



Root River Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Service Center
805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1
Caledonia, MN 55921

(507) 724-5261 Ext. 3

<https://builder1.revize.com/revize/houstoncountymn/>

MINUTES OF THE ROOT RIVER SWCD

August 13, 2026

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on August 13, 2026 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present Members Not Present

Ken Anderson
Joe Driscoll
Matt Feldmeier
Glenn Kruse
Jerry Welke

Others:

Dave Walter and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Ryan Hytry – NRCS staff; Zack Glaunert, Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever staff; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services; Bob Scanlan, MN Department of Ag.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the July 9, 2026 board meeting.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Employee Time Records: **Motion** by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving the Employee Time Records.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Messner stated the July 2026 treasurer's report will be presented at the September 10, 2026 meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

Zack Glaunert, Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever Report

- Glaunert shared Quail Forever will be hosting an informational meeting for the public to learn more about Quail Forever and the various projects they do including working with Caledonia Middle School – High School. The event is planned for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at Good Times in Caledonia, MN.
- Glaunert stated he and Wermager submitted a request to participate in a grant with The Nature Conservancy/BWSR Strengthening Forest Economies. The grant will offer cost share for many forestry practices.

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt shared there will be a conference on noxious weed management in the near future.
- Burt stated the online nutrient management tool is available.
- Burt indicated their office will have a booth at the upcoming Houston County Fair and the Ag inspector will be helping with the booth.

Glaunert exited the meeting at 10: 15 a.m.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report

- Hytry stated they have just one more CRP plan to prepare.
- Hytry indicated they have been working on EQIP 2027. He also shared they have construction going at this time and have also had projects completed within the last month.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report

- Walter stated the IRS Mileage Rate increased July 1, 2026 from \$0.725 to \$0.76 per mile.
- Walter shared Staggemeyer Wood Products LLC may be relocating after the flooding in July. There are no Flood Disaster Relief funds available or FEMA (state or federal) funding available for them. He stated there is potential for a capital improvement project above Staggemeyer's site. A project was proposed for this area some years back but it could not move forward due to a lack of upstream landowner consent. Walter stated he spoke with the TSA 7 engineer, Pete Fryer, about the project. A breach analysis is needed, a dam safety permit and easements with landowners. A funding request will likely be added to the FY28 WBIF Root River One Watershed, One Plan Grant application.
- Walter indicated the 765 kilovolt line will be following the same route as the current 161 line. The towers to support the lines are 150 – 199 feet tall and will be 1,200 – 1,500 feet apart. A map was circulated.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **WCA** – Walter stated a Trout Unlimited project planned along the Goetzinger property near Freeburg, MN is on hold. It is in the planning stage.
- **BMP Construction Project** – Walter reported the waste storage facility at Heintz Badger Valley Farms has started and stated he would be at that project site.
- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover** – Scanlan shared he will be expanding into Wilmington and Mayville Townships. A LAT meeting will be hosted this fall for Spring Grove and Black Hammer townships. Scanlan stated a leaching model is available. It is township based and considers soils in the area to determine the results. The goal is the reduce leaching by ten percent.

MASWCD & MACDE – No report.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – Hytry stated a state engineer had visited one of the PL 566 structures and examined it with an internal camera. No further information was available on his findings.

Root River 1W1P – No report.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC 1W1P – No report.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.
- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** – Walter shared Meiners has been busy with this program.
- **BMP Projects** – No report.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **IWM (SWAG)** – Walter stated he and Wermager have been doing sampling.
- **Soil Health Delivery Grant** – No report.
- **Southeast MN Nitrate Reduction & Water Protection Program** – No report.
- **Cost Share Site Inspections** – Walter shared that Wermager will be performing brush management site inspections this fall. This will give landowners the opportunity to perform maintenance this summer.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – Messner shared a breakdown of the 2025 results and reported four new volunteers have been recruited. They are replacing those that have opted to no longer participate.
- **Rain Monitoring Program** – Messner reported a volunteer for Sheldon Township was acquired.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Walter share the committee met August 4, 2026 to review the proposed 2026 budget. Walter read the Finance Committee minutes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

TSA7 (Joint Powers) COMMITTEE: Welke shared him and Walter attended the July 17, 2026 meeting. Walter stated updates were given on the budget, projects being completed and the purchase of a laptop. Upcoming events such as the MASWCD Fall Meeting will be held September 23, 2026 in Steele County and the annual MASWCD Convention will be held December 1st and 2nd, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS – Walter reported Morken Farms LLC has accepted being the 2026 Conservationist of the Year. Meiners and Glaunert will be in touch with Morkens to prepare an application for the state conservationist award.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Walter briefly review the proposed 2027 financial budget. He stated the Finance Committee is recommending the board approve the proposed budget. **Motion** by the Finance Committee, seconded by Kruse, approving the proposed 2027 Financial Budget.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse 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 12/31/2026*) Available Funds **\$ 5,725.50**

FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share (*Grant expiration 12/31/2028*) Available Funds **\$ 229,937.62**

Funding Source Change Request

- **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving a funding source change for Contract #04FY26RR1W1P Vancleave, Dale – 410 Grade Stabilization Structure \$4,075.28. Moving the contract from FY26 Root River 1W1P to FY24 Root River 1W1P.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

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 Project Cost	Request
Vancleave, Dale	04FY26RR1W1P Grade Stabilization Structure	\$39,660.31	\$39,660.31	\$39,660.31 @ 90% = \$35,694.28 EQIP = \$31,617.40 Cost Share Allocated to project = \$4,075.28 Payment Amount Approved = \$4,075.28

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment for contract #04FY26RR1W1P Vancleave, Dale 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure \$4,075.28. Funding Source FY24 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request *(Funding up to 90% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Ask, Jr., Carl	11FY26RR1W1P	\$32,452.80	\$29,207.52	580 – Steambank & Shoreline Protection	12/31/2026

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving contract #11FY26RR1W1P Ask, Jr., Carl 580 – Steambank & Shoreline Protection \$29,207.52. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

ARPA – (Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds \$ 4,269.39

The following ARPA Cost Share Cancellations were acknowledge:

- McEvilly, Sean – Push Up Pond with pipe - \$1,500.00
- Driscoll, Joe – Pond Clean Out - \$500.00
- Wilkes, Ron – Push Up Pond with pipe - \$1,500.00
- Myhre, Joe – Pond Clean Out & Push Up Pond with pipe - \$2,000.00

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 \$7,500.00*

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 Cost Share Request *(Funding up to 75% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source with a \$5,000 cap)*

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Gundersen Lutheran Administrative Services Inc	2025WinLaC-Roo-001	\$9,100.00	\$5,000.00	351 – Well Decommissioning	12/31/2026

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving contract #2025WinLaC-Roo-001 Gundersen Lutheran Administrative Services Inc 351 – Well Decommissioning \$5,000.00. Funding Source FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Grant.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse 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*

FY27 Conservation Contracts *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028) Available Funds \$23,690.00*

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*

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*

****Accounts Payable:****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
5181	Ron Carlsen – Rent – August	\$ 1,287.00
5182	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	\$ 463.04
5183	VISA – Furniture/Equipment – Decked Drawer System = \$1,817.36; IT Support – Adobe Pro Subscription = \$256.37	\$ 2,073.73
5184	Vancleave, Dale – Grade Stabilization Structure – Contract #04FY26RR1W1P	\$ 4,075.28
	Total	\$ 7,899.05
	Transfer of Funds from Cash General Fund to S & W Designated Reserve Investment Acct. 10033589	\$ 11,000.00
	Transfer of Funds from Cash General Fund to Capital Equipment Investment Acct. 10033563	\$ 9,924.54

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

***** WinLaC 1W1P Accounts Payable *****

Voucher #	Item	Amount
71	Wabasha SWCD – FY23 Project Development – Inv 2026-54 (B) = \$542.40; FY25 Technical – Inv 2026-54A-TA = \$1,318.25	\$ 1,860.65
72	Olmsted SWCD – FY23 Ag Practices – Inv Q2-2026 – Contract 26-WinLaC-Olm-001	\$ 2,400.00
73	Winona County Planning & Zoning – FY25 Groundwater Practices – Inv 25-007 – Contract 25WinLaC-WCO-001	\$ 1,968.75
	Total	\$ 6,229.40
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 8115 (FY23) to Cash General Fund	\$ 2,858.82
	Transfer of funds from Eitzen State Bank Acct # 9623 (FY25) to Cash General Fund	\$ 3,370.58

Motion by Welke, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.

Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Walter requested to meet with the Personnel Committee before or after the next board meeting.

Chair Anderson declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, September 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: September 10, 2026
Date

Joe Driscoll
Secretary

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

