

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, April 16th 2026

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street NW

Preston, MN 55965

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

Absent: Tim Gossman

Others present: Guests: Blain Knutson & Mike Humpal, Duane Bakke, Riley Buley, Theresa Baker

Jason Wetzel Called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda with additions made after 4/9/2026. **Tesmer motioned to approve agenda with the additions seconded by Willford. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford. opposed none motion carried.**
- II. Guest: Introduction, Blain Knutson (new County Executive Director for FSA. **Blain started with FSA 3/9/26. Welcome aboard Blain and we look forward to working with you and the FSA agency.**
- III. Discuss Wage Benefit Study outcomes, Buley reported on the outcome of the wage benefit study. Found Fillmore SWCD is relatively close with other SWCD agencies in the area with just a few wages being affected. **Tesmer motioned for option 1 & 2; with the change increase for 2 employees effective on 5/1/26 (anniversary dates already passed) and then moving the step-increase out, going from a 9 to 12 step process and doing salary wage increases on employee's anniversary dates moving forward. Second by, Biel, Affirmative: Wetzel, Willford, Tesmer, Biel. opposed none motion carried.**
 1. Guest discussion with SCSC Mike Humpal; **Humpal was present for questions.**
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 1. Approve, March.2026 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Tesmer motioned to approve March 2026 SWCD treasurer's report subject to audit. Second, by Willford. Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer Willford. opposed none motion carried.**

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2. March 2026 Root River 1W1P Treasurer’s report subject to audit. **Tesmer motioned to approve March 2026 Root River 1W1P treasurer’s report subject to audit. seconded by Willford Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford. opposed none motion**

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	\$ 1,488,954.60	\$ 811,995.40

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	\$ 2840.63	\$ 1,155,174.40

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

1. Secretary’s report March 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Approve amendment on Contract TAP-IN FY-25-001 Cheryl Haack from \$2,068.00 to \$2,246.00. Reverse Osmosis utilizing funds from the MDH SE MN tap-in program.

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3. Consider final payment Contract TAP-IN FY-25-001 to Cheryl Haack for \$2,246.00, Reverse Osmosis System utilizing funds from MDH SE MN Tap-IN program.
4. Approve final payment on Contract DWP-WS-18 to Cordell Stockdale in the amount of \$2,000, Completed well-sealing utilizing funds from the Drinking Water Protection grant in the Karst region
5. Approve Final payment Contract DWP-33 to Jacob Siewert in the amount of \$1680.00 for U of M Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations. Utilizing funds from the Drinking Water protection grant in the Karst Region.
6. Consider Final Payment Contract DWP-WS-09 to Aaron Gillespie in the amount of \$2,000, completed well-sealing. Utilizing funds from the Drinking water Protection grant in the Karst Region.
7. Approve and sign Subcontract with Root River SWCD for IWM monitoring for year 2026-2027.

VI. Reports

1. Supervisor's Activity Report: **Wetzel reported attending regular mtg, forestry committee mtg. Tesmer reported attending TSA mtg, Area 7 meeting, Education mtg and regular mtg. Biel reported attending personnel mtg., education mtg. Willford reported attending regular mtg. in Gossman's absence Tesmer reported Gossman attended Reg. mtg. Woodlands conf. and forestry committee mtg.**
2. Staff Reports: **attached to Board packet for review.**
3. Administration Report: **Buley reported he attended Managers training in Cities, the Brightsdale dam is complete. Discussed the fiber optic situation with DNR (renters) going into our building.**
4. NRCS Report: **None**
5. County Report: **reported Blake Lea has submitted his resignation as Land Use Director.**

VII. Old Business

1. **Review and discuss AC unit in the CB building. 2025 and 2026 Quotes were reviewed. Tesmer motioned to move forward with the 2026 quote for a new AC unit for the CB building, seconded by Biel. Affirmative: Wetzel, Willford, Tesmer, Biel. Opposed none motion carried.**

VIII. New Business

1. Approve contract RR1W1P 25-06, Justin Boyum Grade Stabilization Structure & Grassed Waterway (410/412) in the amount of \$9,628 utilizing funds from the 2026 Root River 1 Watershed 1 Plan grant. **Willford motioned to approve Contract RR1W1P 25-06 seconded by Tesmer affirmative, Wetzel, Biel, Willford, Tesmer. opposed none motion carried.**

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2. Approve Contract DWP-WS-22 Glen and Terry Studedemann, Well-decommissioning (351) in the amount of \$2,000 utilizing funds from the Drinking Water protection grant in the Karst Region. **Tesmer motioned to approve Contract DWP-WS-22 seconded by Willford. Affirmative, Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford, opposed none motion carried.**
3. Approve 2026 1st Quarter Supervisor Expense reports: **Willford motioned to approve Contract RR1W1P 25-06 seconded by Tesmer affirmative, Wetzel, Biel, Willford, Tesmer. opposed none motion carried.**
4. Consider salary increase for employee, #23034 to grade 7 step 9 based on annual review performance. **Willford motioned to approve increase for employee #23034 from grade 7 step 9 based on annual review. Seconded by Biel, Affirmative, Wetzel, Tesmer, Biel, Willford. opposed none motion carried.**
5. Consider resolutions for Area Resolutions Meeting. **nothing new reported will vote when resolutions are published.**
6. Announce High Scholarship recipients. **No College applications for 2026 scholarship submitted. Education committee selected 2 High school students and Supervisors will present at Schools Senior awards night.**
7. Approve authority for Theresa Baker to call, obtain and change information requested by District Manager on all the accounts held at Rushford State Bank in Rushford MN for Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation effective 4/17/2026. **Biel Motioned to approve Theresa to be added to the accounts at RSB Tesmer seconded it Affirmative: Wetzel, Willford, Biel, Tesmer. opposed none motion carried.**
8. Discuss and approve Spring and Fall cleaning services. **Tesmer motioned to approve Spring/Fall cleaning services again this yr in the CB and New office seconded by Willford. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford, opposed none motion carried.**
9. Approve hiring 2 interns subject to the acceptance to position. **Tesmer motioned to approve both interns seconded by Willford affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford. opposed none motion carried.**

IX. Accounts Payable

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

X. Adjournment, **Willford motioned to adjourn seconded by Tesmer meeting adjourned at 6.32.**

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Local Work Group Meeting

April 14, 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

Fillmore School 4th grade deliveries

April 28-30,2026

1st review of Soil Health Applications

April 24,2026

RR1W1P PWG & AC Meeting

April 27,2026 9:00-12:00