

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, May 21st2026

5:00 PM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street NW

Preston, MN 55965

Members Present: Kathy Tesmer, Jason Wetzel, Eunice Biel, Travis Willford, Tim Gossman.

Others present: Bob Scanlan, Riley Buley, Theresa Baker

Absent: Duane Bakke, Dave Copeland

Jason Wetzel called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda: **Tesmer motioned to approve agenda seconded by Willford. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Gossman, Willford Tesmer. opposed none motion carried.**
- II. Guest: Robert Scanlan: Discuss existing/amend MN Nutrient Management Tech JPS contract. extending 2 years. **B Scanlan discussed 2 proposals with board 1 adding Arendahl, Bloomfield and Norway township to the Kanati field walkover program currently being done in Prebble township. 2. To start conversations with landowners on Nitrogen use in these townships. More will be discussed at June board mtg.**
- III. Treasurer's Report
 1. Approve, April.2026 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit: **Willford motioned to approve April 2026 SWCD treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Gossman. Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford, Gossman. Opposed none motion carried.**
 2. Approve, April 2026 Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit: **Willford motioned to approve April 2026 SWCD treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Tesmer, Willford, Gossman. Opposed none motion 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	

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\$ 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	\$ 581,900.40

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

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

1. Secretary’s report April 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Tree Sales for 2026: We sold 18,131 trees. 300 Red Maples were delivered to the 5th graders in Fillmore County, which was greatly appreciated by all.
3. FYI Supervisor election filing period.

V. Reports

1. Supervisor’s Activity Report: **Wetzel reported attending 2 personnel committee mtgs. Reg. Mtg. Gossman reported no activity. Willford reported Reg. Mtg. Tesmer reported Reg Mtg., Envirothon judge, RR1W1P personnel mtg. education mtg. Biel reported Reg Mtg. 2 personnel committee mtgs. Education mtg. RR1W1P advisory mtg.**
2. Staff Reports: **attached to Board packet for review**

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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3. Administration Report:
 - i. Tree Sales: **Buley reported/showed tree sales for the last 4 years with 2025,2026 year showing the best profit. Great Job to the staff for their hard work.**
 - ii. Conservation Agronomist MDA JPA update. **Discussed and will follow up with board later.**
 - iii. Brightsdale Dam issue: **Buley reported complaints from RR outfitters from Lanesboro about the new flow/layout of the river. DNR and Fillmore SWCD have posted signs to draw attention to the new layout and safety.**
4. NRCS Report: **None**
5. County Report: **None**

VI. Old Business

1. AC unit has been installed in CB building.

VII. New Business

1. Approve 40-year longevity pay to employee 23002 according to handbook policy rate. **Willford motioned to approve longevity pay for employee 23002, seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative Wetzel, Biel, Gossman, Willford, Tesmer. opposed none motion carried.**
2. Discuss and approve lease on Ricoh Copier. Quote attached in packet. **Willford motioned to continue to use existing machine for 36 months seconded by Tesmer. affirmative: Wetzel, Biel, Gossman, Willford, Tesmer. opposed none motion carried.**
3. Discuss updating designated fund balances: **Buley discussed and will keep board informed and confirm at Annual Mtg.**
4. Discuss operating reserves and policy: **Buley discussed and will keep board informed and confirm at Annual Mtg.**
5. Request to approve purchase of regular and needed Bacteria Lab consumables in the amount of \$1,990.12. Order needs to be placed by 5/26/26. **Tesmer motioned to approve purchase, seconded by Biel. Affirmative Wetzel, Willford, Gossman, Biel, Tesmer opposed none motion carried.**
6. Discuss extension of Kanati Land Management Contract, contingent on MDA project funding. **Buley explained and tabled until next month.**
7. **Consider hiring of xxx as a Soil Health Specialist X: Candidate rescinded on job offer. Board will re-evaluate applicants interviewed and will then discuss and do second round interview and have 1 employee join in on interview.**

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8. Discuss and approve A Mathison to graze his goats in the Trees on SWCD property: along Bunge property line as the North side and run temporary electrical fencing around the trees back up to the property line. Roughly an acre (not the prairie). Biel motioned to except Mathisons request seconded by Tesmer and also stated use of prairie as well with proper fencing and a signed Liability wavier. Affirmative: Wetzel, Gossman, Tesmer, Tesmer, Biel, opposed none motion carried.
9. Discuss and approve removal of Laura Christensen from the Rushford State Bank account #4008210 as she is no longer an employee of Fillmore SWCD. Biel motioned to have L Christensen removed from all accounts at Rushford state Bank seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Wetzel, Gossman, Willford, Tesmer and Biel. Opposed none emotion carried.
10. Willford discussed / nominated Conservationist of the year candidate. Board tabled till June Meeting.

VIII. Accounts Payable

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

IX. Adjournment, Gossman motioned to adjourn seconded by Tesmer meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Upcoming Events and Meetings

RR1W1P Policy Committee Mtg.

May 18, 2026

Memorial Day Holiday

May 25, 2026

Area 7 MASWCD Supervisors Stewartville

June 9, 2026

Flag Day

June 14, 2026

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Regular Board Meeting
Juneteenth Holiday

June 18, 2026

June 19, 2026