees in a wetland area which previously was considered a wetland violation. This is no longer regulated. A sodbusting request will need to be submitted and will be considered highly erodible land. This area will be put into hay. He also is working with a landowner wanting to put in a driveway in a wetland area. Walter stated he is also working with a landowner who is wanting to perform a wetland scrape. He is also working with a landowner in Storer Valley that performed a violation act and it has washed out a portion of the road.
- **Buffer Law** – Walter stated he has been doing spot checks north of the Root River.
- **WinLaC Chloride Monitoring** – Walter shared a monitoring was recently performed and the chloride level was elevated.
- **Easement Delivery (RIM)** – Walter indicated he is working with a landowner on an enhancement.

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter reported he and Messner attended the MACDE meeting on March 26, 2025. A presentation on water movement was part of the program. Messner shared Caitlin Meyer was named Employee of the Year. She also stated an Engineering Cohort was discussed, training for Job Approval Authority, and resources for career fairs. A tour of Niagra Cave followed.

Walter shared he and Welke will be assisting with the Area Envirothon on May 6, 2025.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Crooked Creek – Meiners stated the large structure inspections are scheduled to be performed on April 23, 2025 and the smaller structures/waterway on April 24, 2025.

Bear Creek – No report.

Winnebago – No report.

Root River IWIP – Wermager state a work group meeting was recently held. Kevin Kuehler spoke about a website map for wells; MS4front presentation was given and the 10 year update was discussed. Copeland shared additional information on bids to write a 10 year update and funding to meet the requirements. He also shared additional information on the MS4front tracking.

WinLaC IWIP – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Meiners indicated a well remediation project has been completed and the cost share payment request will be acted on later in today's meeting.
- **MDH Well Inventory** – Meiners shared she submitted a work plan and budget for funding consideration. It was returned and adjustments were recommended. The adjustments were made and resubmitted. Walter shared the information provided in the well inventory in turn would be submitted to MDH. There is a statute stating that all abandon wells are required to be sealed. Concern was expressed on how this would reflect on the local SWCD.
- **BMP Projects** – Meiners informed the board during the past month she has done project surveying and I & E.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 27,539.62

WINLAC 1WIP COST SHARE PROGRAM (Funding percentage based on ranking)

FY23 WinLaC 1WIP Ag Practices Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$7,000.00

FY23 WinLaC 1WIP Non-Structural Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$5,000.00

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5021	Ron Carlsen – Rent – April	\$ 1,287.00
5022	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 295.40
5023	VISA – Meal = \$24.66; WinLaC Chloride Postage = \$34.28; Office Supplies = \$187.00; Tree Postage = \$40.30	\$ 286.24
5024	Lodholz North Star Acres, Inc – Trees	\$ 656.74
5025	Petty Cash – Postage = \$69.00; Meals – BWSR Academy \$0.45; Education – 6 th Grade Day = \$0.50	\$ 69.95
5026	Janice Messner - Postage	\$ 4.00
5027	Hanson, Amy - #02TAPIN – Well Remediation	\$ 3,616.39
5028	Schumacher’s Nursery & Berry Farm Inc. - Trees	\$ 4,540.25
5029	Quill LLC – Office Supplies = \$32.04; Tree Supplies = \$57.69	\$ 89.73
5030	Blackburn Mfg. Co. – Trees Flags (1,000)	\$ 127.75
	Total	\$ 10,973.45

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving payment of the above listed accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1WIP Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
	Root River SWCD – Technical – 1 st Qtr 2025 = \$474.02; Admin – 1 st Qtr 2025 = \$3,889.87	\$ 4,363.89
28	Winona County Planning & Zoning – Admin – 1 st Qtr 2025	\$ 5,953.37
29	Fillmore SWCD – Technical – 1 st Qtr 2025	\$ 682.65
30	SE MN Technical Support JPB – TSA7 Technical – 1 st Qtr 2025	\$ 11,523.56
31	City of La Crescent – Project Development – Enhanced Street Sweeping Plan	\$ 6,749.99
	Total	\$ 29,273.46
	Transfer of funds from Investment Account to WinLaC Cash	\$70,000.00

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

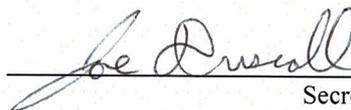
Opposed: None

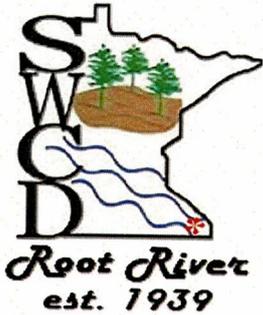
Motion carried.

Chair Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, May 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 5-8-25
Date


Secretary



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

May 8, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on May 8, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Glenn Kruse

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Matt Feldmeier

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner– SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry, NRCS staff; Joyce Schaffer, Houston County landowner.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the April 10, 2025 board meeting with the year correction to the treasurer's monthly report.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the April 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

Agency Reports:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report

- Hytry reported the tract files that were taken to be scanned have been returned to the office.
- Hytry shared the pre-approved EQIP and CSP contracts have all been signed and are waiting for final approval.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter started his report with a clip that appeared on News 19 on May 7, 2025. It featured a story on the City of La Crescent's HELP Grant project cost shared through Root River SWCD.
- **MDH Well Inventory** –Walter reported there is some cost share funds available through Root River 1W1P for well decommissioning. Meiners shared she spoke with the grant lead and asked about the implications of not sharing information about locating an abandon well that is not decommissioned. She was told they are just wanting to know about located wells that are in use but not on the well index. Walter went on to request the discussion be

WATERSHED UPDATES

Root River IWIP – Walter reported a Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025.

WinLaC IWIP – Walter reported a Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **BMP Projects** – Meiners informed the board during the past month a grassed waterway project was underway and a grade stabilization project would be starting soon.

Messner rejoined the meeting.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner shared the tree sale program was a success. Trees arrived on April 22nd and April 23rd with pick up day being Friday, April 25, 2025. All trees were sold prior to pick up day. She stated tree sales increased by four orders over the previous year which totaled an additional 164 trees. The total number of trees sold for the 2025 season totaled 6,240.
- **WinLaC IWIP** – Messner reported a FY23 grant reconciliation will be taking place in late May.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Walter reported the federal funding has been unfroze. Payments for the 2024 projects should be going out soon.
- **Project Development – Root River IWIP** – No report.
- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Hytry stated he had been contacted by a landowner to discuss EQIP cost share assistance for a project proposed as a result of a walkover. Messner stated she has sent outreach follow up letters from performed walkovers.
- **Great Lakes Cover Crop Project** – Walter reported Wermager was contacted by Kevien Kuehler, MN Dept. of Ag to create a baseline of data for MN Extension Services on cover crop field samples.
- **Fourth Grade Farm Safety Day** – Walter indicated Wermager is a presenter at today’s Fourth Grade Farm Safety Day being held in Caledonia, MN. Students are from all schools in Houston County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Walter stated a meeting will be needed in July or August to review a proposed 2026 budget.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

ArcGIS Pro license request was tabled.



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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

June 12, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on June 12, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Glenn Kruse

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry, NRCS staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Dept. of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving the minutes from the May 8, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the May 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

PROGRAM REPORT:

Bob Scanlan, MN Dept. of Ag

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan stated he has worked with 25 – 30 producers. Nitrogen use seems to be an area where some assistance is needed. Though he indicated most do not exceed the limits. There is room to work on manure and legume credits. Scanlan said he has approximately one month left of outreach work.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report

- Hytry reported they are working with a landowner on a manure storage project. The landowner would like to have 12 month storage. The maximum that EQIP will be able to pay on the project is \$450,000. This will leave the landowner needing addition cost share assistance in the amount of \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter shared an MPCA meeting will be held June 26, 2025 in Chatfield, MN talking on the next steps in feedlot rulemaking (history of feedlot rules, summary of current requirements, reasons for change, technical standards and expected timeline).
- **MDH Well Inventory** – Meiners shared that she has spoke with the grant lead and asked about the implications of not sharing information about locating an abandon well that is not decommissioned. She was told they are just

wanting to know about located wells that are in use but not listed on the well index. Walter discussed with the board the importance of having the updated information. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the grant agreement.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **BWSR Tour** – Walter shared a BWSR tour will take place July 30, 2025. They will be visiting sites in the City of La Crescent and will wrap up the tour at the Klinski project site. They are estimating 15 individuals from BWSR will be attending. The board supervisors asked that the county commissioners be invited to attend.
- **Conservationist of the Year** – Walter stated the 2025 Conservationist of the Year will be from District 1 (La Crescent Twp. & Village, Hokah Twp. & Village, Mound Prairie Twp. and Union Twp.). Hytry suggested Ben Lynch as a possible candidate. Walter and Welke will discuss possible candidates.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Dave Walter, District Manager

- **WCA** – Walter reported he visited a site in Pine Creek where a stream restoration project is being developed. He walked the site and reviewed the engineer's plans and pointed out the plans do not address the tributaries.

Walter stated he visited a site near Crystal Creek where the landowner would like to have a culvert installed.

- **Buffer Law** – Walter reported inspections have been completed and updates made. Additional inspections will be done this fall.
- **Easement Delivery** – Walter stated he has started the RIM spot checks.
- **Cost Share Site Inspections** – Walter indicated he is currently performing the cost share assistance site inspections.

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter called for resolutions to be submitted for the 2025 MASWCD Resolution meeting. None were presented.

Walter indicated the MASWCD Southeast Area 7 meeting will be held Monday, June 23, 2025 in Stewartville, MN. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving a \$15.00 registration fee for staff and board supervisors that would like to attend.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – Walter reported he and Driscoll took part in the annual inspection tour held June 4, 2025. They said most sites in Houston County looked good. Site 8 was being heavily grazed. On Site 9 there are plans to fix around the inlet. Iowa NRCS will be engineering this project fix.

Crooked Creek – Meiners stated the current activities include a possible easement with Hoscheit Dairy Farms LLC for a waterway area and performing maintenance on structure sites.

Root River IWIP – Walter reported a Policy Committee meeting was held Monday, May 19, 2025. Kruse was in attendance but no staff.

WinLaC IWIP – Walter reported a Policy Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 12, 2025. No significant updates were presented to the board.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.

- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Meiners reported an update meeting was held April 22, 2025. Twenty-three samples were tested. Six had high levels of nitrates, one had e-Coli, three with bacteria and 13 with lead.
- **BMP Projects** –Meiners informed the board during the past month two grade stabilization structures were completed and a critical area planting project. Projects that will be underway in the near future include two grade stabilization structures and a grassed waterway with a stream crossing.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – Messner reviewed the Houston County results from 2024. She stated the 2025 test kits will be mailed out in intervals starting June 30, 2025.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Walter reported the 2024 project payments are coming.
- **ARPA** - Walter indicated some funds will be used for push-up ponds and pond clean outs.
- **Great Lakes Cover Crop Project** – Walter reported Wermager was contacted by Kevin Kuehner, MN Dept. of Ag to create a data baseline measuring nutrients and biomass for MN Extension Services.
- **Fourth Grade Farm Safety Day** – Walter indicated Wermager presented at the Fourth Grade Farm Safety Day held in Caledonia, MN on May 8, 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter stated a meeting will be held in late July 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

ArcGIS Pro license request was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS – None.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM (*Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source*)

FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2025*) Available Funds \$0.00

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2026*) Available Funds \$23,605.98

Acknowledgement of FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share)

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Sheehan, Jim	26FY24RR1W1P	\$15,700.00	\$14,130.00	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	12/31/25

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, acknowledging the pre-approval of contract #26FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Jim 410 Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$14,130.00. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Amendment Request

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment request for Contract #24FY24RR1W1P Hoscheit Dairy Farms LLC reducing the cost share amount of \$29,812.20 to \$6,063.20 and extending the completion date from June 15, 2025 to September 11, 2025.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share)

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Shirk, Ryan	27FY24RR1W1P	\$19,100.00	\$17,190.00	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	12/31/25
Breyer, Susan	29FY24RR1W1P	\$2,200.00	\$1,980.00	342 – Critical Area Planting	9/11/25

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving contract #27FY24RR1W1P Shirk, Ryan 410 Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$17,190.00 and contract #29FY24RR1W1P Breyer, Susan 342 Critical Area Planting in the amount of \$1,980.00. Funding Source for both contracts is FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Costigan, Phil	#02FY24RR1W1P – Grade Stabilization Structure	\$13,500.00	\$12,955.00	$\$12,955.00 \times 90\% = \$11,659.50$ EQIP = \$8,402.23 Payment Amount Approved = \$ 3,257.27 <i>Slippage for reallocation \$488.73</i>

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment on contract #02FY24RR1W1P Costigan, Phil 410 Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$3,257.27 and re-allocating slippage in the amount of \$488.83. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 19,157.62

ARPA Push Up Pond & Pond Clean Out Designation (Flat rate incentive amount)

Name	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project
Jennings, Sierra	\$1,500.00	Push Up Pond w/pipe
McEvelly, Sean	\$1,500.00	Push Up Pond w/pipe
Scanlan, Bob	\$800.00	Push Up Pond no pipe

It was noted the above listed landowners have expressed an interest in moving forward with their respective projects.

ARPA Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Jennings, Sierra	Push-Up Pond with Pipe	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Flat Rate Incentive Payment = \$1,500.00

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving an incentive payment in the amount of \$1,500.00 Jennings, Sierra for a push-up pond with pipe. Funding Source ARPA.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

ARPA Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Schaffer, Joyce	#05 ARPA Critical Area Planting	\$8,382.00	\$5,989.21	$\$5,989.21 \times 100\% = \$5,989.21$ Payment Amount Approved = \$ 5,989.21 <i>Slippage for reallocation \$2,392.79</i>

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment on contract #05 ARPA Schaffer, Joyce 342 Critical Area Planting in the amount of \$5,989.21 and re-allocating slippage in the amount of \$2,392.79. Funding Source ARPA.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll and Welke Opposed: Feldmeier Motion carried.

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM *(Funding percentage based on ranking)*

FY23 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$7,000.00*

FY23 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2025) Available Funds \$5,000.00*

FY23 & FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Urban Stormwater Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share)

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
City of La Crescent	23WinLaC-ROO-002	\$28,750.00	\$25,875.00	Bioretention Basin – Rain Garden 0.03 acres	6/16/2025

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, tabling the cost share request for contract 23 WinLaC-ROO-002 City of La Crescent Bioretention Basin – Rain Garden. A second bid is required.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

MDH TAP-IN COST SHARE FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding at 50% or 100% of cost estimate)*

MDH Tap- In Cost Share Grant *(Grant expiration 4/1/2027) Available Funds \$330.49*

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

- Walter informed the board a Roofs & Covers project request will be brought to the board for approval next month. Walter reported funding for the project has been secured. Currently, a second bid is being obtained.

COMMITTEE REPORT

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Feldmeier requested time to speak with Walter. SWCD and NRCS staff along with MDA representative Scanlan voluntarily stepped out of the meeting.

Messner rejoined the meeting.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Employee Time Records and Supervisor Per Diems.

Anderson, Ken – 2 nd Qtr. 3 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 375.00
Driscoll, Joe – 2 nd Qtr. 6 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 750.00
Feldmeier, Matt – 2 nd Qtr. 2 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 250.00
Kruse, Glenn – 2 nd Qtr. 3 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 375.00
Welke, Jerry – 2 nd Qtr. 7 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 875.00

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5038	Ron Carlsen – Rent –June	\$ 1,287.00
5039	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 449.00
5040	VISA – Adobe Pro 1 yr subscription (Meiners)	\$ 256.37
5041	Forestry Suppliers – Tree Supply	\$ 118.40
5042	Talcott Resolution Life & Annuity Ins Co. – Life Insurance Policy #LU1188704 Dave Walter	\$ 90.00
5043	Anderson, Ken – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 50.40
5044	Driscoll, Joe – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 94.50
5045	Feldmeier, Matt – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 75.60
5046	Kruse, Glenn – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 100.80
5047	Welke, Jerry – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 147.00
5048	Schaffer, Joyce – Contract #05 ARPA – Critical Area Planting	\$ 5,989.21
5049	Quill LLC – Office Supplies	\$ 69.34
5050	Costigan, Phil – Contract #02FY24RR1W1P – Grade Stabilization Structure	\$ 3,257.27

5051	Winneshiek SWCD – Bear Creek Inspection Tour expense	\$ 71.35
5052	Jennings, Sierra – ARPA – Push Up Pond with Pipe	\$ 1,500.00
5053	SE MASWCD – Registration \$15/ea.	\$ 45.00
	Total	\$ 13,601.24

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Feldmeier, approving payment of the above accounts payable.
 Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

***** WinLaC IWIP Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
35	Wabasha SWCD – Urban Stormwater – Rain Barrel project	\$ 680.88
36	City of La Crescent – Pine Creek Technical	\$ 35,000.00
37	Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. – Project Development – Pleasant Valley Project	\$ 2,206.75
	Total	\$ 37,887.63
	Transfer of Funds from FY23 WinLaC Money Market Acct #8115 to WinLaC Cash – General fund	\$65,000.00

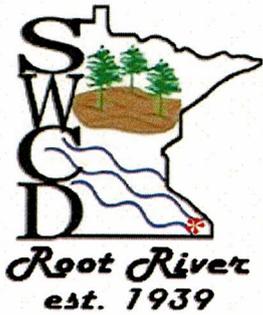
Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.
 Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Chair Anderson declared the meeting adjourn at 10:47 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, July 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 7-10-25
 Date


 Secretary



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1

Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<https://www.co.houston.mn.us/departments/soil-and-water/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

July 10, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on July 10, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Feldmeier at 10:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Glenn Kruse

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Ken Anderson

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry, NRCS staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Dept. of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion by Welke, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the June 12, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the June 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

PROGRAM REPORT:

Bob Scanlan, MN Dept. of Ag

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan stated walkovers in Spring Grove Township are wrapping up. He has worked with 30 landowners. These 30 landowners own 70% of the property in the township. Nitrogen use in most cases are meeting the standards. If the standard is not being met it is pretty close. Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment to the current contract adding Black Hammer, Wilmington, Caledonia and Mayville townships.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Ryan Hytry, District Conservationist NRCS Report

- Hytry reported they are working on approved CRP plans. He also shared the area workload is shifting as there are no longer any employees in the Olmsted County NRCS field office. He and Papenfuss will be traveling to Olmsted County to assist with the county's needs.

Hytry stated manure storage funding is approved for a producer in Caledonia Township. One bid has been received to date. Hytry indicated the producer is interested in receiving state cost-share funding (\$60 - \$80,000) to bring them up to 90% cost share for the project. He stated a second contractor has been asked to provide a bid but has not received anything to date.

- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – No report.
- **BMP Projects** –Meiners informed the board she is providing technical assistance on two grade stabilization structures currently being constructed and conducting BMP spot checks.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Walter reported the 2024 project payments are out. A third sign-up period is underway. Deadline for sign-up with Wermager’s assistance is July 23, 2025. Online sign-up is offered through July 28, 2025.
- **ARPA** – No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter stated a meeting will be held Thursday, July 17, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

ArcGIS Pro license request was tabled.

Supervisors asked if the new truck is back. Walter responded that we have not heard from the dealer after it was returned to correct specific features.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Minnesota Paid Leave Tax 0.88% - A discussion followed on the law that will go in effect on January 1, 2026. Supervisors would like to wait on making a decision on the percentage the District will undertake until the County makes a decision.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM (*Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source*)

FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2025*) Available Funds **\$0.00**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2026*) Available Funds **\$14,543.71**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Groundwater Cost Share Request (75% Cost Share)

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Sheehan, Alan or Kathy	29FY24RR1W1P	\$2,385.00	\$1,788.75	351 – Well Decommissioning	11/1/2025

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving contract #29FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Alan or Kathy 351 Well Decommissioning in the amount of \$1,788.75. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P Groundwater.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

	Total	\$ 16,700.80
	Transfer of Investment Funds from Cash General Fund to Winnebago Watershed Investment Acct.	\$ 1,000.00
	Transfer of Investment Funds from Cash General Fund to Bear Creek Watershed Investment Acct.	\$ 247.44

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.
 Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
38	Winona County – FY23 Education Annual Report Printing = \$155.10; FY23 Project Development 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$471.13; FY25 Administrative 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$4,668.47	\$ 5,294.70
39	Fillmore SWCD – FY23 Technical 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$4,628.22; FY25 Technical 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$4,472.78	\$ 9,101.00
40	SE MN Technical Support JPB – FY25 Technical 2 nd Qtr 2025	\$ 13,032.30
	Root River SWCD – FY23 Admin – 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$2,643.39; FY23 Technical – 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$702.32; CRP Admin – 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$16.48; FY25 Admin – 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$2,433.22	\$ 5,795.41
	Total	\$ 33,223.41

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable.
 Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Feldmeier requested time to speak with Walter. SWCD and NRCS staff along with MDA representative Scanlan voluntarily stepped out of the meeting.

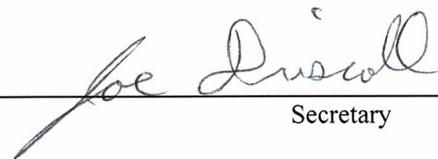
Messner rejoined the meeting.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, to adjourn the meeting.
 Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

The meeting adjourn at 11:24 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, August 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 8-14-25
 Date


 Secretary



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1

Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<https://www.co.houston.mn.us/department/soil-and-water/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

August 14, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on August 14, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Glenn Kruse

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Matt Feldmeier

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Chris Papenfuss, NRCS staff; Bob Scanlan, MN Dept. of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion by Welke, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the July 10, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the July 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

PROGRAM REPORT:

Bob Scanlan, MN Dept. of Ag

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan stated during the past month he has met with five or six producers that operate feedlots in Wilmington, Caledonia or Mayville Townships. He was focusing on these producers to start nitrogen tracking. He indicated he would like help with approximately 150 outreach letters to go out to Black Hammer Township landowners.

Scanlan also reported a meeting between MDA and BWSR had taken place to discuss cost share funding for manure management and CAP plan practices. BWSR had indicated it would be likely a cost share funding request would be granted if it targeted high nitrate townships and other federal funding would be leveraged.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Chris Papenfuss, NRCS Report

- Papenfuss reported they are currently covering both Houston and Olmsted counties. They are working on CRP plans for both counties. Papenfuss also shared the current sign-up period for EQIP ended August, 1, 2025.

Papenfuss exited the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- **BWSR Tour** – Walter shared a BWSR tour took place July 30, 2025. They visited sites in the City of La Crescent. Wermager, Walter and Driscoll joined the tour there. Wermager talked about the rain garden project and the HELP Grant projects they installed. Walter stated they wrapped up our portion of the tour at the Klinski project site.
- **Conservationist of the Year (*District 1 - La Crescent Twp. & Village, Hokah Twp. & Village, Mound Prairie Twp. and Union Twp.*)** – Walter indicated Paul Schutte has accepted being the 2025 Conservationist of the Year for Houston County. Glaunert will be interviewing him and submitting an application for the Area 7 Conservationist of the Year.

PROGRAM REPORTS:**Dave Walter, District Manager**

- **WCA** – Walter reported he is working with a landowner in Crystal Valley wanting to install a stream crossing. He also reported the restoration plan for a landowner in Houston Township was completed.
- **Buffer Law** – Walter indicated next year spot checks will be done in Area 2 (Yucatan, Black Hammer and Spring Grove Townships).

MASWCD & MACDE

Area 7 Joint SE MASWCD & SE MACDE meeting will be held Thursday, October 2, 2025 in Grand Meadow, MN.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – No report.

Root River IWIP – Messner reported a planning work group meeting was held August 6, 2025. Topics included indemnification and the possibility of ranking project applications with the next round of funding. Walter added the ten year assessment was also discussed.

Winnebago - Walter reported he had received a cost estimate for maintenance work to be performed on the DNR structure site and the Burning Daylight site. He contacted Chair Anderson and received approval to move forward with the maintenance work using the contractor that provided the cost estimates. Walter indicated funds for the work will be coming out of the Winnebago Watershed maintenance account.

WinLaC IWIP – Messner reported a Planning Work Group meeting was held July 29, 2025. Topics included indemnification, project status and requesting a grant amendment to extend the grant expiration date to December 31, 2026 on the WinLaC IWIP 2023 Grant.

Welke shared the Policy Committee met August 11, 2025 in St. Charles where they visited a streambank restoration project site that was being partially funded with WinLaC dollars. Messner stated during the meeting the committee agreed to have Harmes move forward with working with Winona County Attorney's office to add indemnification language to the sub-agreements for the partnership. They also approved moving forward with a grant amendment request to extend the expiration date of the WinLaC IWIP 2023 Grant.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:**Jean Meiners, Technician**

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving the amendment proposal to extend the WinLaC 1W1P C23-0003 Grant to December 31, 2026.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM (*Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source*)

FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2025*) Available Funds **\$0.00**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2026*) Available Funds **\$12,653.71**

FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Amendment Request

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving an amendment request for Contract #31FY2223RR1W1P Peterson, Jason to amend the completion date to 12/1/25.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Amendment Requests

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment request for Contract #22FY24RR1W1P Hartley, Chris amending the completion date to 6/15/26; Contract #02FY25CS Meyer, Jordan amending the completion date to 12/1/2025; and Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Breyer, amending the completion date to 11/15/2025.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share)

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Davison Properties LLC	31FY24RR1W1P	\$3,000.00	\$2,700.00	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	6/15/2026
Laufenberg, Michael	32FY24RR1W1P	\$27,808.01	\$9,377.21	382 - Fence	7/9/2026

Motion by Welke, seconded by Kruse, approving Contract 31FY24RR1W1P Davison Properties LLC 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$2,700.00 and Contract 32FY24RR1W1P Laufenberg, Michael 382- Fence in the amount of \$9,377.21. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Feedlot Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share) – Contingent Upon Signatures

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Feldmeier, Matt	33FY24RR1W1P	\$	\$100,000.00	367 – Roofs & Covers	12/31/2025

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving Contract 33FY24RR1W1P Feldmeier, Matt 367 – Roofs & Covers contingent upon technical assistant provider signature and receiving estimated quantities and low bid based on the estimated quantities at 90% cost share up to \$100,000.00. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant (feedlot funds).

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 17,750.41

ARPA Push Up Pond & Pond Clean Out Designation (Flat rate incentive amount)

Name	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project
Driscoll, Joe	\$500.00	Pond Clean Out
Laufenberg, Mike	\$1,500.00	Push Up Pond w/pipe
Feine, Rocky	\$500.00	Pond Clean Out

The above listed projects and incentive amounts were acknowledged.

ARPA Cost Share Request

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Schulte, Mark	06 ARPA	\$	\$5,500.00	342 – Critical Area Planting	12/31/2025

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving Contract 06 ARPA Schulte, Mark 342 – Critical Area Planting at 100% cost share up to \$5,500.00 contingent upon signatures.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

ARPA Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Scanlan, Bob	Push-Up Pond no Pipe	\$800.00	\$800.00	Flat Rate Incentive Payment = \$800.00

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving a flat rate incentive payment in the amount of \$800.00 for Scanlan, Bob Push-Up Pond with no pipe.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

MDH TAP-IN COST SHARE FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding at 50% or 100% of cost estimate)*

MDH Tap- In Cost Share Grant *(Grant expiration 4/1/2027)* Available Funds **\$330.49**

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM *(Funding percentage based on ranking)*

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2027)* Available Funds **\$24,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2027)* Available Funds **\$7,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Vegetative Management & Pollinator Planting Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2027)* Available Funds **\$5,000.00**

WinLaC 1W1P CRP *(Grant expiration 12/31/2026)* Available Funds **\$2,000.00**

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5059	Ron Carlsen – Rent – August	\$ 1,287.00
5060	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 202.17
5056	VISA – Postage = \$78.00; Field Supply = \$228.74; Adobe Pro subscription fee = \$256.37; Education/Awards/Tours = \$228.49	\$ 791.60
5061	Scanlan, Bob – ARPA – Push-Up Pond no pipe	\$ 800.00
	Total	\$ 3,080.77

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving payment of the above accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
41	Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc – FY25 Project Development – Pleasant Valley Creek Restoration	\$ 4,422.50
42	Wabasha SWCD – FY25 Technical 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$1,985.21; FY23 Project Development 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$4153.55; FY25 Project Development 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$351.86	\$ 2,490.62
43	Olmsted SWCD – FY25 Technical 1 st Qtr 2025 = \$7,472.76 & 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$4,267.29; FY23 Project Development Viola 1 st Qtr 2025 = \$933.57 & 2 nd Qtr 2025 = \$869.82	\$ 13,543.44

Glaunert exited the meeting.

- Walter informed supervisors of a non-compliant one year site inspection in Money Creek Township and the details of the non-compliance.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Dave Walter, District Manager

- **WCA** – Walter reported he continues to work with a landowner in Crystal Valley wanting to install a stream crossing. In Sheldon Township he and county engineer Pogodzinski visited a site where a landowner was wanting to build a shed. They determined the location was not a wet area. Walter stated the Pine Creek streambank project is underway.
- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – No report.
- **Buffer Law** – No report.

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter shared the Area 7 Joint SE MASWCD & SE MACDE Meeting will be Thursday, October 2, 2025 Grand Meadow, MN.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving registration fees for five individuals.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Walter stated BWSR Academy will be held October 21 – 23, 2025 at Cragun’s Conference Center, Brainerd, MN. Staff in attendance consented they would not be attending this year.

Walter indicated the MASWCD Annual Convention will be December 1 – 3, 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington – Minneapolis South.

Walter stated the Conservationist of the Year would like to have a noon cookout on his property in the near future.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – Walter shared they are working with a NRCS engineer on concrete repair work needed on the R-2 site. Walter felt he, Meiners and Wermager may be able to perform the needed maintenance.

Root River IWIP – Kruse reported he, Wermager and Messner attended the August 18, 2025 Policy Committee meeting. He shared details about a DNR and Eagle Bluff project which was toured after the business meeting. Wermager stated during the meeting they heard a WRAPs update and information regarding a grant non-compliance situation. Copeland shared details of the non-compliance situation with the supervisors.

Winnebago - Walter stated Mahr Excavating has completed maintenance work on the DNR structure site (debris removal, mowing) and the Burning Daylight site (mowing).

WinLaC IWIP – Wermager reported a Policy Committee meeting was held August 11, 2025. Topics included the status of the Lake Winona Carp Study, a FY23 WBIF Amendment request and information on coordinating with local FSA partners for an incentive payment for new or continuous CRP sign-ups. Wermager also shared the WARSSS was completed for Pine Creek.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Messner shared statistics from the areas quarterly update.

- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Walter reported work has started on the grant. He shared there are approximately 300 wells to look at.
- **BMP Projects** – Walter informed the board a grade stabilization structure in Sheldon Township was completed, construction of a grassed waterway and stream crossing is underway in Crooked Creek Township. He stated there is a grade stabilization structure and a diversion project slated for fall construction.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – Messner shared the results of the 2024 testing and stated she has sent out volunteer recruiting letters to four nodes in Houston County.

AGENCY REPORT:

Dave Copeland, BWSR Report

- Copeland reiterated information on the upcoming BWSR Academy.
- Copeland shared the Operations & Program Grant and the Conservation Contracts Grant will be disbursed by the end of the month and they will be a biennium payment.
- Copeland stated the FY26 Buffer Law Grant will be an RFI request from each SWCD interested in receiving these funds.
- Copeland indicated he is coordinating a contract training for staff involved in the Root River 1W1P and WinLaC 1W1P grants. The training will likely be held in February 2026.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager reported he is reviewing the applications submitted for round three verifying all information is correct and doing paperwork for round two participants. He shared the first payment for round two participants is due out at the end of September. Sylling shared feedback from the conference held at Virginia Tech this summer.
- **ARPA** – Wermager stated five push-up ponds or pond cleanout are planned for 2025.
- **Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC)** – Wermager indicated Maria Tancredi shared a program opportunity for cover crops and no-till. The federally funded program was offering a cover crop incentive payment of \$35/acre and \$10/acre for no-till. Wermager stated he had directed a landowner to Tancredi but the funding for the program was halted.
- **Ducks Unlimited Grant Program** – Wermager shared information about an upcoming event on September 17, 2025 in Decorah, IA on extending the grazing season by utilizing cover crops and native grasses. He also stated they have an Advancing US Pork Sustainability & Market Value grant program available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Walter stated he would like to meet with this committee in December 2025.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter shared that he is on the personnel committee and was involved in interviews for a technician position. The committee reopened the application period for the position.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

MDH TAP-IN COST SHARE FUNDING PROGRAM (Funding at 50% or 100% of cost estimate)

MDH Tap-In Cost Share Grant (Grant expiration 4/1/2027) Available Funds **\$330.49**

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM (Funding percentage based on ranking)

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$24,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$7,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Vegetative Management & Pollinator Planting Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$5,000.00**

WinLaC 1W1P CRP (Grant expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds **\$2,000.00**

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5062	Ron Carlsen – Rent – September	\$ 1,287.00
5063	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 158.37
5064	VISA – Crooked Creek Watershed Maintenance supply = \$63.56; Postage = \$156.00	\$ 219.56
5065	Talcott Resolution Life & Annuity Ins Co. – Life Insurance Policy #LU1188704 Dave Walter	\$ 90.00
5066	Schulte, Mark – 06 ARPA – Critical Area Planting	\$ 3,761.82
5067	IA DNR Nursery – 2026 Tree Order	\$ 4,355.00
5068	Sheehan, Jim – 26FY24RR1W1P – Grade Stabilization Structure	\$ 17,304.80
5069	AC4 Farms LLC – 32FY22/23RR1W1P – Well Decommissioning	\$ 6,675.00
5070	Mahr Excavating – Winnebago O & M – DNR = \$3,505.00; Burning Daylight Farms LLC = \$5,005.00	\$ 8,510.00
5071	Anderson, Ken – Mileage – 3 rd Qtr.	\$ 33.60
5072	Driscoll, Joe – Mileage – 3 rd Qtr.	\$ 131.60
5073	Feldmeier, Matt – Mileage – 3 rd Qtr.	\$ 50.40
5074	Kruse, Glenn – Mileage – 3 rd Qtr.	\$ 56.00
5075	Welke, Jerry – Mileage – 3 rd Qtr.	\$ 170.80
5076	SE MASWCD – Registration \$20/each 10/2/2025	\$ 100.00
5077	Farmers Win Coop – Crooked Creek Watershed Maintenance supply	\$ 130.03
5078	Quill LLC – Office supplies	\$ 125.58
	Total	\$ 43,003.56
	Transfer of funds from Winnebago Watershed O & M Acct. #10033340 to Cash General Fund	\$ 8,510.00

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
47	Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. – FY25 Project Development – Pleasant Valley Creek Restoration	\$ 2,725.25
	Total	\$ 2,725.25

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving payment of the above accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, to adjourn the meeting.

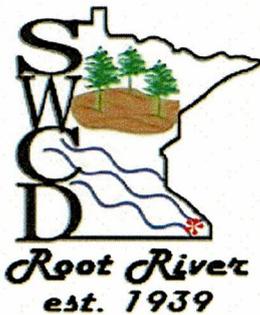
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

The meeting adjourn at 10:31 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, October 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 10-9-25
Date

Joseph Driscoll
Secretary



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1

Caledonia, MN 55921

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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

October 9, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on October 9, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Glenn Kruse

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Feedlot Officer; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Ag; Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions were made.

Minutes: Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the minutes from the September 11, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the September 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

AGENCY REPORT

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt shared a Feedlot Workshop is being planned for March 2026. He would like the SWCD to do a presentation. The County Aid inspector will speak on various topics. Manure records and nutrient management will also be topics at the workshop.
- Burt shared information on feedlot operator composting.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan reported he has started the site visits in the amended townships. He is focusing on feedlot operators first. Animal composting and manure storage have been focal area with this

group of operators. Scanlan stated 17 various projects are on the horizon. He shared that MDA is working on a grant application to make cost share funds available for the projects in high nitrate areas.

Scanlan also shared MDA has free manure testing kits available for producers in high nitrate areas.

WATERSHED UPDATE

WinLaC IWIP – Harmes shared that she is actively working on the First Amendment to the Sub-Agreements between Root River SWCD and the partners of the WinLaC One Watershed, One Plan. The amendment is being put together to protect the WinLaC fiscal agent from financial penalties assessed by BWSR for grant non-compliances created by the partners. The partner creating the non-compliance will be responsible for reimbursing the fiscal agent the penalty amount. Harmes stated she is working with the Winona County attorney to put together the amendment and the Olmsted County attorney has offered to review it. Harmes would like the Houston County attorney to also approve the amendment. The WinLaC Policy Committee would then act on the amendment at its next meeting.

Harmes stated the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025.

Scanlan exited the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

AGENCY REPORT

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- **BMP Project Repairs** – Walter stated a rain event during the past month has caused damage to the newly completed grassed waterway project for Hoscheit Dairy Farms LLC and the Heavy Use Area Protection project for Brad Olinger. Repairs will be made at each site.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Dave Walter, District Manager

- **WCA** – Walter reported he has been involved with the Pine Creek project for the City of La Crescent. They have experienced a few rain delays in the project. He went on to report he continues to work with a landowner in Crystal Valley wanting to install a stream crossing and is also working with Canadian Pacific along Highway 26.
- **Buffer Law** – Walter stated the FY26 grant funds will not be automatically distributed to the SWCD. Each SWCD will need to submit a RFI and state the amount of funds they are requesting.

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter stated the Area 7 Joint SE MASWCD & SE MACDE Meeting was held Thursday, October 2, 2025 in Grand Meadow, MN. The nitrate update was the key talking point. The studies are showing that livestock may not be as high of a factor towards elevated nitrates as originally presumed. Studies are leaning more towards the corn/soybean planting rotation as a higher contributor to the high nitrate levels.

Walter shared the MASWCD Annual Convention will be held December 1 – 3, 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington – Minneapolis South. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving one day registration and meal for staff, supervisors, Conservationist of the Year and family to attend.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – Meiners shared maintenance work was completed on the DNR structure.

Root River IWIP – Walter indicated a work plan is being developed to apply for the next round of funding.

Winnebago – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Meiners reported a post card is being mailed out by MDA to Houston County landowners that likely use a well. A free water test kit is being offered to those expressing an interest.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – No report.
- **BMP Projects** – Meiners reported she is currently doing surveys for project sites.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Walter reported round three funding recipients have been chosen and are being notified.
- **ARPA** – Walter reported a push-up pond was recently completed.
- **2026 I-90 Soil Health Tour** – Walter reported Wermager was contacted to participate in the 2026 I-90 Soil Health Tour. Local cover crop producer, Myron Sylling, is being asked to be a speaker.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – As requested Messner shared additional information on the wells with high nitrates from the 2024 testing results. Information shared included the township the well was located in, the depth of the well, its surroundings and if known the year the well was installed.
- **Sixth Grade Environmental Day** – Messner reported the event was held on the rain date, September 30, 2025. She stated 147 sixth graders were in attendance. There were many positive comments about the event and local media reporters spent time at the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Walter reported the county commissioners approved our 2026 budget.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter shared an interview will be held October 20, 2025 in Goodhue, MN for the vacant technician position.

OLD BUSINESS

Walter reported the 2025 GMC Sierra truck has arrived and would like to delay selling the 2017 GMC Sierra until the federal government shutdown has concluded.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS – None.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM (*Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source*)
 FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2026*) Available Funds **\$0.00**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, waiving the Local Cost Share Policy for a second bid on the revised cost estimate for application #33FY24RR1W1P Feldmeier, Matt 367 Roofs & Covers.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Abstained: Feldmeier Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Feedlot Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share) – Contingent Upon Signatures

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Feldmeier, Matt	33FY24RR1W1P	\$97,056.60	\$87,350.94	367 – Roofs & Covers	12/31/2025

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving Contract #33FY24RR1W1P Feldmeier, Matt 367 – Roofs & Covers in the amount of \$87,350.94 contingent upon technical assistance provider signature. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant Feedlot funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Abstained: Feldmeier Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Alan or Kathy amending the project completion date of 11/1/2025 to 12/31/2025.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Breyer, Susan amending the contract number to #37FY24RR1W1P contingent upon obtaining signatures.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Botcher, Rich	34FY24RR1W1P Cover Crop	\$320.00	\$320.00	8 acres @ \$40/acre = \$320.00 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$320.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$320.00
Glasspoole, John	35FY24RR1W1P Cover Crop	\$1,800.00	\$900.00	18 acres @ \$50/acre @ 1 year = \$900.00 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$1,800.00 Partial Payment Amount Approved = \$900.00

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment for Contract 34FY24RR1W1P Botcher, Rich 340 – Cover Crop in the amount of \$320.00 and approving a partial payment for Contract 35FY24RR1W1P Glasspoole, John 340 – Cover Crop in the amount of \$900.00. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Breyer, Susan	37FY24RR1W1P Critical Area Planting	\$2,200.00	\$2,188.00	\$2,188.00 @ 90% = \$1,969.20 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$1,980.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$1,969.20 <i>Slippage for reallocation = \$10.80</i>

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving payment contingent upon signatures for Contract 37FY24RR1W1P Breyer, Susan 342 – Critical Area Planting in the amount of \$1,969.20 and re-allocating slippage in the amount of \$10.80. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 11,488.59

ARPA Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Laufenberg, Mike	Push-Up Pond with Pipe	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Flat Rate Incentive Payment = \$1,500.00

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving an incentive payment for Laufenberg, Mike – Push-Up Pond with Pipe in the amount of \$1,500.00. Funding source ARPA.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Abstained: Feldmeier Motion carried.

MDH TAP-IN COST SHARE FUNDING PROGRAM (Funding at 50% or 100% of cost estimate)

MDH Tap-In Cost Share Grant (Grant expiration 4/1/2027) Funds Available

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM (Funding percentage based on ranking)

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$24,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$7,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Vegetative Management & Pollinator Planting Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$5,000.00**

WinLaC 1W1P CRP (Grant expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds **\$2,000.00**

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5079	Ron Carlsen – Rent – October	\$ 1,287.00
5080	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 274.49
5081	VISA – Crooked Creek WD Maintenance Expense = \$11.75; Education – 6 th Grade Environmental Day = \$172.60	\$ 184.35
5082	Botcher, Rich – 34FY24RR1W1P – Cover Crop	\$ 320.00
5083	Glasspoole, John – 35FY24RR1W1P – Cover Crop	\$ 900.00
5084	Lind Awards & Engraving – Conservationist of Yr. Plaque	\$ 37.58
5085	Laufenberg, Mike – ARPA – Push-Up Pond with Pipe	\$ 1,500.00
5086	Frontier Precision – Trimble R12 Firmware Maintenance & Receiver Hardware	\$ 846.00
5087	Breyer, Susan – 37FY24RR1W1P – Critical Area Planting	\$ 1,969.20
	Total	\$ 7,318.62

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
48	Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. – FY25 Project Development – Pleasant Valley Creek Restoration	\$ 1,976.50
49	Fillmore SWCD – FY25 Technical – 3 rd Qtr. 2025	\$ 3,540.16
	Root River SWCD – FY23 Technical – 3 rd Qtr. 2025 = \$128.16; FY25 Admin – 3 rd Qtr. 2025 = \$3,692.08	\$ 3,820.24
	Total	\$ 9,336.90
	Transfer of Investment Funds from Account #9623 FY25 WinLaC 1W1P to WinLaC 1W1P Cash General Fund	\$ 16,001.46

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

MASWCD

Walter reviewed the 2025 MASWCD Resolutions. It was unanimously decided to have Messner submit the board supervisors' votes.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, November 13, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 11-13-25
Date


Secretary



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1

Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<https://www.co.houston.mn.us/departments/soil-and-water/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

November 13, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on November 13, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 1:02 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Glenn Kruse

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners, Dan Wermager and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry – NRCS staff; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Feedlot Officer; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest speaker, Donna Larsen, from Minnesota State Retirement System presented on the opportunity to participate in their Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) and Minnesota Deferred Compensation Plan (MNDPCP).

Minutes: Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the minutes from the October 9, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the updated September 2025 and October 2025 treasurer's reports be placed on file for audit.

AGENCY REPORTS

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt shared the Feedlot Workshop date is set for March 4, 2026 at Good Times, Caledonia, MN. Start time is 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served. MPCA rules and shared ideas they are looking at for law will be discussed. A manure management tool will also be a topic covered. Kevin Kuhner, MN Dept. of Ag will present on his ground water study. The SWCD will also be doing a presentation.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report

- Hytry stated today is our first day back after the government shutdown. Business will move forward where we left off.

Dave Walter, District Manager

- Walter shared information on the in-house Farm Bill biologist position presently held by Zack Glaunert. Pheasants Forever is looking to partner with different organizations to fund the position. **Motion** by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the partnership for fiscal year 2026 and providing the suggested contribution of \$2,500.00.
 Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

- **WCA** – Walter shared he has been on-site during La Crescent’s Pine Creek streambank restoration project. He also shared he has been contacted with inquire questions on wetlands for a parcel neighboring Wild Cat in Brownsville, MN that is for sale.
- **Buffer Law** – No report.
- **Building Sites** – Walter stated he has been on site visits and reviewing erosion control plans for new builds in the Spring Grove, MN area.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan reported he is currently doing site visits in the amended townships and focusing on the feedlot producers first. He stated 21 projects on 18 farms are on the horizon. He shared that MDA is working on a Clean Water grant funding application which would make cost share funds available for the projects in high nitrate areas if they are awarded grant funding.

Scanlan shared on January 28, 2026 a Nitrogen Management meeting will be held in Spring Grove, MN for Spring Grove Township producers.

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter shared supervisors Driscoll and Welke along with himself and the Conservationist of the Year Paul Schutte and his wife will be attending the MASWCD Annual Convention on December 3, 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington – Minneapolis South.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – No report.

Root River IWIP – Walter stated a Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 24, 2025.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC IWIP – Messner shared the Policy Committee approved the First Amendment to the Sub-Agreements between Root River SWCD and the partners of the WinLaC One Watershed, One Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2025. The amendment has been circulated to each of the partners for approval. Wermager stated a discussion was held on well decommissioning cost share and the possibility of raising the \$3,000 cap to \$5,000.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – No report.

- **BMP Projects** – Meiners reported construction on a grade stabilization structure in Winnebago Twp. has been completed. She shared that she has completed surveys for three projects and is working on putting together articles to submit to Fillmore County Journal for its conservation edition coming out the first week in December.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner reported a newsletter with the tree order form was mailed out the end of October. To date five orders were received selling 400 trees.
- **2024 Financial Statement** – Messner shared the audit had been completed and a copy was provided to them in their packets. Due to the meeting getting lengthy she forgone reviewing the financial statement.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **WinLaC Stream Subcommittee** – Wermager shared he and Walter recently attended a meeting. They looked at information from the modeling of Pine Creek.
- **2026 I-90 Soil Health Tour** – Wermager stated the 2026 I-90 Soil Health Tour will stop in Hokah, MN on February 6, 2026. Myron Sylling, a local cover crop producer and advocate, will be speaking in addition to other speakers.
- **SWAG** – Wermager shared we will be participating in surface water sampling in Bear Creek, Winnebago Creek and Crooked Creek for a SWAG project in 2026.
- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager reported payments were delayed due to the federal government shut down.
- **ARPA** – No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Walter reviewed proposed personnel policy updates. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the updated personnel policy.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter shared the vacant technician position they interviewed for has been offered to an individual and are waiting to hear if the offer is being accepted.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS – None.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Conservation Contracts (*Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source*)

FY26 Conservation Contracts (*Grant expiration 12/31/2028*) Available Funds **\$23,690.00**

FY27 Conservation Contracts (*Grant expiration 12/31/2028*) Available Funds **\$23,690.00**

Acknowledge Pre-Approval of FY26 Conservation Contracts Cost Share Request (90% Cost Share)

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Meiners, Richie	01FY26CS	\$13,400.00	\$12,060.00	410 - Grade Stabilization Structure	12/31/2025

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, acknowledging the pre-approval for Contract #01FY26 Meiners, Richie for a 410 Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$13,400.00. Funding source FY26 Conservation Contracts.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY26 Conservation Contracts Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Meiners, Richie	01FY26CS Grade Stabilization Structure	\$19,277.55	\$16,968.06	\$16,968.06 @ 90% = \$15,271.25 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$17,304.80 Payment Amount Approved = \$15,271.25 <i>Slippage for re-allocation = \$2,033.55</i>

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, tabling the payment request till cost share funding is recalculated.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM (Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds **\$10.80**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #27FY24RR1W1P Shirk, Ryan 410 Grade Stabilization Structure increasing the cost share amount from \$17,190.00 to \$19,170.00, an additional \$1,980.00. Funding sources FY24 Root River 1W1P \$10.80 and FY26 Conservation Contracts \$1,969.20.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving an amendment request for Contract #24FY24RR1W1P Hoscheit Dairy Farms LLC removing the 578 Stream Crossing project and increasing the cost estimate of the 412 Grassed Waterway. These actions will reduce the cost sharable amount to \$5,897.20. All contingent upon obtaining signatures.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Shirk, Ryan	27FY24RR1W1P Grade Stabilization Structure	\$21,300.00	\$30,687.80	\$30,687.80 @ 90% = \$27,619.02 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$19,170.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$19,170.00 <i>(FY24 Root River 1W1P = \$17,200.80 & FY26 Conservation Contracts = \$1,969.20)</i>

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving payment for Contract 27FY24RR1W1P Shirk, Ryan 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$19,170.00. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant \$17,200.80 and FY26 Conservation Contracts \$1,969.20.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Peterson, Jason	31FY2223RR1W1P Well Decommissioning	\$3,350.00	\$3,350.00	\$3,350.00 @ 75% = \$2,512.50 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$2,512.50 Payment Amount Approved = \$2,512.50

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment for Contract 31FY2223RR1W1P Peterson, Jason 351 Well Decommissioning in the amount of \$2,512.50. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Traun, Valerie	30FY24RR1W1P Stream Crossing	\$2,100.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00 @ 90% = \$1,980.00 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$1,890.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$1,890.00

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment for Contract 30FY24RR1W1P Traun, Valerie 578 - Stream Crossing in the amount of \$1,890.00. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Olinger, Brad	36FY24RR1W1P Heavy Use Area Protection	\$15,000.00	\$11,951.29	\$11,951.29 @ 90% = \$10,756.16 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$13,500.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$10,756.16 (FY24 Root River 1W1P = \$10,443.33 & FY24 Root River 1W1P Feedlot = \$312.83) (Slippage for re-allocation = \$2,743.84 FY24 Root River 1W1P Feedlot)

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving payment for Contract 36FY24RR1W1P Olinger, Brad 561 – Heavy Use Area Protection in the amount of \$10,756.16 and reallocating \$2,743.84 to FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant Feedlot. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant = \$10,443.33 & FY24 Root River 1W1P Feedlot = \$312.83.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request *Contingent Upon Signatures*

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Laufenberg, Michael	32FY24RR1W1P Fence	\$27,808.01	\$29,164.68	\$ 29,164.68 @ 90% = \$26,248.22 EQIP Payment Amount = \$15,624.40 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$9,377.21 Payment Amount Approved = \$9,377.21

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment for Contract 32FY24RR1W1P Laufenberg, Michael 382 – Fence in the amount of \$9,377.21 contingent upon signatures. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Abstained: Feldmeier Motion carried.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 11,488.59

MDH TAP-IN COST SHARE FUNDING PROGRAM (Funding at 50% or 100% of cost estimate)

MDH Tap-In Cost Share Grant (Grant expiration 4/1/2027) Funds Available

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM (Funding percentage based on ranking)

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$24,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$7,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Vegetative Management & Pollinator Planting Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2027) Available Funds **\$5,000.00**

WinLaC 1W1P CRP (Grant expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds **\$2,000.00**

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5088	Ron Carlsen – Rent – November	\$ 1,287.00
5089	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 289.36
5090	Walter, Dave – Vehicle Maintenance – Oil Change 2020 Dodge Ram	\$ 89.85
5091	Ellenz, David – Reimbursement Flags = \$12.50; Sales Tax = \$0.86	\$ 13.36

5092	Petty Cash – Postage = \$3.10; Vehicle Maintenance – Fuel 2025 GMC = \$48.11 Misc. Expense – Recycling Center = \$20.00	\$ 71.21
5093	VISA – Meals – TSA Mtg 10/20/25 = \$10.99 & WinLaC Mtgs 10/28/25 = \$32.51; Trees – Nursery License = \$107.26; Trees Postage = \$195.00; Postage = \$39.00; Newsletter = \$246.87; Office Supplies = \$79.04; Education – 6 th Grade Day Supply = \$17.51; Education Awards & Tours – Con of Year Expenses = \$11.76 & \$115.00 = \$126.76	\$ 854.94
5094	MASWCD – Registration Fee = \$840.00; Meals = \$210.00 – MASWCD Convention 12/3/25	\$ 1,050.00
5095	Peterson Company Ltd. – 2024 Year-End Financial Audit	\$ 5,000.00
5096	Shirk, Ryan – Contract #27FY24RR1W1P Grade Stabilization Structure	\$ 19,170.00
5097	Olinger, Brad – Contract #36FY24RR1W1P – Heavy Use Area Protection	\$ 10,756.16
5098	Peterson, Jason – Contract #31FY2223RR1W1P – Well Decommissioning	\$ 2,512.50
5099	Traun, Valerie – Contract #30FY24RR1W1P – Stream Crossing	\$ 1,890.00
5101	Laufenberg, Mike – Contract #32FY24RR1W1P – Fence	\$ 9,377.21
	Total	\$ 52,361.69

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

***** WinLaC IWIP Accounts Payable *****

Chair call for a motion to approve accounts payable and transfer of funds

Voucher #	Item	Amount
50	St. Mary’s University of Minnesota – FY25 Project Development – Stream Assessment Pine Creek	\$ 15,000.00
51	Winona County – FY25 Administrative – 3 rd Qtr. 2025	\$ 4,810.63
5095	Peterson Company Ltd. – 2024 Year-End Financial Audit	\$ 600.00
	Total	\$ 20,410.63
	Transfer of funds from Cash General Fund to Eitzen State Bank Acct #8115	\$179,489.63
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 to Cash General Fund	\$ 24,034.37

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

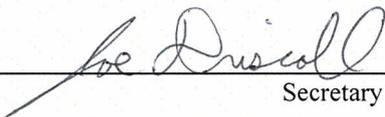
Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, December 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 12-11-25
Date


Secretary



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center
805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1
Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<https://www.co.houston.mn.us/departments/soil-and-water/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

December 11, 2025

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on December 11, 2025 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 1:01 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson
Joe Driscoll
Matt Feldmeier
Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners, Dan Wermager and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry – NRCS staff; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Feedlot Officer; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the November 13, 2025 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the Employee Time Records and Supervisor Per Diems.

Supervisor Per Diems

Anderson, Ken – 4 th Qtr. 4 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 500.00
Driscoll, Joe – 4 th Qtr. 5mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 625.00
Feldmeier, Matt – 4 th Qtr. 4 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 500.00
Kruse, Glenn – 4 th Qtr. 6 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 750.00
Welke, Jerry – 4 th Qtr. 6 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 750.00

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the November 2025 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

AGENCY REPORTS

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt shared the Feedlot Workshop date is set for March 4, 2026 at Good Times, Caledonia, MN. Burt stated a recent hot topic is commercial solar. County commissioners are not wanting land categorized as prime Ag land to be used for solar projects. He also indicated a transmission line for data centers meeting will be upcoming in Spring Grove, MN. Discuss was held on each of these topics.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report

- Hytry stated they are working on getting CSP payments distributed and working through the backlog due to the government shutdown.

Dave Walter, District Manager

- Walter shared he has performed TSA staff reviews as well as Root River SWCD's staff reviews. TSA engineer, Pete Fryer, was in the county and Walter reported they visited a variety of potential project sites. Walter also indicated he and Meiners have retired their old computer and monitors and replaced them with new ones.

PROGRAM REPORTS

- **WCA** – Walter shared he continues to work with a landowner in Crystal Valley on a stream crossing project. He also stated he is working with the DNR on a bike trail bridge needing to be replaced in Yucatan Township.
- **Buffer Law** – Walter stated he will start working on maps in January 2026.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan reported he assisted two producers with manure spreader calibrating. He shared on January 28, 2026 a Nitrogen Management meeting will be held in Spring Grove, MN for Spring Grove Township producers. On February 11, 2026 BWSR Projects and Practices grant application opens.

MASWCD & MACDE

Walter shared supervisors Driscoll and Welke along with himself and the Conservationist of the Year Paul Schutte and his wife attended the MASWCD Annual Convention on December 3, 2025. Walter stated he attended a shoreland protection session and a session on gaining additional JAA. The state Conservationist of the Year represented North St. Louise SWCD and the SWCD of the Year was awarded to Becker SWCD. At the business meeting the recommended resolutions all passed and those that were not supported by a recommendation did not pass.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – No report.

Root River IWIP – Wermager stated the Policy Committee met on Monday, November 24, 2025. The plan update was discussed. They also revisited the plan's priorities for the next grant. Wermager shared \$2.3 million should be available for the grant with \$225,000 available for ag BMP practices for Root River SWCD.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC IWIP – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Meiners shared a proposed amendment to the grant agreement is in the process. It would extend the grant period to June 20, 2027. It would also cover the following testing components: nitrates, arsenic, manganese, lead and total coliform. It could also increase the cost share portions benefiting the landowner/occupant.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Meiners reported she has mailed 136 letters to landowners in Spring Grove Township requesting 165 unvarified wells be identified. She stated she will continue sending out letters in other

townships until grant funds are depleted. A brief discussion followed regarding well decommissioning cost share funding availability.

- **BMP Projects** – No report.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager reported additional paperwork requirements are being required for each of the previous sign-ups. He is dedicating the majority of his time towards this along with assisting producers with a required survey.
- **ARPA** – Wermager shared funds earmarked for pond clean outs and push-up ponds have until August of 2026 to complete their projects. At that point the funds will be made available to use on other projects and must be spent by December 31, 2026.
- **2026 I-90 Soil Health Tour** – Wermager stated the 2026 I-90 Soil Health Tour will consist of four stops in 2026 compared to the three stops in previous years. The final stop of the tour will be in Hokah, MN on February 6, 2026 at the Hokah Fire Station. Myron Sylling, a local cover crop producer and advocate, will be speaking in addition to other speakers.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner reported to date 20 orders were received selling 1,075 trees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Walter stated staff reviews were conducted and he met with the personnel committee to go through the staff reviews.

Walter shared he met with staff to discuss the Minnesota Deferred Compensation Plan (MNDCP) and the Health Care Saving Plan (HCSP) options. Walter stated if a staff member expressed interest in the Minnesota Deferred Compensation Plan (MNDCP) he would bring forward a recommendation regarding a SWCD match. Walter went on to make a recommendation to change the personnel policy from doing a cash pay out to an employee that leaves in good standing to investing the pay out into the Health Care Saving Plan (HCSP). Discussion followed. Feldmeier requested the recommendation be tabled to allow the personnel committee to look into the opportunity further.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter shared TSA staff reviews have been completed. Matt Kemplinger has accepted the technician position and has already started.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier approving WinLaC Sub-Agreement Amendment 1 with Winona County SWCD, Wabasha County SWCD and Fillmore SWCD.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the Crooked Creek Watershed District Service Agreement in the amount of \$19,000.00.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving signing authority for Dave Walter on cost share applications and amendment requests with the condition of discussing each authorization with the board chair or vice chair prior to the authorization. The signing authority is effective through December 31, 2026.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving a step increase (3% increase) for Jean Meiners and Dan Wermager. Also approving 3.5% COLA increase for Dave Walter, Dan Wermager, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2026)* Available Funds **\$184.00**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Requests

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving an amendment request for Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Alan or Kathy 351 Well Decommissioning amending the amended completion date of 12/31/25 to 5/31/26. This is due to contractor availability.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #06FY24RR1W1P Diersen, John 561 Heavy Use Area Protection amending the completion date of 12/31/25 to 10/15/26 contingent upon signatures. This is due to scheduling availability to coordinate the project work.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Cancellation Acknowledgement

It was acknowledged Contract #02FY25CS Meyer, Jordan 582 Prescribed Grazing with 512 Pasture & Hay Planting; 382 Fence 642 Water Well is no longer in need of cost share assistance for this contract. EQIP payment, \$94,644.56, exceeds actual project costs \$90,831.37. Slippage for re-allocation \$26,231.05. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Conservation Contracts *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

FY26 Conservation Contracts *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028)* Available Funds **\$9,660.80**

FY27 Conservation Contracts *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028)* Available Funds **\$23,690.00**

Funding Source Change

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll approving a funding source change for Contract #01FY26CS Meiners, Richie 410 Grade Stabilization Structure moving \$12,060.00 from FY26 Conservation Contracts to FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #01FY26CS Meiners, Richie 410 Grade Stabilization Structure increasing the cost share amount from \$12,060.00 to \$13,950.00, an additional \$1,890.00. Due to additional clearing & grubbing and additional seeding acres. Funding source FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

*****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5100	Meiners, Richie – Contract #01FY26CS – Grade Stabilization Structure	\$ 13,950.00
5102	Ron Carlsen – Rent – December	\$ 1,287.00
5103	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 211.54
5104	VISA – Logitech - C920s Pro 1080 Video Conferencing, Streaming & Gaming Webcam = 2 @ \$59.02 = \$118.04; Dell 24 Plus Adjustable Stand Monitor = 2 @ \$10.58 = \$21.16; Meals – 11/24/25 Root River 1W1P Policy Committee Mtg = \$43.00; Office Supplies = \$118.26; Dell Pro Dock - WD25 = 2 @ \$213.74 = \$427.48; Vehicle Maintenance Wiper Blades 2017 GMC = \$53.44; MDH Well Inventory Postage = \$212.16; Postage = \$21.84	\$ 1,015.38
5105	Talcott Resolution Life & Annuity Ins. Co. – Life Insurance Policy #LU1188704 Dave Walter	\$ 90.00
5106	Messner, Janice - Dell 24 Plus Adjustable Stand Monitor - S2425HS = 2 @ \$119.98 = \$239.96; Dell Tower Plus EBT2250 (Microsoft Office Home & Business 2024 w/Adobe Acrobat Pro 2024; McAfee Virus Protection 3 yrs.) = \$1,479.27; Dell Tower Plus EBT2250 (Microsoft Office Home & Business 2024 & McAfee Virus Protection 3 yrs.) = \$1,369.28; Tax = \$212.38	\$ 3,300.89
5107	Nerstad, Marion – Contract #23FY24RR1W1P – Diversion	\$ 4,877.76
5108	Anderson, Ken – Mileage – 4th Qtr.	\$ 61.60
5109	Driscoll, Joe – Mileage – 4th Qtr.	\$ 78.75
5110	Feldmeier, Matt – Mileage – 4th Qtr.	\$ 100.80
5111	Kruse, Glenn – Mileage – 4th Qtr.	\$ 135.80
5112	Welke, Jerry – Mileage – 4th Qtr.	\$ 126.00
5113	Quill LLC - Office Supplies	\$ 137.38
5114	Houston County Treasurer – License Plate Renewal – 2020 RAM = \$21.25; 2025 GMC = \$21.25	\$ 42.50
		\$
	Total	\$ 25,415.40

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
52	Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc – FY25 Project Development – Pleasant Valley Creek Restoration	\$ 3,281.00
53	City of La Crescent – Contract #23WinLaC-ROO-02 Bio-retention Basin (rain garden) FY23 Urban Stormwater = \$13,257.07 & FY25 Urban Stormwater \$3,295.33	\$ 16,552.40
54	LandSpirit Design Landscaping Inc. – FY25 Project Development – Pleasant Valley Creek Restoration	\$ 388.00
55	Olmsted SWCD – FY25 Technical 3 rd Qtr 2025 = \$2,440.21; FY23 Project Development 3 rd Qtr 2025 = \$42.44	\$ 2,482.65
	Total	\$ 22,704.05
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 8115 (FY23) to Cash General Fund	\$ 4,969.52
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 (FY25) to Cash General Fund	\$ 9,404.54

Motion by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Feldmeier inquired on the status of the 2017 GMC truck. Walter shared if anyone knows of someone who might be interested the price would be \$14,000.00.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

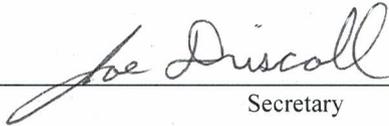
Opposed: None

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, January 8, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: 1-8-26
Date


Secretary