



Board of Supervisors Meeting

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

**Wednesday, August 19, 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
- Brandon Gill, Ag Inspector
- Lawrence Mettler, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist
- Robert Guetter, NRCS Team Lead

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 August 19, 2026 agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes

July 23, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion (Ballard/Pavelko) to approve the July 23, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

August 20, 2025 minutes revision to correct 2024 to 2025.

Motion (Beck/Schauer) to approve the revised August 20, 2025 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial

July 2026 Treasurers Report and August Bills

Bischoff presented the July 2026 Treasurers Report and August bills.

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

2027 Proposed Budget – Review/Approve

Bryan mentioned that the budget committee met on August 18 to review the proposed 2027 budget. He noted that only minimal adjustments were needed this year, largely because the district is operating with a similar staffing level as last year. He also highlighted several key points from the committee's discussion and stated that the revised budget is scheduled for completion in February 2027.

Motion (Schauer/Ballard) to approve the proposed 2027 budget. All in Favor, motion carried.

FY23 & FY25 Wild Rice WBIF Grant Amendments

Bryan noted that the Wild Rice Implementation grants are approaching their expiration and explained that amendments to the workplan have been made to include shoreland practices.

Motion (Schauer/Pavelko) to approve the FY23 & FY25 Wild Rice WBIF Grant Amendments. All in Favor, motion carried.

FY27 Wild Rice WBIF Grant Agreement

Malone reviewed the new grant agreement for the FY27 Wild Rice WBIF grant, noting that the total award amount is \$2,006,908. He explained that the agreement becomes effective upon completion of the workplan in eLink and BWSR's approval signature. The grant is set to expire in December 2029, and the workplan remains consistent with previous years.

Motion (Ballard/Beck) to approve the FY27 Wild Rice WBIF Grant Agreement. All in Favor, motion carried.

FY27 Redeye WBIF Agreement for Services

The Redeye watershed has a new workplan and grant agreement for FY27 and East Otter Tail (EOT) SWCD serves as the fiscal agent for the Redeye Watershed. EOT SWCD is requesting an agreement for services between them and Becker SWCD. He outlined the required documentation and steps needed for reimbursement which are the same as what BWSR requires of all grant recipients.

Motion (Beck/Pavelko) to approve the FY27 Redeye WBIF Agreement for Services with EOT SWCD. All in Favor, motion carried.

FY27 Otter Tail WBIF Agreement for Services

The Otter Tail watershed also has a new workplan and grant agreement with EOT SWCD as the fiscal agent. Therefore an Agreement for Services is also needed with EOT SWCD for this grant.

Motion (Pavelko/Beck) to approve the FY27 Otter Tail WBIF Agreement for Services with EOT SWCD. All in Favor, motion carried.

2026 SWCD Aid Use of Payments Resolution

Bryan noted that the SWCD has followed this process since the state first established SWCD Aid. He added that the district now needs to adopt a resolution outlining how the aid will be used again in 2026.

Motion (Pavelko/Schauer) to approve the 2026 SWCD Aid Resolution. All in Favor, motion carried.

Cost Share

SSTS Fix-Up Applications

SSTS-26-02 JuMa, SSTS – Cost estimate \$12,850.00 - 100% Cost-Share \$12,850.00

SSTS-26-03 LuTh, SSTS – Cost estimate \$19,880.00 - 50% Cost-share not to exceed \$7,500.00

Motion (Schauer/Beck) to approve the SSTS Fix-Up Applications. All in Favor, motion carried.

Clean Water Fund Application

CWF-15-FFBC TiLe, Cover Crop – 92 acres – Flat rate contract of \$18,704.52

Motion (Beck/Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Fund Application CWF-15-FFBC. All in Favor, motion carried.

Watershed Based Funding Applications

CW-25-25 JoBu, Cover Crop – 473.5 acres – Flat rate contract \$11,837.50

CW-25-04 LyPe, Streambank Stabilization – Cost Estimate \$ 11,596.50 - 75% Cost-Share – \$8,697.37
1W1P-61-OT AnIn, Cover Crop – 33.8 acres – Flat rate contract \$1,183.00
1W1P-62-OT RiLa, Pit Closure – Cost Estimate \$28,535 - 90% Cost-Share \$25,681.50
1W1P-63-OT PaYl, Pit Closure – Cost Estimate \$16,190 - 90% Cost-Share \$14,571.00

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

Soil Health Practices Applications

SHP-26-29 JoSh, Cover Crop – 55.4 acres – Flat rate contract \$2,216.00
SHP-26-30 BaVa, Cover Crop/No-Till – 46.3 acres – Flat rate contract \$1,852.00

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

NRCS

Staffing Report

District Conservationist, Ed Musielewicz announced his retirement effective October 16, 2026. Bob Guetter, NRCS Team Lead, noted that Lawrence will serve as Acting District Conservationist through June 2027 to fill that vacancy as NRCS is currently in a hiring freeze. He also reported that USDA and FSA are undergoing a reorganization nationally that likely won't affect us much locally.

MASWCD

This year's annual convention is Monday Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, 2026. Bryan said that Jake Nelson accepted the Becker SWCD Outstanding Conservationist Award for 2026.

Open Forum

Musielewicz reported that the Becker County Fair recognized Jake Nelson as the Becker SWCD Outstanding Conservationist for 2026. They also recognized Tyler and Tom Trieglaff for winning the State of Minnesota Conservationist of the year for 2025!

Staff Reports

Brandon Gill – County Ag Inspector

Brandon provided an overview of his work over the past year, detailing the projects he has led in his position. He shared color-coded maps and project photos to illustrate the range of activities completed.

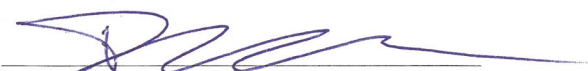
Bryan Malone, Administrator, presented his monthly report

Next Board Meeting Date

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Chair Andresen adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.


Board Secretary


District Administrator


Date


Date