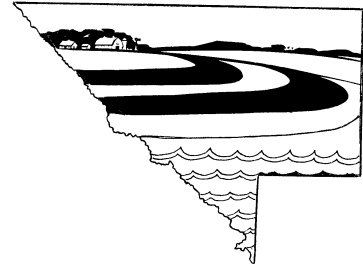


# CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Telephone 320-269-2696



## Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting November 6, 2023

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

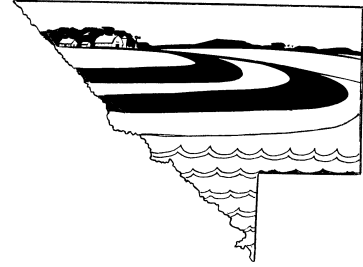
1. Meeting was **called to order** by Board Chair Jerry Schwitters at 3:05 p.m.
  - Members **present**: Steve Jacobson, Aaron Ahrenholz, Calin Eisenlohr, Jerry Schwitters, Michelle Overholser
2. Others **present**: SWCD staff: Zach Bothun, Desirae Jarett; NRCS staff: Shantel Lozinski; County Commissioner: Candice Jaenisch
3. M/S/P Overholser, Eisenlohr approve the agenda with additions and changes as presented. All in favor.
4. M/S/P Overholser, Eisenlohr approve the September meeting minutes. All in favor.
5. Bills were presented for ratification & payment.
6. **NRCS Report**:
  - NRCS monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: CRP status reviews for contracts ending in 2025 are complete; acre reporting for Big Stone is complete; site visits for 2024 EQIP applicants are in process; CSP re-enrollment applications for Kandiyohi were worked on; ETV hours reported for Chippewa, Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi & Lac qui Parle; EQIP payments for cover crop, construction, nutrient management, wetland habitat, and basins were made; last EQIP applications were loaded; 1026s uploaded for Chippewa & Big Stone; CRP seed tag checks for payment complete; cultural resource request uploaded for EQIP 2024 applications; hosted new AED machine training for the service center; CR ends November 17; FY 2024 EQIP training/rates not posted yet but will be increasing from 50% to 75% for basic; NRCS grant was awarded to Kanati Land Management for \$1 million for promoting conservation, comprehensive conservation plans, design, implementation, check out for engineering and ecological services—covered 12 counties for 3 years. Shantel also noted that NRCS DCs and team leads will be attending MASWCD annual convention this year.
7. **Old Business**
  - Desirae presented updated Co-op Credit Union paperwork for signatures.
8. **New Business**
  - Desirae discussed MASWCD annual convention. Three staff, two supervisors, and conservationists of the year will be attending.
  - Desirae presented new Minnesota Leave Laws PowerPoint.
  - Desirae and Zach discussed website update opportunity.
    - Board would like more information.
  - Desirae presented an amended budget due to many funding changes since previous 2024 budget was approved.
    - M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson approve revised budget as presented.
  - Desirae discussed NACD Membership.
    - M/S/P Eisenlohr, Jacobson approved Gold Membership at \$775.
  - Zach presented CRP Pilot Program Partnership Agreement with Kandiyohi SWCD.
    - M/S/P Overholser, Ahrenholz approve partnership agreement.
  - Jerry Schwitters discussed a personnel meeting that was held in regards to job changes, wages, and performance evaluation process.
  - Desirae discussed December board meeting. Meeting will be held at 11 a.m. at CCM Wellness center on Monday, December 4.
9. **Staff Reports-**

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- **District Manager:** monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: attended Leadership Institute September 12-14; met with Michelle May and county board on October 17 about SWCD budget updates and county allocation; for WCA: drainage requests, site visit on old restoration order—repair needed, followed up with BWSR/TEP on banking projects, contacted farm manager about possible violation, and worked with Chippewa County Fairgrounds; for CRWA: TAC meetings to review comments from BWSR and partners, beginning discussions about coordination, and first round of funding will be \$2.2 million for projects and practices in the watershed; for CMRWP: TC meetings and JPB meetings, currently applying for next round of funding for projects and practices in the watershed; attended USDA AED training; worked on seed orders; worked on tree building and equipment maintenance; site visits to Dick Sandven project during construction; met with Swift SWCD manager about a joint training effort regarding cost share contract folder based training; prepared personnel meeting materials. Zach also noted the Conservation Management Lunch and Learn to be put on on December 6 by Kanati Land Management and Anez Consulting as part of their conservation outreach for the RCPP grant with a 1W1P and conservation planning focus.

## 10. Adjourn

- M/S/P Eisenlohr, Jacobson Meeting adjourned. All in favor.

**Next Meeting: December 4, 2023 –CCM Wellness Center 11:00 A.M.**

**\*\*\*PLEASE LET OFFICE STAFF KNOW A.S.A.P. IF YOU WILL NOT MAKE IT TO THE MEETING\*\*\***