



Board of Supervisors Meeting

SWCD/NRCS Conference Room
USDA Service Center
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Thursday, May 21, 2026
Minutes

Supervisor's Present

- Michelle Andresen, Chair
- Tony Beck, Treasurer
- Gene Pavelko, Public Relations
- Curt Ballard, Vice Chair

Staff Present

- Bryan Malone, District Administrator
- Jamie Bischoff, Office Manager
- Kody Crabtree, Outreach Coordinator
- Ed Musielewicz, NRCS District Conservationist
- Karl Koenig, Planning Manager

Absent

- Travis Schauer, Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Andresen called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Agenda

Andresen called for approval of the agenda.

Motion (Beck/Pavelko) to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes

April 15, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion (Beck/Ballard) to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial

April 2026 Treasurers Report and May Bills

Bischoff presented the April 2026 Treasurers Report and May bills.

Motion (Pavelko/Ballard) to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report and to pay May 2026 bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Assistance Policy

Soil Health

Bryan went over the current Becker SWCD policy for Soil Health. Currently only 3-year contracts are considered for WBIF applications. We saw an increased interest in soil health practices through the

RCPP sign up that allowed one-year contracts. It may be a good policy to change the acreage maximums, the contract length or both. Other SWCD's policies were presented and asked if we should adopt a similar structure to that. One idea would be to have a 1-year contract with a 160-acreage max. **Motion (Pavelko/Beck) to approve the Soil Health policy to implement a 1-year contract period with a 160-acreage maximum. All in Favor, motion carried.**

Forest Management Plans

Malone went over our current policy that's 75% cost-share if in SFIA and 50% if in 2c. He recommended we keep at 75% and 50% with a \$2,625 max (320 acres at \$10/acre and \$300 base fee).

Motion (Pavelko/Ballard) to approve the Forest Management Plans policy to implement a \$2,625 max. All in Favor, motion carried.

Irrigation Water Management

Bryan explained that Becker SWCD does not currently have a policy in place on Irrigation Water Management. Other SWCD's policy was presented to the Board as an example.

Irrigation Sprinkler System (442)	75%
Sprinkler System - Fertigation Retrofit (442)	75% \$5,000 max
Sprinkler System – Variable Rate Irrigation (442)	75%
Soil Moisture Sensors (449)	75% \$2,500 max/sensor
Pumping Plant – Electric pump (533)	75% \$10,000 max
Pumping Plant – Variable Frequency Drive (533)	75% 11,250 max
Standard Fertigation Pump Retrofit (533)	75% \$5,000 max
Pumping Plant – Variable Rate Pump Fertigation Retrofit (533)	75% \$11,250 max
Irrigation Water Mgmt Plan (118)	N/A
Basic Irrigation Water Mgmt (449)	\$500/year 3 year max

Motion (Pavelko/Beck) to approve to adopt the policy as presented. All in Favor, motion carried.

Cost-Share

State Cost-share Application

SCS-26-05 ChWe, Well Decommissioning – 75% Cost-Share – \$600.00

Motion (Pavelko/Beck) to approve the State Cost-share Application. All in Favor, motion carried.

Watershed Based Funding Applications

CW-25-15 WeRe, Forest Management Plan – 75% Cost-Share – \$5,775.00 - TABLED

CW-25-19 LaSa, Irrigation Water Management – 75% Cost-Share – \$39,149.51

CW-25-20 AnKe, Irrigation Water Management – 75% Cost-Share – \$42,335.90

1W1P-58-OT RoKo, Conservation Cover – 75% Cost-Share – \$2,684.95

1W1P-59-OT CaDr, Conservation Cover – 75% Cost-Share – \$2,594.16

1W1P-16-RE LaSa, Irrigation Water Management – 75% Cost-Share – \$61,950.75

1W1P-08-WR SaRo, WASCBS – 90% Cost-Share – \$37,180.87

1W1P-09-WR SaRo, Cons. Crop Rotation – \$14,460.00

1W1P-28-BR TeKo, WASCBS – 75% Cost-Share – \$16,402.61

It was discussed that the CW-25-15 WeRe, Forest Management Plan will be tabled until the June board meeting to inform the applicant of the Forest Management Plan policy changes.

Motion (Beck/Curt) to table the CW-25-15 application until June 2026 meeting. All in Favor, motion carried.

Motion (Ballard/Pavelko) to approve Watershed Based Funding Applications. All in Favor, motion carried.

Soil Health Practices Applications

SHP-26-25 AuBa, No-till & Cover Crop – 15.7 acres – \$1,256.00

SHP-26-16 JaNe, No-till & Cover Crop – 159.5 acres – \$12,076.00

SHP-26-27 PaMe, Cover Crop – 300 acres – \$12,000.00

Motion (Beck/Pavelko) to approve the Soil Health Practices Applications. All in Favor, motion carried.

SSTS Upgrade Applications

SSTS-26-02 AaKa, SSTS – \$15,000

Motion (Pavelko/Beck) to approve the SSTS Upgrade Application. All in Favor, motion carried.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Management Grant Applications

Karl Koenig received two grant applications requesting financial assistance to chemically treat invasive species in lakes from Pelican River Watershed District and the Toad Lake Association. The grants are not to exceed \$4,000 each.

Motion (Beck/Pavelko) to approve the two AIS treatment applications of \$4,000 each. All in Favor, motion carried.

2027 Budget Talks

Koenig explained that the AIS prevention aid allocation will be reduced by half in 2027 to \$173,218.00. He brought up ideas on where the SWCD can cut spending to accommodate for this reduced AIS Prevention Aid allocation from the state. More information will be provided as the 2027 SWCD budget is developed in July.

MASWCD

Area Meeting – June 16, 2026

The next Area 1 meeting is held on June 16th in Mahnommen, MN.

Resolutions

Bryan presented 2 different resolutions on Re-orienting Prevailing Wage to Market Realities and Increase State Funding for SWCD Technical Service Areas. If approved, they will be presented at the Area 1 meeting on June 16th for approval and then sent to MASWCD for a decision at the Annual Convention.

Motion (Pavelko/Ballard) to approve the Re-orienting Prevailing Wage to Market Realities resolution. All in Favor, motion carried.

Motion (Beck/Pavelko) to approve the Increase State Funding for SWCD Technical Service Areas resolution. All in Favor, motion carried.

Elections: Candidate Filing May 19 – June 2, 2026 for Districts 1 (Curt) and 4 (Gene)

Malone encouraged to Curt and Gene to file at the Courthouse after the board meeting.

Open Forum

Ed Musielewicz explained more into detail on the LaSa (CW-25-19 and 1W1P-16-RE) and what irrigation systems are being utilized for in the contracts. The board requested a presentation with more information on what Irrigation Systems are all about and the SWCDs involvement.

Bryan, Kody, and Jamie displayed the current clicks/engagements from the current Becker County website and the board decided to table the new website plan for now.

Staff Reports

Bryan Malone, Administrator, presented his monthly report

Proposed Schedule

Malone proposed having 1 person on the SWCD staff to be in a meeting each month. The board agreed and thought would be a good idea to know what they've been doing in the field.

Next Board Meeting Date

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Chair Andresen adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.



Board Secretary



District Administrator

23 Jun 2026

Date

6/23/2026

Date