

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, November 20th, 2025

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

Members present: Jason Wetzel, Kathy Tesmer, Travis Willford

Members absent Eunice Biel Tim Gossman

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

Jason Wetzel Called meeting to order at 5:02 pm

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda with additions made since 11/7/2025 highlighted in yellow. **Tesmer motioned to approve agenda with additions second by Willford, Affirmative: Wetzel, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed none, motion carried.**

Eunice Biel arrived at 5:07 and Tim Gossman arrived at 5:08

- II. Treasurer's Report

1. Approve, Oct. 2025 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Buley reported a positive balance on the SWCD report. Willford motioned to approve October's treasurer's report subject to audit. Second, by Tesmer. Affirmative: Biel, Gossman, Tesmer, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.**
2. Approve Oct. Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit.: **The 2022-2023 RR1W1P C22-0480 is complete and in compliance. Remaining funds will be disbursed shortly, closing out this Grant. Copland stated the 2024-2025 C22-0143 report needs to be submitted and the 40% funds can then be disbursed. Staff to submit report to BWSR. Buley stated the 2026-2027 RR1W1P grant application is in process. Tesmer motioned to approve the October RR1W1P treasurer's report subject to audit, Second by Willford. Affirmative: Biel, Gossman, Tesmer, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.**

2022-2023 - Root River 1W1P - C22-0480

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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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
\$ 1,469,959.00	\$ 1,322,636.00	\$ 1,469,959.00,	\$ -146,959

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	\$ 953,054.01	\$ 197,421.00

III. Consent Agenda: **Tesmer motioned to approve consent agenda second by Willford.**
Affirmative: Biel, Gossman, Tesmer, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.

1. Approve secretary's Report-October 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Consider final payment to Johnson Rolling Acres for \$5000.00 for the Manure sensor nitrogen rate test plot. Utilizing funds from the TNC Grant.
3. Approve 1st amendment; Sub-agreement contract for the WinLAC Partnership between Root River SWCD and Fillmore SWCD.
4. Amendment to October 16th agenda: Item #14 consent agenda should state Consider final payment on **DWP-WS11** Dave Mensink in the amount of \$1605.00. Well Sealing, utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection Grant in the Karst region. **NOT DWP-WS13**
5. Consider purchase of 4 new tires from McCabe Repair for 2017 Silverado. \$871.46 with labor. Once done district could apply for \$100.00 rebate Visa Gift Card.
6. Consider final payment on contract DWP-WS-17 Katie Goldsmith in the amount of \$2,000 Completed Well Sealing, Utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection Grant in the Karst Region.
7. Approve Contract Tap-IN FY25-001, Cheryl Haack in the amount of \$2068.00 for installation of Reverse Osmosis point of use system. Utilizing funds from the MDH SE MN Tap in Program
8. Approve advertising in Fillmore Journal for 2025/2026 Tree sales. Running 2 consecutive weeks. Publishing 12/1 and 12/29 approx. cost \$412.00

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IV. Reports

1. Supervisor's Activity Report: **Willford reported attending regular meeting, Easement walk over. Wetzel reported attending regular meeting, Tesmer reported attending MASWCD Meeting and stated a new Engineer was hired for TSA. Biel reported attending Area 7 Meeting and regular meeting. Gossman reported attending regular meeting and The Friends of the Root River meeting.**
2. Staff Reports: **Attached**
3. Administrator's Report: **Buley is currently teleworking until December 1. He indicated the RR1W1P grants have passed 2 reconciliations as well as the Climate Smart Alliance grant.**
4. NRCS Report. **No report submitted, however they are back to work after government shut down.**

V. County Report: No Report

VI. Old Business

1. Approve the Bunge easement contingent to a price of \$1,900, a surveyed easement indicating a precise path, and an Easement Agreement produced by Bunge's Attorney and approved by the Fillmore County Attorney. **Once approved plans will be designed and shared rough draw is provided. Tesmer motioned to approve contingent of the \$1,900 price and the slight movement of 2nd manhole and once formal drawing is complete Bunge will present to board, second by Willford. affirmative Biel, Gossman, Tesmer, Willford, Wetzel Opposed none, motion carried.**
2. **Tentative: Consider SE Services Quote to perform District Wage comp study. Funds applied for and covered by BWSR PRAP grant. Biel Motioned to move forward with SE Services to do a wage study. Second by Gossman Affirmative: Tesmer, Willford, Biel, Gossman, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.**
3. 2026 Budget Discussion, **Buley discussed the 2026 Budget briefly and more discussion will take place at Decembers meeting.**

VII. New Business

1. Annual Appreciation Lunch scheduled for January 15th Branding Iron: **Board discussed Annual meeting will be held at 8:30 am 1/15/2026 with Regular meeting to follow once complete everyone will attend Luncheon.**
2. Approve employee #23043 pay salary increase to a Grade 12 step 6 following annual evaluation effective 11/14/25. **Biel motioned to approve salary increase for employee #23043 effective 11/14/25 second by Tesmer affirmative Biel, Tesmer, Gossman, Willford, Wetzel. Opposed none, motioned carried.**
3. Approve 2026 COLA. **Tesmer motioned to approve the 3% COLA second by Gossman. Affirmative Biel, Willford, Wetzel, Biel Gossman. Opposed none, motion carried.**
4. Approve Health Care Stipend from \$2,150 to \$2,200 due to HSA contribution increase. **Tesmer motioned to approve the increase to \$2,200 for 2026 Health Care Stipend**

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second by Gossman. Affirmative Biel, Willford, Wetzel, Gossman, Biel. Opposed none, motion carried.

5. Review and Approve 2024 Audit. **Tesmer motioned to approve the 2024 Audit second by Willford. Affirmative: Biel, Gossman, Tesmer, Wetzel, Willford opposed none, motion carried.**
6. Approve PF contract and payment of \$1,500 for Erin H position. **Tesmer motioned to approve PF contract and payment in 2026 for Erin H position second by Biel. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Wetzel, Tesmer, Biel opposed none, motion carried.**
7. **Discuss and approve a donation amount to the MASWCD State Convention Raffle basket to support the State Envirothon program. Gossman motioned to approve up to a \$200.00 donation to spent on gift basket from local vendors second by Willford. Affirmative: Biel, Tesmer, Wetzel, Gossman Willford. opposed none, motion carried.**

II. Accounts Payable

1. Approve, October accounts payable, Tesmer motioned to approve October accounts payable second by Biel. Affirmative Gossman, Willford, Wetzel, Tesmer Biel. opposed none, motion carried.

III. Adjournment, **Gossman motioned to adjourn second by Tesmer. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Willford, Tesmer, Gossman. Opposed none, motion carried Wetzel adjourned meeting at 6:02**

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Regular Board Mtg.	Nov 20, 2025
RR1W1P Policy Committee Mtg	Nov 24, 2025
Thanksgiving Day (Office: closed)	Nov 27, 2025
Annual MASWCD Conference : Bloomington, MN	Dec 1-3, 2025
Regular Board Meeting	Dec 18, 2025
Christmas Day (Office: closed)	Dec 25, 2025
New Years Day (Office closed)	Jan 1 st , 2026
Annual Meeting: Branding Iron	Jan 15 th , 2026
Regular Board Meeting	Jan 15 th , 2026