



629 NORTH 11TH STREET
COURTHOUSE SUITE 7
MONTEVIDEO, MN 56265

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**Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
July 1, 2024**

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, Courthouse, Suite 7, Montevideo, MN 56265.

1. Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Calin Eisenlohr at 3:00 p.m.
 1. Members present: Steve Jacobson, Calin Eisenlohr, Aaron Ahrenholz, Jerry Schwitters
 2. Other present: SWCD Staff- Zach Bothun, Desirae Jarett; NRCS Staff: Shantel Lozinski; County Commissioner: Candice Jaenisch
2. M/S/P Schwitters, Ahrenholz approve the agenda with additions and deletions. All in favor.
3. M/S/P Ahrenholz, Jacobson approve the June meeting minutes. All in favor.
4. Bills were presented for ratification and payment.
5. Shantel Lozinski, NRCS DC, gave the following update on NRCS happenings:
 1. NRCS Staff has been working on, but not limited to: EQIP Obligations for 2024, 8 contracts, for \$1,668,579—ag waste projects, cover crop, reduced till, no-till, pest management, conservation cover, brush management, stream crossing, windbreak shelterbelt, fence, grade stab, and a grassed waterway; hosted Local Work Group meeting on June 20th and submitted results to area office; issued cool season grass/tree extension until June 15th; warm season planting extension request has been submitted for a 2 weeks extension to July 15th; co-hosted Women’s Field Day event; and CRP plan writing/status reviews for contracts expiring in 2026 and planted last year.
6. **Action Items:**
 1. Zach Bothun presented a cost share voucher for payment on Contract 2024-2 for \$1288.80.
 - M/S/P Ahrenholz, Jacobson approve payment of voucher as presented. All in favor.
 2. Zach Bothun presented a cost share voucher for payment on Contract 2024-3 for \$3230.10.
 - M/S/P Schwitters, Jacobson approve payment of voucher as presented. All in favor.
 3. Desirae Jarett gave a grant balance and account balance update as of 6/28/24.
 4. Zach Bothun discussed Conservationist of the Year. Board will contact staff with candidate ideas. Staff will bring more information on current candidate ideas. Discuss again at next meeting.
7. **Discussion Items:**
 1. Desirae discussed Governance 101 to see if there is anyone interested in attending.
8. **Staff Reports**
 1. District Manager: Monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: completed our last tree planting in early June after a wet and difficult season; sold leftover trees until mid-June, donated the rest after mid-June due to survivability risk; attended Leadership Training in Lanesboro; attended the NRCS local workgroup meeting to provide feedback for EQIP funding priorities; seeding and equipment maintenance; attending CRWA sub-committee meetings to develop cost share policy (project scoring and ranking, and developing our first work plan / budget request for our first round of WBIF funding for the Chippewa River watershed planning area); signed new DNR Observation Well Monitoring Agreement for the coming year, FY25; worked on contract folders for both SWCD and CMRWP cost share projects; WCA drainage requests; RIM Vegetative Enhancement – Haying Agreement for a large easement by Granite Falls; and began the annual review process with staff
9. Important upcoming dates for Governance 101 were announced.
10. Adjourn.
 1. M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve adjournment of meeting. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: August 5, 2024—Commissioner’s Room, Courthouse 3:00 P.M.
PLEASE LET OFFICE STAFF KNOW A.S.A.P. IF YOU WILL NOT MAKE IT TO THE MEETING