

Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District

912 Houston St., Box 45, Preston, Minnesota 55965

Phone: 507-887-0240, Fax: 507-765-4415

www.fillmoreswcd.org

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 15th, 2025

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

Members present: Jason Wetzel, Eunice Biel, Kathy Tesmer, Travis Willford

Others present: Duane Bakke, Dave Copeland, Riley Buley, Dean Thomas, Theresa Baker

Jason Wetzel Called meeting to order at 5:04 pm

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda: Tesmer motioned to approve agenda with additions as presented, seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Biel, Willford, Tesmer, Wetzel Opposed none, Motioned carried

Tim Gossman joined the meeting at 5:08 pm. Jason Wetzel then turned the meeting over to Gossman at 5:09 pm to proceed.

II. Treasurer's Report

1. Approve April 2025 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit. Willford motioned to approve the April treasurer's report subject to audit, seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Beil, Gossman, Willford, Wetzel, Tesmer. Opposed none, motion carried.
2. Approve Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit. Buley indicated that the 3rd payment from DWSR should be arriving soon to complete Grant. Willford motioned to approve the April 1W1P treasurer's report subject to audit, seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Biel, Tesmer, Wetzel.

2022-2023 - Root River 1W1P - C22-0480			
Payments	Terms	Received	Grant Terms
\$ 734,798.00	50%	05-26-2022	Executed 05-20-2022
\$ 587,838.00	40%	09-09-2024	
\$ 146,959.00	10%		Expires 12-31-2024
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 1,469,595.00	\$ 1,322,636.00	1,378,531.52	\$ -55,895.50

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2024-2025 - Watershed Base Implementation ARP – C22-0143			
Payments	Terms	Received	Grant Terms
\$ 1,150,475.00	50%	04-23-2024	Executed 04-08-2024
\$ 920,380.00	40%		
\$ 230,095.00	10%		Expires 12-31-2026
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 2,300,950.00	\$ 1,150,475.00	\$ 506,643.86	\$ 643,831.20

III. Consent Agenda: Tesmer motioned to approve consent agenda seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Gossmand, Biel, Willford, Tesmer, Wetzel. Opposed none, motion carried.

1. Secretary's Report- April 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Approve Contract FY25-03 Marilyn Tammel in the amount of \$2000.00 Well decommissioning project Utilizing funds from 2025 Conservation Contract.
3. Consider final payment to Dave Mensink, Contract DWP-WS12, Well Sealing in the amount of \$2,000 utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection Grant in the Karst Region,

IV. Reports

1. Supervisor's Activity Report: Willford reported he attended Regular Board Meeting & Cost Share committee mtg. Wetzel reported he attended Regular Board Meeting & Cost Share committee mtg. Gossman reported he attended the Regular Board Meeting. Biel reported she attended the Regular Board meeting. Tesmer reported she attended the Regular Board Meeting, Fillmore Central Senior Awards night, MASWCD meeting and Farm Safety Day
2. Staff Reports: submitted in agenda packet
3. Administrator's Report: Buley reported Fillmore County is one of the 17 counties still in the process of the AMPI Grant (formerly CMA). Virginia Tech. is scheduled to be in MN in Aug for meeting with Approved Counties.
4. NRCS Report:
 - a. NRCS is in full swing with construction for engineering projects and grazing practices. With the last round of EQIP, staff are excited to install more conservation practices that are addressing our Soil/Water/Animal/Air/Plant /Energy ---Resource Concerns
 - b. No word yet regarding any CRP sign-ups

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- c. NRCS is realigning their work units, Fillmore/Houston/Winona NRCS will now be adding the Olmsted County unit to their team – staff is looking forward to expanding their knowledge and skills to continue their conservation abilities into Olmsted County.

5. County Report: Bakke reported 24 Feedlot reports were submitted and approved by the board with an additional 25 plans up for review.

V. Old Business

1. Continue employee retention discussion and review area district wage compensation study. Buley reported and showed a graph of the wage compensation study performed by the coop hired and will present to the County HR department for review and questions.
2. Intern outcomes: Kaleb Adams will start June 19th. Conservation Corp Intern is currently not an option due to Federal funding cuts.

VI. New Business

1. Review BSWR Soil Health RCPP Process Proposal: **Deferred at this time for further review**
2. Approve Soil Health Cost share rates: **Deferred at this time for further review.**
3. Discuss part 2 of Brightsdale Dam Project: **Project is going well and near completion.**
4. Approve contract RR1W1P25-01, Abby Lee, Grazing Plan on property of John Kahoun Norway Township in the amount of \$74,200.64 Utilizing funds from 2025 Root River 1 Watershed 1 Plan Grant. Tesmer motioned to approve contract once Questions and discussions were complete. Seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Tesmer, Biel. Opposed none motion carried.
5. Approve contract RR1W1P25-02, Carter Lee Grazing on property of Ann Meldahl Norway Township in the amount of \$124,618.71. Utilizing funds from 2025 Root River 1 Watershed 1 Plan Grant. Tesmer motioned to approve contract seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Tesmer, Biel. Opposed none motion carried.
6. Consider step increase for employee number 23002 to a Grade 7 Step 8, annual review.: Biel motioned to approve employee # 23002 to a Grade 7 step 8 seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Gossman, Tesmer Willford, Biel and Wetzel. Opposed none motion carried.
7. Discuss Tree Sale 2025 outcomes. Buley reported tree sales went well, and staff is preparing for 2026 tree sales already.
8. Review Conservation Building Lease. Buley indicated contract to signed shortly with tenants

K Tesmer and E Biel left the meeting at 6:47 pm

II. Accounts Payable

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1. Approve, April accounts payable: **Wetzel motioned to approve April's accounts payable seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Gossman, Willford and Wetzel. Opposed none motion carried.**

- III. Adjournment: Wilford motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:58 pm seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative, Gossman, Wetzel, Wilford. Opposed none motion carried. Meeting adjourned.**

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Envirothon	May 6, 2025
Tesmer Farm Safety Day	May 6, 2025
RR1W1P Policy Committee Mtg	May 19, 2025
MASWCD Meeting	May 23, 2025
Memorial Day (Office closed)	May 26, 2025
June Board Meeting	June 18, 2025
Juneteenth Day	June 19, 2025
Area VII supervisor Meeting	June 23, 2025

X *Aurice Biel*

Date: *6-18-2025*