

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monday, September 22, 2025**

A meeting of the Rock County Soil and Water District Board was held Monday, August 18, 2025 at 8:00 AM at the Prairie Service Center with the following members present: Josh Ossefoort, Matt VanGrootheest, Jim Veldkamp, Dave Esselink, Roger Hoff, County Commissioner Stan Williamson, Director Eric Hartman, Assistant Director Arlyn Gehrke and Office Manager Mary Thompson.

Chair Hoff called the meeting to order and asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions, motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

NRCS Update

Nothing to report.

RCPP

Thompson presented the list of contracts in place thus far. The August additional request for funding of \$120,000 has been incumbered 80%. Staff is working on submission of information to share point and ELINK. The request for the September additional \$120,000 will be submitted by the end of the month. Thompson shared that in visiting with Jared House from BWSR, \$24,000 acres were put into contract statewide in the first 3 weeks of this program.

Conservation Agronomist

Gehrke stated the RCPP grant for the conservation agronomist, Caleb Rempel's position, with New Vision has been extended two years. He will continue to meet with our office on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Gehrke and Bos met with New Vision prior to Bos' retirement and they are very happy with the work Rempel has been doing.

Area V Meeting

Gehrke gave an overview of the Area V meeting. He and Russ Hoogendoorn attended. Next meeting will be virtual on February 19, 2026. The next TSA meeting will be virtual on January 7, 2026. Other than regular business the following topics were on the agenda.

MN Nutrient Reduction Study:

Matt Drewitz, Research Scientist, MPCA gave an overview of the Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). Since 2014 the NRS has guided the state in reducing excess nitrogen and phosphorus (collectively known as nutrients) in Minnesota's waters so that in-state water quality goals and 2040 goals that aim to restore the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Winnipeg, and Lake Superior are met. The NRS update was developed from the work of state, federal, and regional partner agencies and the University of Minnesota, along with broader input. The 2025 draft NRS update compiles the latest science, research, and data for strategies ~ including the local level ~ to reduce nutrients in our waters from both point and nonpoint sources. An overview of the NRS what it may mean for your SWCD work was provided.

BWSR Soil Health Funding

Jared House, Soils Programming Coordinator with BWSR provided an overview of the soil health funding. As an outcome from the 2023 legislative session, BWSR received \$21 million from the state's general fund and \$12 million from the Clean Water Fund to support soil health programming. BWSR was also awarded a \$25 million allocation from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program

(RCPP) to utilize as financial assistance for producers to support their implementation of soil health practices. By leveraging state and federal resources, BWSR, in coordination with NRCS and SWCD personnel, developed a comprehensive program initiative. An update on the SWCD soil health program including financial and technical assistance for producers was provided.

Cost Share Contract

Thompson presented contract FY24-1 Muller in the amount of \$41,588.33 for a basin project located in Rose Dell Township, Section 12F, NW 1/4. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Van Grootheest.

All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Bills for Approval

Thompson presented the following bills for approval:

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
09/22/2025	2736	BOMGAARS SUPPLY INC	\$8.99
09/22/2025	12060	LUVERNE/CITY OF	\$35.00
09/22/2025	1055	ROCK COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	\$75.00
09/22/2025	18751	ROCK COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT	\$79.78

Total \$ 198.77

Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Financial Statements

Hartman presented the August financial statement. After review, motion to approve by Veldkamp, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposed, motion carried.

Resolutions

The board reviewed and discussed the resolutions that will be presented at the MASWCD Annual Conventions. Each cast their vote after discussion.

Approval of August 18, 2025 Minutes

After review, motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting

No regular meeting in October due to harvest. Next meeting Monday, November 17, 2025.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Van Grootheest, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Thompson
Office Manager