



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center

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Caledonia, MN 55921

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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

May 14, 2026

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on May 14, 2026 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Ken Anderson

Joe Driscoll

Matt Feldmeier

Glenn Kruse

Jerry Welke

Members Not Present:

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: **Motion** by Kruse, seconded by Feldmeier, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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

AGENCY REPORTS

Zack Glaunert, Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever Report

- Glaunert reported he has been assisting with CRP checks and RIM applications for a June application deadline date.

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt stated he has been doing permitting and feedlot inspections. He shared a noxious weed workshop was recently held but did not see much attendance. A feedlot workshop held in early March had good attendance.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report

- Meiners reported additional EQIP funding became available. Six additional applications are being funded.

Dave, Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter reported Welke and himself assisted with the Area Envirothon on May 6, 2026. Thirty-one teams participated. Caledonia had two teams this year. Goodhue Senior Girls team were the overall winners and will advance to the state competition.

- Walter stated board supervisor election registration opens May 9th and continues until June 2, 2026.

PROGRAM REPORTS

- **WCA** – Walter reported on the following:
 - a site visit conducted near La Crescent;
 - a landowner in Hokah Township that did ditching work in a wetland area that is in violation;
 - a landowner inquiring about installing a wildlife pond in a wetland area;
 - a landowner who has concerns about a field being very wet after a culvert was changed. The county engineer was also involved and reviewed the designs. A possible solution for the landowner would be to have a swale constructed;
 - discussions regarding toe approaches on Badger Hill roadway;
 - a landowner in Spring Grove Township would like to add a driveway with a culvert in a wetland on his property for commercial equipment to access instead of his private driveway; and
 - a landowner in Hokah Township wanting to do ditch work in August.
- **Buffer Law** – Walter stated he has completed the compliance checks and found one landowner out of compliance. He indicated this compliance issue will move to Houston County Environmental Services for enforcement steps.
- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan shared he calibrated manure spreaders for two producers and assisted with manure testing with a different producer. He stated with planting season wrapping up he will likely be able to schedule more farm visits. Scanlan indicated a nitrogen rate trial is being conducted by MDA at farm location in Mayville Township. He shared details about the study.

MASWCD & MACDE

- Walter stated the Area 7 Resolutions Meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026 in Stewartville, MN. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving a \$20 registration fee for those interested in attending.

There were no resolutions presented for consideration to forward to the Area 7 Resolution meeting.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Crooked Creek – Meiners shared the annual inspection tour was recently conducted. On the S-3 (Reining) site there are concerns about settling over the pipe and possible seeping around the pipe. There were beaver holes on the front slope of the structure which is being addressed.

Root River 1W1P – Walter shared they are currently working on updating the plan and a Policy Committee meeting will be held May 18, 2026.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC 1W1P – No report.

Bear Creek – Walter stated the annual inspection tour will be held in June.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDA Private Well Mitigation (RO Systems)** – No report.
- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – Meiners stated she has directed a few individuals to seek out the free test kits offered through MDH.
- **Alternate Nitrate Mitigation Program** – Meiners shared information about the program. She stated the cost share funding is for well repair or replacement with nitrates exceeding 25mL and are low income landowners.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Meiners reported an in-house grant reconciliation visit took place May 12th.
- **BMP Projects** – Meiners shared a grade stabilization structure for Davison Properties was completed in Hokah Township and construction is underway on 12 NRCS grassed waterways in Winnebago Township.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Alliance Grant** – Walter shared things are wrapping up with the Alliance Grant for the district.
- **IWM (SWAG)** – Walter reported sampling took place during the week of May 4th. PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) is a new area of focus and sampling is being done for it.
- **Soil Health Delivery Grant** – Messner stated Wermager has an application for the remaining cost share funds and is waiting for the landowner's signature.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – No report.
- **Trees** – Messner reported tree pick up day was held April 24, 2026. She gave a brief analysis of the tree sales from this year compared to last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**FINANCIAL COMMITTEE:** No report.**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** No report.**TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE:** No report.**OLD BUSINESS** – No report.**NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS** – No report.

Glaunert exited the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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 \$ **0**FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2028*) Available Funds \$ **225,991.01****FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Requests****Motion** by Kruse, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Alan or Kathy 351 Well Decommissioning amending the amended completion date of 5/31/2026 to 9/30/2026. This is due to contractor availability.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment request for Contract #22FY24RR1W1P Hartley, Chris 410 Grade Stabilization Structure amending the amended completion date of 6/15/2026 to 11/30/2026. This is due to contractor availability.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse 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
Vancleave, Dale	04FY26RR1W1P	\$37,660.31	\$33,894.28	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	12/31/2026

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving contract #04FY26RR1W1P Vancleave, Dale 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure \$33,894.31. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse 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
Schroeder, Jason	05FY26RR1W1P	1.5 acres @ \$300.00/acre	\$450.00	327 – Conservation Cover	6/1/2026
Eikens Family Farm LLC	06FY26RR1W1P	5 acres @ \$300.00/acre	\$1,500.00	327 – Conservation Cover	6/1/2026

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving contract #05FY26RR1W1P Schroeder, Jason 327 - Conservation Cover \$450.00 and #06FY26RR1W1P Eikens Family Farm, LLC 327 – Conservation Cover \$1,500.00. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried

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 **\$16,192.10**

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

FY26 Conservation Contracts 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
Hartman, Brad & Hartman Maas, Beth	03FY26CS	\$14,262.00	\$12,835.80	410 – Grade Stabilization Structure & 362 - Diversion	12/31/2026

Motion by Welke, seconded by Feldmeier, approving contract #03FY26CS Hartman, Brad & Hartman Maas, Beth 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure & 362 - Diversion \$12,835.80. Funding Source FY26 Conservation Contracts.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried

FY26 Conservation Contracts 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
Meiners, Richard H.	04FY26CS	\$2,400.00	\$2,160.00	342 – Critical Area Planting	9/1/2026

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving contract #04FY26CS Meiners, Richard H. 342 – Critical Area Planting \$2,160.00. Funding Source FY26 Conservation Contracts.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 5,769.39

ARPA Push Up Pond & Pond Clean Out Designation (Flat rate incentive amount)

Name	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project
Myhre, Joe	\$2,000.00	Pond Clean Out & Push Up Pond w/pipe

It was acknowledged \$2,000.00 for a Pond Clean Out and Push-Up Pond w/pipe is allocated for Myhre, Joe.

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: **\$6,920.00****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
5150	Ron Carlsen – Rent – May	\$ 1,287.00
5151	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 376.09
5152	VISA – Trees Postage = \$61.00; Vehicle Maintenance Dodge grease & oil change = \$88.44; Meals – 4/27/26 RR1W1P PWG & SWAG Mtgs. = \$45.85; MDA SG Walkover Postage = \$312.00; JPB Vehicle Maintenance – Fuel JPB truck = \$73.67; Adobe Pro Subscription = \$256.37	\$ 837.33
5153	Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery - Trees	\$ 60.00
5154	Blackburn Manufacturing – Trees Flags = \$94.46; Field Supplies = \$175.42	\$ 269.88
5155	MACDE – Registration Fee – MACDE Administrative Conference June 17 - 18, 2026	\$ 100.00
5156	Forestry Suppliers Inc – Buffer Field Supply	\$ 112.99
5157	Quill – Tree Supply	\$ 125.78
5158	Schumacher’s Nursery & Berry Farm Inc – Trees	\$ 2,553.50
5159	SE Area 7 MASWCD – Registration fee \$20/ea. – Resolution Mtg. June 9, 2026	\$ 80.00
	Total	\$ 5,802.57

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

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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

Voucher #	Item	Amount
65	Wabasha SWCD – FY25 Forestry Practice – Inv 2026-25(B) = \$350.00; FY25 Project Development – Inv 2026-25(A) = \$67.75	\$ 417.75
66	Winona SWCD – FY23 Vegetative Management – Inv 2023-04 Delano = \$3,287.14; FY23 Non-Structural – Inv 2025-108 Duncanson = \$2,350.00; Inv 2025-122 Moldenhauer = \$2,850.00; FY25 Non-Structural – Inv 2025-115 Putzier = \$6,000.00, Inv 2025-104 Lindeman = \$5,000.00, Inv 2025-105 Barnett = \$6,000.00	\$ 25,487.14
	Root River SWCD – FY23 Technical – 1 st Qtr 2026 = \$301.37; FY25 Administrative – 1 st Qtr 2026 = \$83.83; CRP Administrative – 1 st Qtr 2026 = \$521.96	\$ 907.16
	Total	\$ 26,812.05
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 8115 (FY23) to Cash General Fund	\$ 8,470.51
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 (FY25) to Cash General Fund	\$ 17,501.58

Motion by Feldmeier, 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.

Discussion on the Gopher to BadgerLink towers followed. The discussion highlighted facts shared at a public meeting and concerns with the effects of the area’s karst topography on the project.

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

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, June 11, 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.