



Board of Supervisors Meeting
SWCD/NRCS Conference Room
USDA Service Center
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Thursday, July 23, 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
- Jamie Bischoff, Office Manager
- Kody Crabtree, Outreach Coordinator
- Ed Musielewicz, NRCS District Conservationist
- Owen Reding, Shoreland Technician
- Amina Kovacevic, Program Technician

Guests

- Barry Nelson, Becker County Commissioner

Call to Order

Chair Andresen called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Agenda

Andresen called for approval of the agenda.

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

Minutes

June 24, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion (Beck/Schauer) to approve the June 24, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Personnel

Amina Kovacevic

Amina introduced herself to the board and briefly explained where she worked prior to coming to Becker. She also talked about the tasks she is working on in her role as program technician.

Level 2 Conservation Planner Verification

Malone informed the board that the Conservation Planner program includes three certification levels and highlighted Amina's progress toward achieving Level 2 Conservation Planner status. He noted that she has

completed the necessary training and requested board approval to move forward with her Level 2 certification, recognizing the value this certification will bring to the district's planning capacity.

Motion (Ballard/Schauer) to approve Amina's level 2 planner certification. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial

June 2026 Treasurers Report and July Bills

Bischoff presented the June 2026 Treasurers Report and July bills.

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

Grant Applications Update

Bryan updated the board on the ongoing work with Kody to prepare and submit the Private Well Protection Grant application, noting that the full application was officially submitted on July 17th. He explained this grant would help expand private-well testing across Becker County, with a focus on low-income households and families with infants and young children. We should know if we were awarded in early August.

He also noted that he is working with Hubbard and Cass SWCDs on a National Fish and Wildlife grant for staff time to assist NRCS with Farm Bill programs. We should hear results in November. The amount for Becker SWCD would equal \$250,000 to cover 2027 and 2028.

2027 Budget

Bryan explained that the 2027 budget is almost complete. He noted that final figures for AIS and Riparian Aid have not yet been released by the state, which limits the ability to finalize the budget. Bryan also shared an update from the recent District Manager meeting, highlighting a detailed presentation on how the Big Beautiful Bill is influencing county-level funding and program structures. Jamie will schedule a budget meeting with the budget committee before the next board meeting.

Cost Share

Watershed Based Funding Application

CW-25-23 DiOr, Cover Crop – 106 acres – (\$25/acres) \$2,650.00

CW-25-24 AnKe, Cover Crop – 120 acres – (\$35/acres) \$4,200.00

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

CRP Incentives

WR-CRP-11, \$100/acre - 51 acres – \$5,100.00

Motion (Pavelko/Beck) to approve the Wild Rice CRP Incentive contract. All in Favor, motion carried.

Education and Outreach

Outstanding Conservationist Selection

Bryan reviewed last year's candidate list and noted that Jake Nelson, who has worked closely with the district on WASCBS, no-till, and cover crop implementation, was a strong contender but was not selected at that time. He emphasized that Jake's continued commitment to conservation and his active adoption of soil-health practices makes him an excellent nominee this year. Among the individuals considered, Jake stands out as the most consistent and engaged partner. Bryan and Ed M recommended him as the district's Outstanding Conservationist selection for 2026.

Motion (Schauer/Beck) to name Jake Nelson as the 2026 outstanding conservationist for Becker SWCD. All in Favor, motion carried.

Fair Booth

Malone commented that a booth in the main arena during the 2027 fair would be a great opportunity for the district to increase visibility and engagement. The board was in favor of this idea to see if we could obtain more exposure to fair goers.

Observation Wells

Bryan reported that the district's observation wells are monitored quarterly and provided a visual map showing the locations of all wells across the county, most being on the east side of the county. He noted that the SWCD is reimbursed \$60 for each well observation, and with 35 wells in the network, this represents a consistent and important component of the district's groundwater level monitoring.

MASWCD

Leadership Institute

Bryan noted that Wes and Ariel have enrolled in the Leadership Institute training, and he expressed appreciation to the board for supporting this opportunity, emphasizing the value it will bring to the district's leadership capacity.

Open Forum

There was no open forum business brought forward.

Staff Reports

Owen Reding – Shoreland Technician

Owen provided an overview of the shoreline projects completed this year and presented a PowerPoint featuring site photos and project outcomes. He walked the board through each installation and addressed several questions from members.

Bryan Malone, Administrator, presented his monthly report.

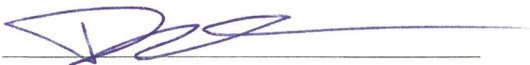
Next Board Meeting Date

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Chair Andresen adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.



Board Secretary



District Administrator

19 Aug 2026

Date

8/19/2026

Date

