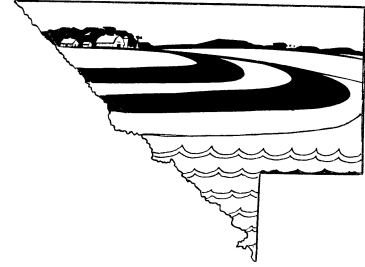


# CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

629 NORTH 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
COURTHOUSE  
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA 56265

Telephone 320-269-2696



## Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting May 1, 2023

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, Courthouse, NRCS/SWCD office, Montevideo, MN 56265.

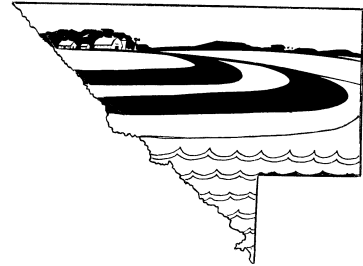
1. Meeting was **called to order** by Board Chair Jerry Schwitters at 3:00 p.m.
  - Members **present**: Steve Jacobson, Jerry Schwitters, Michelle Overholser, Calin Eisenlohr
2. Others **present**: SWCD staff: Desirae Jarett, Zach Bothun, Tom Sletta, Tom Warner; NRCS staff: Shantel Lozinski; County Commissioner: Matt Gilbertson; Aaron Ahrenholz
3. M/S/P Jacobson, Eisenlohr approve the agenda with addition. All in favor.
4. M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson approve the March meeting minutes. All in favor.
5. Bills were presented for ratification & payment.
6. Desirae gave a grant balance and bank account balance update.
7. **NRCS Report**-Shantel Lozinski:
  - NRCS monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: finished EQIP job sheets, plans, O52s for obligated contracts; CRP needs and feasibility; EQIP signatures on final contracts for Big Stone applicants; CRP seed tag checks for fall seedings; April 3<sup>rd</sup> spoke at annual township meeting in Maynard on technical assistance as well as programs; EQIP payment for ag waste project near Maynard; 1026s uploaded for both Chippewa and Big Stone; all employee meeting April 11-13 in Nisswa; CSP planning-working with producers on high screened applications; discussed Inflation Reduction Act funding levels for 2023-2026; staffing still very short-anticipate helping other offices through the summer; and participated in active shooter training last week. Shantel also noted the Local Work Group date has been set for July 10 at 2 p.m.
8. **Staff Reports**-
  - **District Manager**: monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: helping coordinate Sandven WASCOD repair; went over plans for Gunter project; looked at erosion/wet site with Loe and Renville SWCD; wrote up project prioritization list and sent to engineer; had cost share close out audit; talked with Beckler about preconstruction cover cost share for project; worked on tile drain requests; had TEP meeting for Augeson tile project; wrote up WCA Notice of Decision for Augeson project; had TEP meeting for Johnson drainage project; attended BWSR WCA teams meeting; spoke with Ricardo Brooks about wet issue at his property—went and surveyed with Zach; talked with consultant about ag bank site for Peterson; worked on tree orders and tree plans; worked on equipment and building; unloaded spring tree order; planted replacement trees; worked with landowner that wants to run tile across RIM easement; contacted Legion about June 6 Area 2 meeting; did determinations for the county for tax forfeit parcels; attended Pollinators, Pints, and Popcorn event; attended MNAWQCP meeting; fixed decking on red trailer; read obwells; and attended active shooter awareness training.
  - **Co-District Manager**: monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: attended virtual training for new eLink reporting system; met with Jason Beckler and JoAnn Blomme to discuss Comprehensive Local Water Management plan Extension; basic cover crop training virtual webinars and in person training in Marshall; signed up for Minnesota Wetland Professional Certification Program (MWPCP) training courses to keep up with continuing ed credits for WCA; Pollinator, Pints & Popcorn event planning and event; continued working with

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partners and HEI on the Chippewa River Watershed 1W1P; continue working with the CMRWP on getting implementation underway; attended a WCTSA lead contacts virtual meeting; attended a Wetland Bank Service Area virtual workshop; attended a managers' meeting held at Stevens SWCD; attended BWSR Spring Training virtual sessions; cost share closeout review with Jason Beckler; tree planting, seeding site visits and seed orders finalized; active shooter training attended; equipment maintenance at tree building; and unloaded trees. Zach also noted FEMA Flood Maps meeting was cancelled—looking to be rescheduled; Hawk Creek Cycle II of the WRAPS to begin; and CMRWP JPB meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- **District Technician:** monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: worked on tree plans, tree orders, and tree site visits; unloaded spring tree order; worked on equipment; attended cover crop training in Marshall; worked on Moon CREP easement; met with landowner on project; site visits to Sandven and Williamson projects with engineer; attended active shooter training; met with state on future CREP site; started 2 RIM grassland applications; and attended BWSR spring training.

## 9. Old Business

- Interested party for open District 3 supervisor position was discussed.
  - M/S/P Jacobson, Overholser approved appointment of Aaron Ahrenholz to District 3 supervisor position until next general election. All in favor.

## 10. New Business

- Tom Sletta presented Cost share contract 2023-3. This contract is to repair 638 WASCOB from contract 2022-2 located in Big Bend 41 Section 2. Total project estimate is \$15,202.50. Cost share requested is \$11,401.88.
  - M/S/P Eisenlohr, Jacobson approve cost share on contract 2023-3 at \$11,401.88, not to exceed 75% of total project cost. All in favor.
- Zach presented a resolution to adopt Chippewa County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan extension.
  - M/S/P Jacobson, Overholser approve to adopt resolution. All in favor.
- Desirae requested permission to direct deposit payroll for interested employees.
  - M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson approve direct deposit payroll. All in favor.
- Zach and Desirae discussed an unrestricted fund balance policy.
  - Board is not interested in creating such policy at this time.

11. Desirae noted important upcoming dates for WCMASWCD Area II meeting and Local Work Group meeting.

## 12. Adjourn

- M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson motion to adjourn. All in favor.

**Next Meeting: June 5, 2023 –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\*\*\***