Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center
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MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

October 8, 2026

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on October 8, 2026 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Feldmeier at 10:05 a.m.

Members Present	**Members Not Present**
Joe Driscoll	Ken Anderson
Matt Feldmeier	Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke	

Others:
Dave Walter, Dan Wermager and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Dave Copeland – BWSR staff; Zack Glaunert – Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever staff.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving the minutes from the September 10, 2026 board meeting.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Messner reported the September 2026 treasurer's report had not be received from the county.

AGENCY REPORTS

Dave Copeland, BWSR Report

- Copeland thanked the board for supporting staff to attend BWSR Academy.
- Copeland stated the RFI for the next fiscal year of Buffer Law funding is open. Funding up to $20,000.00 can be requested. He noted Root River SWCD has submitted their RFI for $20,000.00.

Zack Glaunert, Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever Report

- Glaunert shared he continues to work on the RIM grazing easement and has been doing CRP reviews.

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

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report – No report.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter indicated he has signed the sub-agreement with Fillmore SWCD for the Southeast Minnesota Nitrate Reduction & Water Protection Program.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **WCA –** Walter stated in the City of La Crescent he is working with TCMC Railway, in Crooked Creek Twp. he is working with Trout Unlimited (TU) on a project and in Black Hammer Township a streambank project.

Wermager joined the meeting at 10: 13 a.m.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover –** No report.

MASWCD & MACDE

Area 7 MASWCD/MACDE Joint Fall Meeting – Driscoll reported he, Welke, Wermager and Messner attended the meeting held September 23, 2026. Driscoll shared at the MASWCD Supervisor meeting election of officers was conducted and the upcoming year's budget was reviewed. He stated dues will be increasing by $100.00. Driscoll shared both staff and supervisors visited a wetland restoration project site.

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving registration, lodging (if needed) and meal expenses for any staff and supervisors interested in attending the MASWCD Annual Convention. Also approving meal expenses for the Conservationist of the Year along with either mileage reimbursement or one night of lodging at the convention.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Walter called for questions/discussion on any of the proposed MASWCD Resolutions. He did make recommendations on resolutions related to shorelines.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – Walter reported structures were checked on September 21, 2026 after the rain event on September 18, 2026. The sites all looked good.

Crooked Creek – Walter shared after the rain event on September 18, 2026 the culverts/intakes had gathered significant debris on the R-4 structure. Mechanical equipment will be needed to move debris on the Klinski structure.

Root River 1W1P – Copeland shared the Plan Amendment was recommended to go before the BWSR board for approval on October 28, 2026.

Winnebago – Walter reported on September 19, 2026 he checked the structure sites after the rain event on September 18, 2026. The sites all looked good.

WinLaC 1W1P – Wermager shared a Technical Advisory Committee was held. Updates on various projects were given. The FY27 funding request was reviewed and one request for funding was brought forth for the Viola Twp. project.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Walter stated Meiners has seen a good response from her mailing to Jefferson and Winnebago Townships.
- **BMP Projects –** Walter stated Meiners has been on-site with the NRCS technician assisting with the construction of grade stabilization structures in Winnebago Township.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **Soil Health Delivery Grant** – Wermager stated one landowner completed their planting for year one on their three year contract.
- **Southeast MN Nitrate Reduction & Water Protection Program** – Wermager shared the sub-agreement has been signed. Staff has decided to roll out the program in the upcoming year.
- **Other** – Wermager reported he performed various site visits in the Thompson Creek area that would benefit from the installation of grade stabilization structures.

Wermager stated he participated in a MOSH meeting where satellite imagery was a topic. He also shared statistics showing southeast Minnesota was way above the state average for no-till acres and just above the average for cover crop acres.

Wermager shared Kevin Kuhner has put out an interesting study on prairie strips.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – Messner shared Wermager performed a site visit at the home of the newest volunteer that was recruited. Paperwork was submitted. She stated there is one node left to fill out of 62 nodes.

- **Tree Program** – Messner shared pricing for the Schumacher trees has become available. Some species seen a significant increase in price per stem; therefore, she increased the price per bundle for those species on the tree order form.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Walter stated the continued discussion from the meeting held August 27, 2026 is on hold until further notice.

TSA7 *(Joint Powers)* COMMITTEE: Walter shared the SE MN Nutrient Management Initiative funding expiration date is being extended to May 1, 2027 to allow for project completions.

OLD BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving the Regional Groundwater Protection & Soil Health Initiative Sub-Agreement.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier 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 12/31/2027) Available Funds* **$ 1,650.22**
FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028) Available Funds* **$ 204,805.38**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving an amendment request contingent upon landowner and technical signatures for Contract #06FY24RR1W1P Diersen, John amending the completion date of 10/15/2026 to 9/15/2027. This is due to scheduling availability to coordinate the project work.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Glaunert exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #38FY214RR1W1P Heintz Badger Valley Farms, LLC amending the cost sharable amount of $73,044.31 to $77,727.62 an increase of $4,683.31. This is due to increased fuel and material costs after cost estimates were put together. (Fund sources: FY24 Root River 1W1P $1,650.22 & FY26 Root River 1W1P $3,033.09)
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

SE MN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (*Funding 75% of cost estimate up to $131,500.00)*

SE MN Nutrient Management Initiative Cost Share Payment Request *(Funding 75% of cost estimate up to $131,500.00)*

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Partial Project Cost	Request
Heintz Badger Valley Farms, LLC	#01FY26SEMNNMI Waste Storage Facility	$227,271.45	$232,475.14	$232,475.14 @ 75% = $174,356.36 Cost Share Allocated to project = $131,500.00 **Payment Amount Approved = $131,500.00**

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment for contract #01FY26SEMNNMI Heintz Badger Valley Farms, LLC 313 – Waste Storage Facility $131,500.00 contingent upon technical and administrative signatures. Funding Source FY26 SE MN Nutrient Management Initiative.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

ARPA – *(Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds* **$ 9,769.39**

Funding Source Change Requests

- A funding source change was acknowledged for Contract #38FY24RR1W1P Heintz Badger Valley Farms, LLC moving $3,033.09 from FY26 Root River 1W1P and $6,736.30 from FY24 Root River 1W1P to ARPA.

- A funding source change was acknowledged for Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Alan or Kathy moving $1,500.00 from FY24 Root River 1W1P Well Decommissioning to FY26 Root River 1W1P Well Decommissioning.

- A funding source change was acknowledged for Contract #10FY26RR1W1P Pearson, Nathan moving $1,500.00 from FY26 Root River 1W1P Well Decommissioning to FY24 Root River 1W1P Well Decommissioning.

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 Partial Project Cost	Request
Heintz Badger Valley Farms, LLC	#38FY24RR1W1P Waste Storage Facility	$227,271.45	$232,475.14	$232,475.14 @ 90% = $209,227.62 Other State Funding = $131,500.00 ARPA Funding = $9,769.39 Cost Share Allocated to project = $77,727.62 **Payment Amount Approved = $67,958.23**

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment for contract #38FY24RR1W1P Heintz Badger Valley Farms, LLC 313 – Waste Storage Facility $67,958.23 contingent upon technical and administrative signatures. Funding Source Feedlot FY24 Root River 1W1P and $9,769.39 contingent upon technical and administrative signatures. Funding Source ARPA.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

FY24 Root River 1W1P Well Decommissioning Cost Share Payment Request *(Funding up to 75% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Partial Project Cost	Request
Pearson, Nathan	#10FY26RR1W1P Well Decommissioning	$2,000.00	$2,275.00	$2,275.00 @ 75% = $1,706.25 Cost Share Allocated to project = $1,500.00 **Payment Amount Approved = $1,500.00**

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment for contract #10FY26RR1W1P Pearson, Nathan 351 – Well Decommissioning $1,500.00. Funding Source Well Decommissioning FY24 Root River 1W1P.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier 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* **$1,196.30**
FY 27 Conservation Contracts *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028) Available Funds* **$23,690.00**

FY26 Conservation Contracts Cost Share Cancellation Request
Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving the cancellation request for contract #02FY26CS Hongerholt, Josh 468 – Lined Waterway in the amount of $5,528.70. Funding Source FY26 Conservation Contracts.
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:* **$0**

FY26 Soil Health Delivery Cost Share Partial Payment Request *(Funding $40.00/acre single specie cover crop; $50.00/acre multi-specie cover crop)*

Name	Project/Contract #	Total Cost Estimate	Actual Partial Project Cost	Request
Mierau, Robert	06FY26SHD Cover Crops	$46.133 acres @ $50.00/acre = $2,306.65	$2,306.65	$46.133 acres @ $50.00/acre = $2,306.65 Cost Share Allocated to project = $6,920.00 **Partial Payment Amount Approved = $2,306.65**

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving a partial payment for contract #06FY26SHD Mierau, Robert 340 – Cover Crop $2,306.65. Funding Source FY26 Soil Health Delivery Grant.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

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* **$2,500.00 $1,450.00 contingency**
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**

FY25 WinLaC Non-Structural Cost Share Request *(Flat Rate Funding not to exceed 100 acre cap)*

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Schumacher, Shane	2025WinLaC-Roo-003	$50.00/acre @ 79 acres – single specie	$3,950.00	340 – Cover Crop	11/1/2026

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving contract #2025WinLaC-Roo-003 Schumacher, Shane 340 – Cover Crop $3,950.00. Funding Source FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Grant.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

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*

****Accounts Payable:*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5199	Ron Carlsen – Rent – October	$ 1,287.00
5200	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	$ 401.91
5201	VISA – Education – 6th Grade Environmental Day = $155.43	$ 155.43
5202	Lind Awards & Engraving – Education Awards & Tours – Con of Year Plaque	$ 37.58
5203	Jean Meiners – Mileage	$ 22.80
5204	Mierau, Robert – Contract #06FY26SHD – Partial Payment	$ 2,306.65
5205	Petty Cash – WinLaC Smarter Together Website Domain – 1 yr.	$ 14.95
5206	Heintz Badger Valley Farms LLC – Waste Storage Facility - #38FY24RR1W1P = $67,958.23 & #01FY26SEMNNMI = $131,500.00 & ARPA = $9,769.39	$209,277.62
5207	Frontier Precision, Inc. – IT Support Trimble	$ 972.00
5208	Pearson, Nathan – Contract #10FY26RR1W1P – Well Decommissioning	$ 1,500.00
	Total	***$216,208.36***

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable & Transfer of Funds*****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
	Root River SWCD – FY23 Education – Inv 1251664115 Smarter Together Website Domain 1 yr	$ 14.95
75	City of La Crescent – FY23 Education – Inv 10022026 Adopt-A-Drain Postcard Mailing	$ 1,507.47
76	Fillmore SWCD – FY25 Technical – Inv Q3 2026 Fillmore SWCD	$ 2,426.21
77	City of Winona – FY23 Project Development – Inv 40126	$ 15,000.00
78	SE MN Technical Support JPB - FY23 Project Development – Inv. 2026-Q2Viola Twp.	$ 4,980.50
	Total	***$ 23,929.13***
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 8115 (FY23) to Cash General Fund	$ 18,502.92
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 (FY25) to Cash General Fund	$ 2,426.21

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, November 12, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: November 12, 2026 Joe Driscoll
Date Secretary

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