



Board of Supervisors Meeting
SWCD/NRCS Conference Room
USDA Service Center
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Supervisor's Present

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

Staff Present

- Bryan Malone, District Administrator
- Kody Crabtree, Outreach Coordinator
- Ed Musielewicz, NRCS District Conservationist
- Dayton Talbert, Intern

Guests

- Barry Nelson, County Commissioner
- Moriya Rufer, BWSR Board Conservationist

Absent

- Jamie Bischoff, Office Manager

Call to Order

Chair Andresen called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Agenda

Andresen called for approval of the agenda.

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

Minutes

May 21, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion (Beck/Schauer) to approve the May 21, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial

May 2026 Treasurers Report and June Bills

Malone presented the May 2026 Treasurers Report and June bills.

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

Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings

Bryan advised the supervisors to review, revise if needed and sign their expense reports for their compensation payment.

Shop and Office Lease

Malone explained that our shop lease located at 1366 Mallard Street Detroit Lakes, expires June 30, 2026 year and the landlord has presented a new 3-year lease for us to remain at the current location. As has been in the past, there is a 2.5% increase each year.

Motion (Schauer/Beck) to enter into the 3-year lease agreement for the shop. All in Favor, motion carried.

Private Well Protection Grant Application

Bryan noted the opportunity to apply for the MN Department of Health (MDH) Private Well Protection Grant, that would provide test kits to Becker County residents who rely on private wells, with priority given to low-income households, families with young children, and expecting mothers. Crabtree added that he requested a quote from RMB Labs for 1,290 kits and 387 tests.

EOT SWCD Pooling Agreement

East Otter Tail (EOT) SWCD received a \$52,000 state grant as match to the Federal Irrigation RCPP. They offered to enter into a pooling agreement with Becker SWCD and for us to provide a contract for a landowner to install an irrigation system. The project must be installed prior to the end of the year. We provide the landowner financial assistance and invoice EOT SWCD for reimbursement of the financial assistance.

Motion (Schauer/Beck) to enter into the pooling agreement with EOT SWCD for the installation of an irrigation system. All in Favor, motion carried.

DNR Observation Well Monitoring

Becker SWCD has cooperated with the DNR for many years to read their observation wells located throughout the county through a reimbursable agreement. We have received a new agreement with the DNR to monitor wells for FY2027. They will reimburse the SWCD \$60/well reading not to exceed \$6,480.00.

Motion (Pavelko/Ballard) to approve the DNR Observation Well Agreement. All in Favor, motion carried.

Easement Delivery Work Order

Application 03-01-26-24 has been approved for funding. BWSR provided a work order to compensate our time needed to prepare and complete the recording of the easement and implementation of the conservation plan.

Motion (Beck/Ballard) to approve the BWSR RIM Workorder for \$2,500. All in Favor, motion carried.

BWSR

Moriya Rufer, BWSR Board Conservationist

Moriya introduced herself to everyone. She explained that she has replaced Brett Arne as the Board Conservationist with BWSR for our region. She also provided a BWSR legislative update.

Cost Share

Clean Water Fund Applications

CWF-14-FFBC JaNe, Cover Crops/No-Till – 160 acres – \$36,259.29

Motion (Beck/Schauer) to approve contract CWF-14-FFBC. All in Favor, motion carried.

Irrigation Resource Conservation Partnership Applications

IRCP-23-01 AnIn, Variable Rate Irrigation – 75% Cost-Share – \$49,253.25

IRCP-23-02 AnIn, Cover Crop – 33.8 acres – \$2,683.00

Motion (Schauer/Pavelko) to approve Irrigation Resource Conservation Partnership Applications. All in Favor, motion carried.

Soil Health Practices Applications

SHP-26-28 ToAn, No-Till – 309.1 acres – 75% Cost-Share - \$12,364.00

Motion (Beck/Ballard) to approve Soil Health Practices contract SHP-26-28. All in Favor, motion carried with Andresen abstaining from voting.

Watershed Based Funding Applications

CW-25-15 WeRe, Forest Management – 75% Cost-Share – \$2,625.00

CW-25-22 KaKu, Forest Management – 50% Cost-Share – \$395.00

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

Policy

Irrigation Water Management

The Irrigation Water Management policy that was approved at the previous meeting did not include flow meters as they were combined with Irrigation Water Management in previous years. It was discussed to include the practice code for structure for water control (flow meter) and to have 75% cost share with this practice.

Motion (Schauer/Ballard) to include structure for water control at 75% cost share in the Irrigation Water Management policy. All in Favor, motion carried.

Herbicide cost-share for CRP maintenance

Bryan provided information on the herbicide cost-share for CRP maintenance and noted that we currently supply herbicide to landowners at no cost. It was discussed that landowners with CRP contracts should be charged for the herbicide. Schauer suggested implementing a base fee for those with CRP contracts, and the group discussed numerous options for the amount charged to those customers.

Motion (Schauer/Beck) to have the minimum fee for the herbicide be \$30 and to adjust accordingly with those that have larger acreage contracts. All in Favor, motion carried.

MASWCD

Area Meeting June 16th and Resolutions Report

Malone noted that the two resolutions that Becker SWCD had were the only two brought to the Area 1 meeting and both passed.

Leadership Institute

Bryan explained that MASWCD is offering a new round of training for the Leadership Institute and asked the supervisors to approve sending a staff member. It was further discussed that we could send two staff members if there was enough interest.

Motion (Beck/Ballard) to approve sending up to 2 staff members to the MASWCD Leadership Institute training. All in Favor, motion carried.

Open Forum

Musielewicz noted that there will be a soil health field day on Tuesday, June 30th at the Grefsrud farm in Hawley for anyone interested in attending.

Nelson explained that three lakes in the county - Fox, Pickerel, and Big Sugar Bush - are requesting that the County approve an ordinance regulating wake/surf boats. The requested regulation would require wake boats to operate at least 500 feet from shore and only in areas with water depths of 20 feet or greater.

Malone reviewed the statistics for our 2026 tree planting season with and noted issues with white spruce transplant that we sourced from the DNR are dying. Staff are checking other plantings and other sources to see if the nursery had bad stock or if the dry weather played a role.

Staff Reports

Dayton Talbert – SWCD Intern

Bryan Malone – Administrator

Next Board Meeting Date

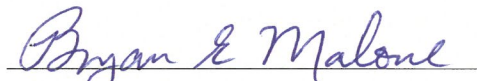
Thursday, July 23, 2026

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Chair Andresen adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.



Board Secretary



District Administrator

24 June 2026

Date

6/24/2026

Date