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

September 10, 2026

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on September 10, 2026 at the Ag Service Center in Caledonia, Minnesota for its regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present	**Members Not Present**
Ken Anderson	
Joe Driscoll	
Matt Feldmeier	
Glenn Kruse	
Jerry Welke	

Others:
Jean Meiners, Dan Wermager and Janice Messner – SWCD staff; Dave Copeland – BWSR staff; Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services.

Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: **Motion** by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving the minutes from the August 13, 2026 board meeting.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Employee Time Records & Supervisor Per Diems: **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the Employee Time Records and the following supervisor per diems.

Supervisor 3rd Qtr. 2026 Per Diems

Supervisor's Name	Meetings Attended	Per Diem	Amount
Anderson, Ken	3	$125.00	$375.00
Driscoll, Joe	5	$125.00	$625.00
Feldmeier, Matt	4	$125.00	$500.00
Kruse, Glenn	4	$125.00	$500.00
Welke, Jerry	7	$125.00	$875.00

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

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Welke requested the July 2026 and August 2026 treasurer's reports be placed on file for audit.

AGENCY REPORTS

Zack Glaunert, Quail Forever & Pheasants Forever Report – No report.

Jeremy Burt, Houston County Environmental Services Report

- Burt stated a joint feedlot meeting for the public will be collaboratively hosted by Houston, Fillmore, and Winona Counties in Rushford, MN. The dates they are looking at are March 3rd or March 10, 2027 from 11 am – 3 pm. Topics for the meeting at this time include nitrates, ground water and the role they play in Ag economics.

- Burt shared there are potential rate changes to reduce nitrogen on corn and alfalfa ground.

Burt exited the meeting at 10: 21 a.m.

Ryan Hytry, NRCS Report – No report.

- Messner and Meiners stated the Caledonia field office EQIP 2027 sign up period ends September 11, 2026.

Dave Copeland, BWSR Report

- Copeland shared the FY24/25 Root River 1W1P Grant is being amended to extend the grant expiration date for one year. He stated there were several projects contracted that may not be completed by the end of the year.

- Copeland stated he has been working with Fillmore SWCD on the resolutions to Submit Plan Renewal Amendment for the Root River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The signed resolutions will allow the amendment for the plan to be presented to BWSR for review and approval.

Dave Walter, District Manager Report – No report.

PROGRAM REPORT

- **WCA –** No report.

- **MDA Spring Grove Twp. Walkover –** No report.

MASWCD & MACDE

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving the registration fee of $20.00 each and mileage if a personal vehicle is used for the any staff or board supervisors wanting to attend the Area 7 MASWCD/MACDE Joint Fall Meeting.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving expenses for any staff interested in attending BWSR Academy.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Information and fees were shared on the upcoming MASWCD Annual Convention December 1 – 2, 2026. No action was taken at this time and will be brought to the board at the October 8, 2026 meeting.

WATERSHED UPDATES

Bear Creek – No report.

Crooked Creek – Meiners shared that two sinkholes have opened up on the S-3 structure after the July flood event. An NRCS engineer was recently on site to inventory and evaluate the area. One of the sinkholes is approximately ten feet deep and the other is 30 feet deep with lateral tunneling. The larger sinkhole will likely need an engineered plan to address the issue.

Root River 1W1P – Wermager stated the FY24/25 Root River 1W1P grant will be extended an additional year.

Winnebago – No report.

WinLaC 1W1P – Wermager shared he did some outreach in the Pine Creek area to generate interest in the cover crop funds available through the FY25 WinLaC 1W1P grant.

PROGRAM & STAFF REPORTS:

Jean Meiners, Technician

- **MDH Safe Drinking Water Tap-In** – No report.

- **MDH Well Inventory Grant** –Meiners stated she just did a mailing to Jefferson and Winnebago Townships.

- **BMP Projects –** Meiners shared she has been on site with the NRCS technician assisting with the construction and completion of two grade stabilization structures in Winnebago Township.

Dan Wermager, Technician

- **IWM (SWAG) –** Wermager indicated the final sampling at Winnebago Creek, Crooked Creek and Bear Creek for year one of the program was completed last week. Sampling will continue in 2027 at these locations.

- **Soil Health Delivery Grant** – Wermager stated these grant funds are all encumbered.

- **Southeast MN Nitrate Reduction & Water Protection Program** – Wermager stated a training session is to be held next week on the program. They are working on grant signatures at this time.

Janice Messner, Administrative Assistant

- **Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network** – Messner shared a volunteer has been recruited for an additional node that needed to be replaced. She stated there is one node left to fill out of 62 nodes.

- **Sixth Grade Environmental Day** – Messner stated the educational event will take place on Tuesday, September 15th with a rain date of September 29, 2026. It is being hosted at Winnebago Springs, Caledonia, MN. Two hundred ten students are expected to attend. Messner shared who the presenters are and their topic.

- **Tree Program** – Messner shared her proposed tree order and requested pricing. **Motion** by Feldmeier, seconded by Kruse, approving the tree order, the pricing of the IA DNR Nursery trees and allow Messner to set the pricing for the Schumacher trees when the pricing becomes available.
  Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Feldmeier read the minutes from their meeting held August 27, 2026. A brief discussion followed. No further action was taken but will be brought before the Board at the October 8, 2026 meeting.

TSA7 *(Joint Powers)* COMMITTEE: No report.

OLD BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Kruse, approving the Resolution to Submit Plan Renewal Amendment for the Root River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
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* **$ 1,650.22**
FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share *(Grant expiration 12/31/2028) Available Funds* **$ 204,805.38**

FY24 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Amendment Request

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving an amendment request for Contract #29FY24RR1W1P Sheehan, Alan or Kathy 351 Well Decommissioning amending the amended completion date of 9/30/2026 to 11/30/2026. This is due to contractor availability.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

.**FY26 Root River 1W1P Cost Share Request** *(Funding up to 75% of cost estimate with or without other non-state funding source)*

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Gulbranson, Dennis	12FY26RR1W1P	$3,000.00	$2,250.00	351 – Well Decommissioning	12/31/2026

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving contract #12FY26RR1W1P Gulbranson, Dennis 351 – Well Decommissioning $2,250.00. Funding Source FY26 Root River 1W1P Grant.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

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 Non-Structural Cost Share Request *(Flat Rate Funding not to exceed 100 acre cap)*

Name	Contract	Total Cost Estimate	Cost Share Amount Requested	Project	Completion Date
Schek, Eric	2025WinLaC-Roo-002	$50.00/acre @ 100 acres – single specie	$5,000.00	340 – Cover Crop	11/1/2026

Motion by Kruse, seconded by Welke, approving contract #2025WinLaC-Roo-002 Schek, Eric 340 – Cover Crop $5,000.00 contingent upon signatures. Funding Source FY25 WinLaC 1W1P Grant.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

After the above approval for contract 2025WinLaC-Roo-02 Copeland suggested we have staff with signing approval authority sign the contract after the landowner signs the contract instead of approving it with a contingency.

ARPA – *(Spending expiration 12/31/2026) Available Funds* **$ 9,769.39**

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
5185	Ron Carlsen – Rent – September	$ 1,287.00
5186	Kwik Trip – Fuel – SWCD Trucks	$ 290.20
5187	VISA – Postage = $111.00	$ 111.00
5188	Quill LLC – Office Supplies = $31.30; MDH Well Inventory Envelopes = $70.52	$ 101.82
5189	Talcott Resolution Life & Annuity Ins. Co. – Life Insurance - Policy #LU1188704 Dave Walter	$ 90.00
5190	Pheasants Forever, Inc. – SWCD Aid – Farm Bill Biologist	$ 2,500.00
5191	IA DNR State Forest Nursery - Trees	$ 3,942.50
5192	Anderson, Ken – Mileage	$ 54.72
5193	Driscoll, Joe – Mileage	$ 85.50
5194	Feldmeier, Matt – Mileage	$ 109.44

5195	Kruse, Glenn – Mileage	$ 60.80
5196	Welke, Jerry - Mileage	$ 159.60
5197	A7 MASWCD – A7 MASWCD/MACDE Mtg. 9/23/26 Registration $20/ea.	$ 80.00
5198	BWSR – 2026 BWSR Academy Registration	$ 570.00
	Total	***$ 9,442.58***

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Driscoll, approving payment of the above accounts payable.
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 Driscoll, seconded by Welke, approving payment of the above accounts payable and transfer of funds.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Feldmeier raised the topic of radon. A discussion followed. It was noted radon kits are available through Houston County Public Health.

Copeland suggested the SWCD host an event commemorating Root River SWCD's 90th anniversary.

Motion by Feldmeier, seconded by Welke, approving meeting adjournment.
Voting affirmative: Driscoll, Feldmeier, Kruse and Welke Opposed: None Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

NEXT MEETING -- Regular Meeting, October 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Ag Service Center

Approved: October 8, 2026 Joe Driscoll
Date Secretary

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