

## **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, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2026

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street NW

Preston, MN 55965

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

#### **Join:**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27470074351795?p=ZiKL3RIQeYCI3GV7D9>

Meeting ID: 274 700 743 517 95

Passcode: sK7Xh68n

**Members Present: Jason Wetzel, Kathy Tesmer, Eunice Biel, Travis Willford**

**Virtual Attendance: Tim Gossman, Dave Copeland**

**Others Present: Riley Buley, Theresa Baker**

**Jason Wetzel called the meeting to order at 5:00pm**

#### *Agenda*

- I. Approval of Agenda with additions highlighted in yellow. **Willford Motioned to approve Agenda with the additions seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Gossman, Tesmer and Willford. opposed none motion carried.**
  
- II. Treasurer's Report
  1. Approve, Feb.2026 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit: **Tesmer motioned to approve February 2026 SWCD treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Gossman. Affirmative: Biel, Wetzel, Tesmer, Willford, Gossman. Opposed none motion carried**
  
  2. Approve Feb. 2026 Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Willford motioned to approve February 2026 Root River 1W1P Treasurers report. Seconded by**

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**Tesmer. Affirmative: Biel, Wetzel, Gossman, Willford, Tesmer. Opposed none motion carried.**

3.

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	\$ 1,469,595.00,	\$ -146,959

2024-2025 - Watershed Base Implementation ARP – C24-0143			
Payments	Terms	Received	Grant Terms
\$ 1,150,475.00	50%	04-23-2024	Executed 04-08-2024
\$ 920,380.00	40%	01-23-2026	
\$ 230,095.00	10%		Expires 12-31-2026
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 2,300,950.00	\$ 2,070,855.00	\$ 1,412,512.40	\$ 888,437.60

2026-2027 - Watershed Base Implementation ARP – C26-0136			
Payments	Terms	Received	Grant Terms
\$ 1,158,015.00	50%	3/2/2026	Executed 03/02/2026
\$ 926,412.00	40%		
\$ 231,603.00	10%		Expires 12-31-2028
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 2,316,030.00	\$ 1,158,015.00	\$	\$ 1,158,015.00

- III. Consent Agenda: Tesmer motioned to approve consent agenda with the addition to T Willford’s name showing in attendance at February 19/2026 mtg. seconded by Gossman, Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Gossman. Willford, Tesmer. Opposed none motion carried.**
1. Secretary’s report-February 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
  2. Approve contract to participate in the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification program.

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01-01-2026 - 12-31-2027.

### IV. Reports

1. Supervisor's Activity Report: **Wetzel reported attending the regular board mtg. Willford reported attending the regular board mtg. Tesmer reported attending the regular board mtg. RR1W1P policy mtg. & 2 TSA zoom mtgs. Biel reported attending regular board mtg. & MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol. Gossman reported attending regular board mtg., MN Forestry Mtg. & MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol.**
2. Staff Reports: **Provided in monthly packet to Supervisors to review.**
3. Administration Report
  - i. MN DNR nitrate monitoring funding, \$5,000. Use for nitrate monitoring, spring dye tracing.
  - ii. Internship is posted: **Baker posted to Facebook and Fillmore SWCD website.**
  - iii. Discuss District staffing: **Buley indicated a staff member was leaving, however indicated she would assist with Arial Buffer reviews. Buley then discussed posting for a Soil Health Specialist.**
  - ~~iv. \*Placeholder: Discuss wage and benefit study results.~~
  - v. Legislative Day Recap: 3/17/26: Leg. Briefing 4-6pm Reception & Buffet 6-8pm. Meetings 3/18/2026: Senator Miller 10:00 am Representative Davids 1:00 pm. **Buley was unable to attend. Beil and Gossman shared what their take aways from the MASWCD Legislative Day were. Both were very impressed. They met with Representative Greg Davids discussed and shared information on the Accomplishments Fillmore SWCD has to the county provided by Buley.**
  - vi. Discuss Prevailing Wage information: **Buley discussed with the board what Prevailing wage means and also discussed the requirements to receive future MN BWSR Grants.**
4. NRCS Report: **J. Bronson reported the Local Work Group deadlines have now been set as part of our 2027 planning efforts. NRCS is continuing to work on Farm bill-related programs.**
5. County Report: **No report.**

**Tim Gossman and Dave Copeland left Virtual Meeting link at 5:30**

### V. Old Business: NA

### VI. New Business

1. Consider step increase for employee 23047 \$26.31 (Grade 4 step 2), effective 3/3/26. **Tesmer motioned to approve Step increase for Employee 23047 to \$26.31 effective 3/3/26.**

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**Seconded by Beil. Affirmative: Wetzel, Willford, Biel, Tesmer. Opposed none motion carried.**

2. **Accept Resignation of employee 23047: Willford motioned to accept resignation of Employee 23047 seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Willford Tesmer. All indicated and thanked her for her hard work and dedication during her year of service.**
3. **Approve additional 20,000 for overtime for staff to work on the Climate smart alliance grant. \$17,450 was spent since last March. Willford motioned to approve the extra money needed to support overtime spent on finalizing Climate Smart Grants, Seconded by Biel Affirmative: Wetzel, Tesmer, Biel, Willford. Opposed none motion carried.**
4. **Review and approve, posting for a Soil Health Specialist. Tesmer motioned to approve posting with FCJ for a Soil Health Specialist with the option of alternately hiring a Soil Health Tech. Seconded by Willford Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford opposed none motion carried.**
5. **Discuss Local Work Group meeting schedule. Meeting date needs to be set before June 26,2026. Willford motioned to present 4/14/26 and 6/9/26 as dates to hold the Local Work Group meeting allowing time to advertise for meeting. seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford. opposed none motion carried.**
6. **Consider offering \$10.00 off a regular priced Drinking Water Bacteria Test to tree customers. Expiring 12/31/2026 Biel motioned to posting coupon to receive discount to tree customers seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Wetzel, Tesmer, Biel, Willford. Opposed none motion carried.**

### VII. Accounts Payable

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

### VII. Adjournment, **Willford motioned to adjourn seconded by Tesmer, Affirmative; Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer Willford opposed none motion carried**

#### Upcoming Events and Meetings

Regular Board Meeting

March 19, 2026

RR1W1P Policy Committee Mtg.@ 9:00 am

March. 23, 2026

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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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SWCD Legislative Day Briefing & reception	March 17, 2026
SWCD Legislative Day, Senator Miller @ 10:00am	March 18, 2026
SWCD Legislative Day Rep. Greg Davids Mtg.@ 1:00pm	March 18, 2026
SEMACDE Employees Spring Meeting	March 24, 2026
Regular Board Meeting	April 16, 2026
Tree Delivery	April 21, 2026
Tree Pick dates	April 23 10:00-7:00
Tree Pick dates	April 24 10:00-3:30