

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, January 16, 2025

9:00 AM

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

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

Others present: Duane Bakke, Bob Scanlon, Riley Buley, Nikki Wheeler, Aaren Mathison, Theresa Baker

Absent: Eunice Biel

Travis Willford called meeting to order at 9:01 am

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda: **Tesmer motioned to approve agenda, seconded by Gossman. Affirmative: Wetzel, Tesmer, Gossman, Willford. Opposed None, Motion carried.**

- II. Treasurer's Report
 1. Approve December 2024 SWCD Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Tesmer motioned to approve December's treasurer's report, seconded by Gossman. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Wetzel, Tesmer. Opposed none motioned carried.**

 2. Approve Root River 1W1P Treasurer's report subject to audit. **Tesmer motioned to approve December's treasurer's report, seconded by Gossman. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Wetzel, Tesmer. Opposed none motioned 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	
\$ 146,959.00	10%		Expires 12-31-2024
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 1,469,595.00	\$ 1,322,636.00	1,364,990.36	\$ -41,354.36

2024-2025 - Watershed Base Implementation ARP - C22-0143

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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Payments	Terms	Received	Grant Terms
\$ 1,150,475.00	50%	04-23-2024	Executed 04-08-2024
\$ 920,380.00	40%		
\$ 230,095.00	10%		Expires 12-31-2026
Grant Total	Deposits	Disbursements	Grant Cash Balance
\$ 2,300,950.00	\$ 1,150,475.00	\$ 294,263.25	\$ 856,211.80

III. Consent Agenda: **Gossman motioned to approve Consent Agenda, seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative Wetzel, Willford, Tesmer, Gossman. Opposed none motioned carried.**

1. Secretary’s Report – December 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Consider Partial Payment of \$4,500.00 to Saratoga Partnership, contract RR1W1P 24-24 90 acres Multi Species cover crop, utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
3. Approve contract RR1W1P24-16 amendment from \$6,984.00 to \$4,984.00. Decrease due to reduced acres originally stated.
4. Consider final payment of \$4984.00 to Duane Bakke, Contract RR1W1P 24-16 124.6 acres single species cover crop utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
5. Approve contract RR1W1P 24-27 amendment from \$6,026.00 to \$4,600.00. Decrease due to reduced acres originally stated.
6. Consider final payment of \$4,600.00 to Jonathan Keune, contract RR1W1P 24-27 115.00 acres single species cover crop utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
7. Consider final payment of \$5419.20 to Nick Ruen, contract RR1W1P 24-4 135.48 acres single species cover crop, utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.
8. Approve contract RR1W1P 24-14 amendment from \$4080.00 to \$3103.00. Decrease due to reduced acres originally stated.
9. Consider Final payment of \$3,103.00 to Bill Wingert, contract RR1W1P 24-14 62.06 acres Multi species cover Crop, utilizing funds from the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Grant.

IV. Reports

1. Supervisor Activity Report: **Willford reported he attended the regular board meeting, Feed lot meeting and reviewed job applications. Wetzel reported he attended regular board meeting, Gossman reported he reviewed job applications. Tesmer reported she attended Regular board meeting and will be attending TSA meeting.**
2. Staff Reports: **Submitted in agenda packet.**
3. Administrator’s Report
 - i. Brightsdale Dam update: **Buley indicated and showed photos of the project and reported it is well on its way.**
 - ii. Olmstead regional health program update. **Buley indicated Olmsted Regional Soil Health program would be proposed to Legislation.**

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iii. Regional Project Manager position update: Buley has received calls stressing a need for a Regional Project Manager. Indicated there would be funding available. More discussion to follow if position will be posted and filled.

4. NRCS Report: **No report**

5. County Report: **Bakke stated they were still discussing the Shoreland project with DNR and requested Maps be obtained on Buffers, DNR maps and Trout Streams.**

V. Old Business

1. FYI: January 21th both Trucks 23 & 24 will go to Lewiston Auto to install Laverne running boards.

VI. New Business

1. Consider \$100.00 sponsorship for cow/calf days Feb 6th in Rochester (Oronoco @ Rossman Farms for 2025. **Tesmer motioned to support \$100 sponsorship seconded by Gossman. Affirmative: Wetzel, Willford, Gossman, Tesmer. Opposed none motion carried.**
2. **Motion made to discuss Fillmore County Journal as Official Publication for Fillmore District Soil and Water. Gossman motioned we adapt this seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative, Wetzel, Gossman, Willford, Tesmer**
3. Reorganize officers for 2025: **At 9:40 am Travis Willford gave up his Chair duties and Tim Gossman assumed Chair duties moving forward.**
4. Approve 2024 Q4 Supervisor's vouchers: **Tesmer motioned to approve vouchers seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Wetzel, Gossman, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed none motioned carried.**
5. Appointment of Board Committees. **Willford motioned to approve 2025 Board Committees: Personnel will be Gossman & Wetzel: Cost-Share will be Willford & Wetzel: Finance Tesmer & Wetzel: Education: Biel & Tesmer: RR1W1P Policy Committee: Gossman & Tesmer: Area VII SRF Join Powers Board: Tesmer & Biel: EQIP Local Work Group: Willford & Wetzel: Building committee: Willford & Gossman: Forestry: Gossman & Wetzel seconded by Tesmer Affirmative: Willford, Tesmer, Gossman, Wetzel. Opposed none motioned carried.**
6. Set Board Meeting Dates and Times: **Willford motioned to keep Board Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month held at 5:00 pm. Seconded by Tesmer. Affirmative: Wetzel, Willford, Gossman, Tesmer. Opposed none motioned carried.**
7. Set per diem and mileage rate: **Wetzel proposed per diem to stay at current rate. Mileage increased per 2025 IRS standards from 0.655 to .70 Cents. seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Gossman, Tesmer, Willford, Wetzel. Opposed now motioned carried.**
8. Selection of District depositories: 2024 depositories: **Rushford State Bank, Merchants Bank in Lanesboro and Rushford, F and M Community Bank, Preston. Tesmer motioned to Approve District depositories noting the depositories are to be located in Fillmore**

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County seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Gossman. Willford, Wetzel Tesmer.

Opposed none motioned carried.

9. **Approve 2025 Budget. Tesmer motioned to Approve 2025 Budget seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Willford, Gossman, Tesmer Wetzel. Opposed none motioned carried.**
10. **Consider payment to MASWCD for Annual dues in the amount of \$7,431.37. Tesmer Motioned to except MASWCD dues seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative, Gossman, Willford, Tesmer Wetzel.**
11. **Approve resolution on spending directives for SWCD AID funding. Wetzel Motioned to Approve resolution on spending of SWCD Aid funding. seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Tesmer, willford, Gossman. Wetzrl opposed none motion carried.**
12. **Consider payment to G-Cubed in the Amount of \$300,000.00 Inv 8276 Project #23-323 Rock Weir 100% complete, Channel Grading 25% complete. Willford motioned to approve funding to G-Cubed seconded by Wetzel. Affirmative: Tesmer, Gossman, Willford, Wetzel. Opposed none motioned carried.**
13. **Consider continuation of SWCD Scholarship of 2 \$500.00 awards: Tesmer motioned to continue with 2 \$500 scholarships stating 2 could be given to High School graduates if no College student applied. seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Gossman, Wetzel, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed none motion carried.**
14. **Discuss MDA township walkover program. Bob Scanlon from MN Dept Ag spoke and presented the proposal to assist MDA with High Nitrates reported in Fillmore townships.**
15. **Discuss Pay Equity Report Compliance. Buley showed report to board and will submit to Sate. Tesmer motioned approval to submit seconded by Willford. Affirmative Gossman, Wetzel, Willford, Tesmer Opposed none motioned carried.**
16. **Consider salary increase to Grade 3 Step 6 for employee number 23044. Willford motioned to except salary increase and requested new salary retros back to 1/2/25 employee's anniversary date seconded by Tessmer. Affirmative: Gossman, Wetzel, Willford, Tesmer. Opposed none motioned carried. Gossman stepped away to attend another meeting at 10:25 am Wetzel proceeded with meeting.**
17. **Discuss RFP for Nutrient Management Plan Assistance. Board discussed and tabled to later meeting.**
18. **Discuss Legislative Day in St. Paul 3/4/2024: Anyone wanting to attend? Biel indicated 1/15/25 that she would be interested in attending Legislative day. Buley to provide further information at next board meeting.**
19. **Approve Kanati Soil Health Contract for services. \$300,000. Tesmer motioned to approve Kanati contract with modification to yearly review and charges not to exceed \$300,000 in 800 hours. Kanati will also assist in training new Conservation Tech once hired. Motioned to give permission to have Vice Chair sign contract effective 1/17/25 seconded by Willford Affirmative: Wetzel, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed none motioned carried.**

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VII. Accounts Payable

1. Approve December accounts payable: **Tesmer motioned to approve December accounts payable seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Wetzel, Tesmer. Willford. Opposed none motion carried.**

VIII. Adjournment: **Tesmer motioned to adjourn regular meeting at 10:44 am, seconded by Willford. Affirmative: Willford, Wetzel and Tesmer Opposed none motioned carried. Meeting adjourned.**

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Regular board meeting	Jan 16,2025
Annual Meeting	Jan 16, 2025
Martin Luther King Day: Holiday office Closed	Jan 20, 2025
SE SWCD Tech Support Meeting	Jan 22, 2025
Presidents' Day Holiday office closed	Feb 17, 2025

X _____ Date _____
Eunice Biel