

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, December 18th, 2025

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

Members present: Tim Gossman, Kathy Tesmer, Eunice Biel, Jason Wetzel

Members Absent: Travis Willford, Duane Bakke

Others present: Riley Buley, Erin Hettinger, Theresa Baker

Tim Gossman called meeting to order at 4:40pm, Cookie exchange with Board and staff ended earlier.

Duane Bakke joined meeting at 5:00 pm Travis Willford joined meeting at 5:02

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda **Tesmer motioned to approve agenda with additions highlighted in yellow, seconded by Biel, Affirmative: Gossman, Wetzel, Tesmer, Biel, opposed none motion carried.**
- II. Treasurer's Report
 1. Approve, Nov 2025 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Tesmer motioned to approve Nov. 2025 SWCD treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Gossman, Biel, Tesmer, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.**
 2. Approve Nov. Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Buley reported that the 2022/2023 RR1W1P grant is closed. We are waiting for final 10% payment from Bowser. Buley also indicated we have spent 50% of the 2025/2026 RR1W1P grant. Report has been submitted for next 40% allotment to arrive from Bowser as well. Wetzel motioned to approve the November 2022/2023 & 2024/2025 RR1W1P treasurer's report seconded by Biel. Affirmative: Gossman, Tesmer, Willford, Biel, Wetzel. opposed none motion carried.**

2022-2023 - Root River 1W1P - C22-0480			
Payments	Terms	Received	Grant Terms

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\$ 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	\$ 1,469,595.00,	\$ -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	\$1,152,697.11	\$ -2,222.10

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

1. Approve secretary's Report-November 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Approve amendment to contract RR1W1P25-05 Ben Ninas, Grade Stabilization. moving completion date from 12/31/2025 to 12/31/2026 due to delays in construction.
3. Consider partial payment of \$9,000 to Gerald Peter, Contract RR1W1P24-30 for Multi Species Cover Crop yr 2 of 3. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P grant.
4. Consider final payment of \$2,658.00 to Elijah Miller, Contract RR1W1P22-07 for yr 3 of 3 Cover crop payment. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
5. Consider final payment of \$3,136.00 to Isaac Miller, Contract RR1W1P22-05 for yr 3 of 3 Cover crop payment. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
6. Consider final payment of \$5,000 to Dan Miller, Contract RR1W1P22-04 for yr 3 of 3 Cover crop payment. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
7. Consider partial payment of \$5,643.60 to Alex McCabe Contract RR1W1P24-18 for single species Cover Crop yr 2 of 3. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P grant.
8. Approve amendment to contract RR1W1P25-01 Abby Lee prescribed grazing. Due to project costs coming in lower than estimated the cost rate changed. It is agreed to increase contract cost share, payment rate of 18%to 19%. original payment \$74,200.64 to \$72,302.59
9. Consider final payment of \$72,302.72 to Abby Lee contract RR1W1P25-01 prescribed grazing. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
10. Consider final payment of \$20,719.06 to Carter Lee contract RR1W1P25-02 prescribed grazing. Utilizing funds from 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.

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11. Consider final payment of \$850.00 to David Markegard contract DWP-12. Nitrogen Incentive Usage. utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region Grant.
12. Consider partial payment of \$1,242.00 to Ben Obyrne contract 23-1-2. Single species Cover Crop yr 1 of 2. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 Soil Health RCPP Grant.
13. Consider Partial Payment of \$30,000 to Cory Mulhern (Mulhern Dairy) contract 23-1-4. Single species Cover Crop yr 1 of 2. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025-Soil Health RCPP Grant.
14. Consider partial payment of \$4,500.00 to Saratoga Partnership contract RR1W1P 24-24. Multi Species Cover Crop yr 2 of 3. Utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P grant.
15. Consider partial Payment of \$2,000.00 to Kevin Siewert contact DWP-32. U of M nitrogen Fertilizer Rec. for Corn Side Dress N. Utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection grant in the Karst region.
16. Consider final Payment of \$2,000.00 to Kevin Siewert contact DWP-32. U of M nitrogen Fertilizer Rec. for Corn Side Dress N. Utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection grant in the Karst region.
17. Approve Contract DWP-WS-18, Cordell Stockdale, in the amount of \$2,000. Well Sealing, utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection in the Karst region grant.

IV. Reports

1. Supervisor's Activity Report: **Gossman reported attending regular board mtg. Wetzel reported attending RR1W1P and Regular Board Mtg. Biel reported attending Regular, RR1W1P meeting as well as attending the MASWCD state convention. Tesmer reported attending RR1W1P and Regular board meeting as well as TSA personnel and TSA executive Meetings and attended the MASWCD convention. Willford reported attending the regular board mtg. and the CSA Meeting in Whalen.**
2. Staff Reports: **Report attached to board packet for review.**
3. Administrator's Report:
 - i. RR1W1P 2024-2025 reconciliation, **Buley indicated District in compliance and 50% has been spent and report submitted for next 40% disbursement.**
 - ii. **MDA JPA Conservation Agronomist idea. Buley explained what the MDA was proposing with hiring a Conservation Agronomist board was very interested.**
4. **NRCS Report. New program announced on 12/10/25 Regenerative Agriculture Pilot Program: will be focusing on improving soil health, enhancing water quality and boosting long term productivity.**
5. County Report: **Bakke reported that the County budget was finished.**

V. Old Business

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1. Approve 2026 District Budget: **Wetzel motioned to approve 2026 District budget seconded by Biel. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Tesmer, Biel, Wetzel opposed none motioned carried.**
2. Approved 2026 Employee Handbook, including PFML revision. **Tesmer motioned to approve 2026 Employee handbook with the addition to Doctors permission needed. Seconded by Biel, Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, opposed none, motion carried.**
3. **Approve Continuation of the Climate Smart Alliance Grant, extended for one year.** Buley indicated that the staff was interested in supporting the 4th round sign up. **Tesmer motioned to move forward with the 4th round, seconded by Biel. Affirmative: Gossman, Wetzel, Willford, Biel, Tesmer opposed none, motion carried.**

VI. New Business

1. Approve employee #23044 salary increase to Grade 3 step 1, based on annual review. Effective 1/2/25. **Biel motioned to approve step increase seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Gossman, Tesmer, Wetzel, Biel, Willford. opposed none, motion carried.**
2. **Erin B. RIM contracts in Fillmore Co.:** Buley asked to have Erin present after reports were given due to weather. Erin reported on the 2 RIM easements in Fillmore County: 1 being in Newburg township and the other being in Pilot mound township. Erin left meeting at 5:39 pm.
3. **Tesmer motioned that Fillmore SWCD staff be allowed to leave at 12:00 pm on Christmas Eve to attend family functions. Second, by Willford. Affirmative Gossman, Wetzel, Biel, Willford, Resmer. Opposed none, motion carried.**

II. Accounts Payable

1. Approve, November accounts payable: **Wetzel motioned to approve November accounts payable seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Gossman, Tesmer, Biel, Willford, Wetzel opposed none, motion carried.**

III. Adjournment: Wetzel motioned to adjourn seconded by Willford affirmative: Gossman, Tesmer, Biel, Willford, Wetzel opposed none meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Annual MASWCD Conference: Bloomington, MN

Dec 3-5, 2025

CSA Metting in Whalan

Dec. 15, 2025

Regular Board Meeting

Dec 18, 2025

RR1W1P Planning workgroup @ 9:00 am

Dec. 22, 2025

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Christmas Day (Office: closed)

Dec 25, 2025

New Years Day (Office closed)

Jan 1st, 2026

Annual Meeting: Branding Iron

Jan 15th, 2026

Annual & Regular Board Meeting @ 8:30 am

Jan 15th, 2026

RR1W1P Planning Meeting @ 9:00am

Jan 26th 2026