

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, Aug 21st, 2025

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

Members Present Jason Wetzel, Eunice Biel, Travis Willford

Members absent: Tim Gossman, Kathy Tesmer

Others Present: Dave Copland Riley Buley, Anesa Liptak, Theresa Baker: Guests: Dave Copeland and Andy Bungy.

Jason Wetzel called meeting to order at 5:00pm

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda: **Biel motioned to approve agenda with additions highlighted in yellow seconded by Willford, Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Willford. Opposed none, motion carried.**
- II. Guest: Andy Bungy, discuss easement to city sewer through District property. **A Bundy presented a map for an easement that would run through the SWCD property. Board suggested that Bungy come back with a full board present and have a discussion with his Engineer about where or could an easement be done along the tree line. Bungy to research and come back to the Fillmore SWCD board. Bungy left meeting at 5:15 pm.**
- III. Treasurer's Report
 1. Approve, July 2025 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Willford motioned to approve the July treasurer's report subject to audit. Second, by Biel. Affirmative: Biel, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motioned carried.**
 2. Approve Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Willford motioned to approve the July RR1W1P treasurer's report subject to audit. Second, by Biel. Affirmative: Biel, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motioned carried.**

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 12-31-2025
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 1,469,595.00	\$ 1,322,636.00	\$ 1,462,007.02	\$ -139,371.00

The mission of the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote natural resource stewardship by providing educational, technical and financial assistance.

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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	\$ 701,752.98	\$ 448,722.10

I. Consent Agenda: **Biel motioned to approve consent agenda seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Biel, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.**

II.

1. Approve secretary's Report- July 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Trees for 25/26 ordered
3. Approve Final Payment on Contract RR1W1P 20-07, Francis White cost share in the amount of \$4213.29 Utilizing funds from the 2025 Root River 1 Watershed 1 Plan Grant.
4. Approve final payment on contract DWP-WS05, Dan Teske, well sealing utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection Grant in the Karst Region.
5. Approve Final Payment on contract FY24-01, Dick Engrav, cost share well decommissioning in the amount of \$1486.65, utilizing funds from 2025 State Cost Share grant.

III. Reports

1. Supervisor's Activity Report: **Willford reported attending the regular board meeting, Wetzel reported regular board meeting and Forestry field day. Biel reported Regular board meeting and Virginia Tech program in Virginia as a producer**
2. Staff Reports: **Attached**
3. Administrator's Report
 - i. Fillmore SWCD AID update: **Buley reported less money will be received this year.**
 - ii. Fillmore County Request: **Buley reported he will attend 8/26/25 County Board meeting to request additional funding from County. SWCD Staff will discuss when they present to the Fillmore Commissioners on current Buffers.**
4. NRCS Report: **No Report**
5. County Report: **No Report**

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IV. Old Business

1. Conservationist for 2025 will be Lynn Aggen Oak Meadow Farms: **Biel motioned to approve Lynn Aggen and Family as Conservationist of 2025, seconded by Willford, Affirmative Biel, Wetzel Willford Opposed none motioned carried.**
2. Discuss District Grade and Step Discussion with Fillmore County: **Buley discussed, he spoke with the County Administrator and discussed meeting with other boards and the Southeast Cooperative. Buley also proposed to use the PRAP 2026 Grant.**
3. Forestry Field Day and Prairie Walk Recap. **Approx 80 people attended the Forestry field day and approx. 11 attended the Prairie Walk. Staff and Forestry committee will meet and discuss the walks and brainstorm what went right and areas of improvement.**
4. Larson & Sons inspected the AC and Boiler in DNR building. Fixed wire on A/C and added Freon. Providing quote for new AC. Boiler was checked and appears to be working as expected. **Quote provided. Information was provided to the Board on repairs and Larson's reviewed Boiler. Board to discuss further next month. Baker to call city if they offer an Energy savings program.**

V. New Business

1. Consider extension of temporary work contract with Kaleb Adams: **The Board discussed. Biel Motioned to give R. Buley permission to negotiate with K Adams to extend contract to allow 10 hours a week up to 40 hrs per month to work afar. Plus, wage negotiations. Seconded by Willford affirmative Willford, Biel, Wetzel: Opposed none, motion carried.**
2. Consider insurance premium split for the MN Paid Family Medical Leave. **Buley, discussed with Board and it will be tabled until next board meeting. 9/18/25**
3. Consider 2026 Platbook order with Rockford Map Publishers. Suggest we order 150 this year. Currently we have 17 of 2023 on hand, Quote will be provided once Commitment to purchase is placed. Total ordered in 2023 was 130. **Willford approved to move forward with ordering 150 2026 platbooks. Seconded by Biel Affirmative, Wetzel, Biel, Willford. opposed none, motion carried. Baker to report back next month on quoted price.**
4. Consider Buley's attendance at the MASWCD Manager's Leadership Cohort, \$4995. Scholarship to be applied for to reduce costs. MASWCD's traditional Leadership Cohort is likely to resume in 2026-2027. **Beil motioned to approve Buley to attend MASWCD leadership conference. Seconded by Willford. Affirmative Biel , Wetzel,Willford., opposed none, motion carried.**
5. Soil Health RCPP update. **Request for District Administrator to sign contracts for August batching period. Beil approved to have Buley sign the 4 contracts for the RCCP Program due at the end of August to assure each producer gets into the program and allows enough funds to support a 2-year contract with all 4 producers. Then allowing producers to reapply for additional funds for another 2 years, once excepted and first**

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contract is complete. Second, by Willford. Affirmative Biel, Willford, Wetzel. Opposed none, motion carried.

6. Approve contract RR1W1P25-03, Ben Ninas in the amount of \$4321.90 for grade stabilization structure. Utilizing funds from the 2025 Root River 1 Watershed 1 Plan Grant. **Biel Motioned to approve Contract RR1W1P25-03 seconded by Willford. Affirmative; Biel, Willford and Wetzel. Opposed none, motion carried.**
7. Consider & Approve 50% deposit payment to Wade Consulting and Solution for State bacteria lab audit. This is required every 2 years and is coordinated alongside the 2 labs in Rochester to share travel costs. **Willford motioned to approve the 50% deposit to perform the Audit for the Bacteria Lab sharing costs with Olmsted County lab. Seconded by Biel Affirmative: Biel, Wetzel, Willford opposed none motion carried.**
8. Approve Contract DWP-WS15, Schweinfus Estate in the amount of \$2,000 utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection Grant in the Karst Region. **Will ford approve contract DWP-WS15 seconded by Biel. Affirmative, Biel, Wetzel and Willford opposed none, motion carried.**

II. Accounts Payable

1. Approve, July accounts payable. **Willford Motioned to approve July Accounts payable, seconded by Biel. Affirmative, Wetzel, Willford, Biel. Opposed none, motion carried.**

III. Adjournment. Willford motioned to adjourn seconded by Biel. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Willford. Opposed none, motioned carried. Wetzel adjourned meeting at 6:59.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

RR1W1P PWG Meeting 1:00-3:00	Aug 6, 2025
SWCD Prairie Walk: Savanna Spring Nature Area	Aug 13,2025
Fillmore SWCD Board Meeting	Aug 21,2025
Virginia Tech Mtg. (Jackson MN.)	Aug 22,2025
MN State Fair	Aug 21-Sept 1 2025
RR1W1P Policy Committee Mtg 9:00 am	Aug 25, 2025
Labor Day (Office closed)	Sept 1,2025

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