



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

June 11, 2026

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on June 11, 2026 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

Glenn Kruse

Others:

Dave Walter, Jean Meiners and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Zack Glaunert – Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever staff; Jeremy Burt – Houston County Environmental Services; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the April 9, 2026 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Employee Time Records & Supervisor Per Diems: **Motion** by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, approving the Employee Time Records and Supervisor Per Diems.

Supervisor Per Diems

Item	Amount
Anderson, Ken – 2 nd Qtr. 3 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 375.00
Driscoll, Joe – 2 nd Qtr. 5 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 625.00
Feldmeier, Matt – 2 nd Qtr. 3mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 375.00
Kruse, Glenn – 2 nd Qtr. 3 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 375.00
Welke, Jerry – 2 nd Qtr. 5 mtgs. @ \$125.00/each	\$ 625.00

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke recommended the updated May 2026 treasurer's report be placed on file for audit.

AGENCY REPORTS

Dave Copeland, BWSR Report

- Copeland shared on June 24, 2026 BWSR will be approving Clean Water Fund applications. Fillmore SWCD has applied for a regional grant through this funding. This will include Root River SWCD.
- Copeland stated at the Area 7 MASWCD Resolution meeting Luther Newton, NRCS shared a bleak update. NRCS is facing staffing challenges along with EQIP having new funding requirements. Twenty-five percent of the practices approved for funding must be regenerative practices. They are also facing the possibility of a national EQIP payment rate instead of a regional rate (currently three state region is MN, WI and MI).

Zack Glaunert, Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever Report

- Glaunert reported he has submitted a RIM application for grazing by the June application deadline date. He is working with two other landowners interested in pursuing a RIM application.
- Glaunert share he will be attending a training in Pipestone, MN the week of June 22nd.

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report – No report.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report – No report.

Dave, Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter stated the 2026 Conservationist of the Year nominees will need to reside or own property in District 3. This covers Black Hammer Township, Spring Grove Township and Village, Wilmington Township. Discussion followed regarding possible nominees. The matter was tabled and will be readdressed at the July 2026 board meeting.

PROGRAM REPORTS

- **WCA** – Walter reported a building site in the Pine Creek La Crescent area has infringed on a wetland area.
- **Buffer Law** – Walter stated the compliance checks are completed and found one landowner out of compliance. He indicated this compliance issue has been moved to Houston County Environmental Services for enforcement steps.
- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan shared he calibrated a few manure spreaders in Black Hammer Twp. Scanlan stated he has been asked to help with the Finding of Facts in preparation for a lawsuit MDA is involved in.

MASWCD & MACDE

- Walter stated the Area 7 Resolutions Meeting was held June 2, 2026 in Stewartville, MN. Welke and Copeland shared some of the resolutions that will advance to the Annual Meeting for approval. They included Soil Health Staffing, SWCD Aide Increase, Prevailing Wage Exemption, and Septic System Upgrade Funding – remove low income language, Technical Service Area Funding Increase.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – Walter stated the annual inspection tour was held June 8, 2026. Overall the inspection went well. Site 8 on Jesse James Rad continues to have a poor spillway. The landowner is not willing to sign a contract for repairing and maintaining this area. At Site 9 rock around the pipe is eroding and will likely require maintenance.

Crooked Creek – No report.

Root River 1W1P – Wermager stated the plan updating is currently in a 60 day comment period.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC 1W1P – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **Alternate Nitrate Mitigation Program** – No report.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Meiners reported a mailing to Caledonia Township, 212 letters, has been completed.

- **BMP Projects** – Meiners shared she was recently out with the TSA engineer doing on-site visits for potential projects. She also shared construction will begin in a few weeks on designed grade stabilization structures.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Olmsted SWCD Cover Crop Program** – Wermager stated this is a program that will be rolling out for the upcoming 2026 cover crop season. A difference with this program is outcome results must have 122 inches of growth for payment. The maximum acres is 150 and the average rate per acre is \$55.00. There are opportunities to increase the rate per acre based on various variables.
- **Alliance Grant** – Wermager reported exit surveys have recently been emailed to participants. Several have contacted him for assistance accessing and completing the survey.
- **IWM (SWAG)** – No report.
- **Soil Health Delivery Grant** – No report.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Rain Monitoring Program** – Messner reported a volunteer for Money Creek Township was acquired. The volunteer from Union Township has now declined.
- Messner also reported required information for the 2024 Year-End Financial Audit has been submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Walter stated there will be a meeting in July.

OLD BUSINESS – No report.**NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS**

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the Local Partners Agreement Root River SWCD & Pheasants Forever, Inc. Term July 1, 2026 through June 20, 2027 in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Feldmeier, approving a letter of support for the Southeast MN Groundwater Protection & Soil Health Initiative.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds **\$3,769.39**

It was acknowledged a pond clean out \$500.00 for Feine, Rocky is cancelled.

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 **\$ 0**

FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (Grant expiration 12/31/2028) Available Funds **\$ 190,146.73**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Cancellation Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving the cancellation request for Contract #22FY24RR1W1P Hartley, Chris 410 Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$7,998.00. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment request for Contract #31FY24RR1W1P Davison Properties LLC 410 Grade Stabilization Structure amending the cost estimate to \$5,525.00 which increases the amount of cost share to \$4,972.50. Due to needing additional cubic yards of fill and adding Salvage and Spread Top Soil to the cost estimate. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Payment Request *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Davison Properties LLC	31FY24RR1W1P Grade Stabilization Structure	\$5,525.00	\$11,379.84	\$11,379.84 @ 90% = \$10,241.86 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$4,972.50 Payment Amount Approved = \$4,972.50

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment for contract #31FY24RR1W1P Davison Properties LLC 410 Grade Stabilization Structure \$4,972.50. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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
Hoscheit Dairy Farms, LLC	07FY26RR1W1P	\$19,373.00	\$9,915.70	578 – Stream Crossing	12/31/2026

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Feldmeier, approving contract #07FY26RR1W1P Hoscheit Dairy Farms, LLC 578 - Stream Crossing \$9,915.70. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #04FY26RR1W1P Vancleave, Dale 410 Grade Stabilization Structure amending the cost estimate to \$39,660.31 due to increased fuel costs and adding EQIP fund decreasing the cost sharable amount to \$4,075.28. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment request for Contract #03FY26RR1W1P Eikens Family Farm LLC Grade Stabilization Structures decreasing the cost sharable amount to \$4,733.39. Due to receiving EQIP funding. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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
Hammel, Robert	08FY26RR1W1P	\$8,962.00	\$5,482.60	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	12/31/2026
Hammel, Robert	09FY26RR1W1P	\$20,428.00	\$1,908.69	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	12/31/2026

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving contract #08FY26RR1W1P Hammel, Robert 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure \$5,482.60 and contract #09FY26RR1W1P Hammel, Robert 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure \$1,908.69. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Project Cost	Request
Eikens Family Farm LLC	06FY26RR1W1P Conservation Cover	5 acres @ \$300/acre = \$1,500.00	\$900.00	3 acres @ \$300/acre = \$900.00 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$1,500.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$900.00 Slippage for re-allocation = \$600.00
Schroeder, Jason	03FY26RR1W1P Conservation Cover	1.5 acres @ \$300/acre = \$450.00	\$450.00	1.5 acres @ \$300/acre = \$450.00 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$450.00 Payment Amount Approved = \$450.00

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving payment for Contract #06FY26RR1W1P Eikens Family Farm LLC 327 Conservation Cover in the amount of \$900.00. Slippage of \$600.00 to be re-allocated to grant and Contract #03FY26RR1W1P Schroeder, Jason 327 Conservation Cover in the amount of \$450.00. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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: **\$6,920.00**

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

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**

****Accounts Payable:****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5160	Ron Carlsen – Rent – June	\$ 1,287.00
5161	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 365.27
5162	VISA – Vehicle Maintenance GMC Oil change; MDH Well Inventory Postage = \$234.00	\$ 325.50
5163	Talcott Resolution Life & Annuity Ins. Co. – Life Insurance - Policy #LU1188704 Dave Walter	\$ 90.00
5164	Eikens Family Farm LLC – Conservation Cover #06FY26RR1W1P	\$ 900.00
5165	Schroeder, Jason – Conservation Cover #03FY26RR1W1P	\$ 450.00
5166	Anderson, Ken – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 47.85
5167	Driscoll, Joe – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 81.56
5168	Feldmeier, Matt – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 78.30
5169	Kruse, Glenn – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 43.50
5170	Welke, Jerry – Mileage – 2 nd Qtr.	\$ 108.75
5171	Davison Properties LLC – Grade Stabilization Structure #31FY24RR1W1P	\$ 4,972.50
5172	Petty Cash – Other Expense	\$ 2.14
5173	Quill LLC – Office Supply	\$ 48.08
5174	Winneshiek SWCD – Bear Creek Inspection Tour Expenses	\$ 79.36
	Total	\$ 8,879.81

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Feldmeier, approving payment of the above accounts payable.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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

Voucher #	Item	Amount
67	Olmsted SWCD – FY25 Groundwater Practice – Inv Q2-2026-1 = \$3,000.00; FY23 Ag Practices – Inv Q2-2026-2 = \$14,112.00	\$ 17,112.00
	Total	\$ 17,112.00
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 8115 (FY23) to Cash General Fund	\$ 14,112.00
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 (FY25) to Cash General Fund	\$ 3,000.00

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

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, July 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: June 11, 2026
Date

Joe Driscoll
Secretary

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