



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center
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<https://builder1.revize.com/revize/houstoncountymn/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

July 9, 2026

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on July 9, 2026 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:03 a.m.

Members Present Members Not Present

Ken Anderson
Joe Driscoll
Matt Feldmeier
Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners, Dan Wermager and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Messner shared a correction needed in the June 11, 2026 minutes. **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving the correction. Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving the amended minutes from the June 11, 2026 board meeting. Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: **Motion** by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, approving the Employee Time Records. Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Kruse recommended the June 2026 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

AGENCY REPORTS

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt stated permitting has been slow. There have been inquiries for Ag BMP loan funding but currently there are no funds available.
- Burt shared MPCA is developing a panel board that will consist of 13 members from the state of Minnesota. He indicated he has recommended four individuals for the panel.
- Burt indicated next year's feedlot meeting will be a joint meeting with Winona County.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report

- Hytry stated they are working on putting together CRP plans and are also conducting CRP reviews.
- Hytry indicated he is splitting his time between the Caledonia and Lewiston field offices and is unsure how long this will continue.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter shared the parameters of conducting flood site inspections. Sites were visited on Thursday, July 2, 2026. Maintenance consisting of cleaning intakes was done on Bear Creek sites on Friday, July 3rd. On Monday, July 6th debris removal was done on the Crooked Creek intakes. Tuesday maintenance was done on some Winnebago sites. On Wednesday, July 8th maintenance work was conducted on the Stoltz site and DNR site in the Winnebago watershed. Hytry shared the state and area NRCS engineers were checking sites today.

Walter exited the meeting at 10: 15 a.m.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan shared he has three producers to visit in Black Hammer Township. Scanlan stated his site visits has drawn interest in the areas of nitrogen and feedlot projects more so than Ag BMP projects. He indicated a LAT meeting will be hosted later this summer.

Feldmeier joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

MASWCD & MACDE – No report.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – No report.

Root River 1W1P – No report.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC 1W1P – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **Alternate Nitrate Mitigation Program** – No report.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Meiners reported the mailing to Caledonia Township has received a large number of responses.
- **BMP Projects** – Meiners shared construction started on a grade stabilization structure in Yucatan Township.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager reported the work for the grant is about done. Final payments are being made in July.
- **IWM (SWAG)** – Wermager shared him and Walter have done sampling a few times this month.
- **Soil Health Delivery Grant** – No report.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – Messner stated the grant was amended extending it for two years and includes additional funding. She indicated the 2025 results are available and will report on them at the August meeting.
- **Rain Monitoring Program** – Messner reported a volunteer for Union Township was acquired. A volunteer for Sheldon Township is still being sought after two declines.

- Messner also reported she attended the MACDE Administrative Conference, prepared site inspections and will be working on a 2027 budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: It was stated a meeting will be held July 17, 2026 at Olmsted SWCD in Rochester.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the SE MASWCD Area 7 Annual Dues.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, approving the purchase of a truck bed drawer system for the 2025 GMC and lettering for the 2025 GMC.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

1W1P ROOT RIVER WATERSHED-BASE IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2026)* Available Funds **\$ 5,725.50**

FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028)* Available Funds **\$ 225,862.34**

FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Pearson, Nathan	10FY26RR1W1P	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	351 – Well Decommissioning	12/31/2026

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Feldmeier, approving contract #10FY26RR1W1P Pearson, Nathan 351 Well Decommissioning \$1,500.00. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried

ARPA – *(Spending expiration 12/31/2026)* Available Funds **\$ 4,269.39**

CONSERVATION CONTRACTS *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

FY26 Conservation Contracts *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028)* Available Funds **\$1,196.30**

FY27 Conservation Contracts *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028)* Available Funds **\$23,690.00**

MDH TAP-IN COST SHARE FUNDING PROGRAM *(Funding at 50% or 100% of cost estimate)*

MDH Tap- In Cost Share Grant *(Grant expiration 4/1/2027)* Funds Available

SOIL HEALTH DELIVERY GRANT *(Funding \$40.00/acre single specie cover crop; \$50.00/acre multi-specie cover crop)*

FY26 Soil Health Delivery Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028)* Available Funds: **\$0**

WINLAC 1W1P COST SHARE PROGRAM *(Funding percentage based on ranking)*

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Ag Practices Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2027)* Available Funds **\$24,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Non-Structural Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2027)* Available Funds **\$7,500.00**

FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Vegetative Management & Pollinator Planting Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2027)* Available Funds **\$5,000.00**

WinLaC 1W1P CRP *(Grant expiration 12/31/2026)* Available Funds **\$2,000.00**

Walter rejoined the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

AGENCY REPORT

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter continued his report by sharing the news of the dike in Hokah breeched in five places. He will be working with US Fish & Wildlife staff on proposed repairs.
- Walter and Meiners presented a Power Point of the recent flooding and how it affected our major watershed structure sites.
- Walter stated the SE MN Nitrate Reduction & Water Protection Program grant application submitted by Fillmore SWCD was awarded funding. There are approximately eight SWCDs this will fund. The work plan and division of funds between the SWCDs has not been done to date.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **WCA** – Walter stated Trout Unlimited will be doing Crooked Creek improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, naming Morken Farms LLC as the 2026 Conservationist of the Year and Oscar Rosendahl as a backup if Morkens decline.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

****Accounts Payable:****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5175	SE MASWCD – Area 7 2026 Annual Dues	\$ 300.00
5176	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 310.49
5177	VISA – MDH Well Inventory Postage = \$497.00; Meals = \$50.61; Lodging = \$429.00	\$ 976.61
5178	Walter, Dave – Vehicle Maintenance Battery for Dodge Ram	\$ 240.40
5179	Messner, Janice - Mileage	\$ 508.95
5180	Houston County Treasurer – Lettering 2025 GMC	\$ 76.54
	Total	\$ 2,412.99
	Transfer of Funds from Cash General Fund to Bear Creek Watershed Investment Acct. 10033399	\$ 762.63
	Transfer of Funds from Cash General Fund to Winnebago Watershed Investment Acct. 10033340	\$ 1,000.00

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
68	Winona County SWCD – FY23 Technical – Inv 2023 TA = \$5,040.00; Inv 2024 TA = \$11,960.00 ; FY23 Education Adopt-A-Drain = \$3,180.38	\$ 20,180.38
69	Winona County – FY25 Administrative – Inv 25-005 = \$4,035.72; Inv 25-006 = \$4,213.99	\$ 8,249.71
70	SE MN Technical Support JPB – FY23 Project Development – Inv 2026-Q2 = \$345.53; FY23 Technical – Inv 2026-Q2 = \$1,022.39	\$ 1,367.92
	Houston County Treasurer - Root River SWCD – FY23 Technical – Inv 10 Technical = \$267.88; FY25 Administrative – Inv 5 Root River SWCD = \$5,068.09	\$ 5,335.97
	Total	\$ 35,133.98
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 8115 (FY23) to Cash General Fund	\$ 21,816.18
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 (FY25) to Cash General Fund	\$ 13,317.80

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll to adjourn the meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, August 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: August 13, 2026
Date

Joe Driscoll
Secretary

Original signed document is available upon request at Root River Soil & Water Conservation District.