



Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District  
 1424 E. College Drive, Suite 600  
 Marshall, MN 56258

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**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Tuesday, July 10, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Supervisors Present:** Laleman, Meulebroeck, Prairie

**Others Present:** Biren, Cauwels, Boerboom, Giles

**Absent:** Williams, Lanoue, Deutz, Crowley

**Conservation Planning Local Work Group (LWG)**

Review resource concern causes for local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. Input is from SWCD Supervisors and findings will be presented to State NRCS Employees. Top Resource concerns brought up to the group are as follows:

*Lyon County Survey Results 2024*

<i>Resource Concerns</i>	<i>Survey totals</i>
<i>Air Quality (Air pollution includes particles in the air or toxic substances such as Carbon Monoxide. Practices include: anaerobic digesters, waste facility covers, and animal composting facilities)</i>	1
<i>Erosion Control (Soil erosion that occurs at a high rate can negatively affect soil health and water quality. Practices include: diversion, reduced tillage, water control structures like dams and basins, and cover crops)</i>	13
<i>Forest Management (Forest management is important for maintaining plant and wildlife diversity. Practices include: windbreaks, shelter belts, forest stand improvement, and tree/shrub establishment)</i>	2
<i>Grazing (A well-managed grazing system can improve plant and animal health, as well as reduce erosion. Practices include: fencing, water tanks, and pasture seeding)</i>	1
<i>Water Recourse Protection (Critical for drinking water, agricultural uses, wildlife, and aesthetic beauty. Practices include: nutrient/pest management, well decommissioning, filter strips, and ag/livestock waste pits)</i>	10

*Wildlife Habitat Improvement (Maintaining habitats preserves biodiversity and critical ecosystems. Practices include: windbreaks, pollinator seeding, and wildlife habitat restoration)*

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**What do you feel are some of the roadblocks to installing practices? (I.e. funding, not enough staff, user-friendly programs, etc.)**

- Funding x8
  - Technical Staff, NRCS Staff
  - Lack of funding projects
  - Funding goes to wrong people
  - Cost of Practices
  - High Value of Ag Land x 2
- Lacking Information x2
  - Lack of expertise at NRCS
  - People not wanting to do the projects

**What type of trainings, demonstrations, field days would you like to see more of? (i.e., cover crops, soil health)**

- Field days on cover crops
- Field Date - Site with Erosion Control & Upland Management
- On Farm Retention – Examples of BMP's
- Soil Health/
- Conservation Practices

**What can the Lyon NRCS and SWCD do to serve you better**

- Hire NRCS Staff
- Help identify funding for river/creek flood control & infiltration promotion

Motion by Meulebroeck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laleman to accept the 2024 Resource Concerns Survey Results. All in favor, motion carried.

**Identify Any Conflicts of Interest:** Deutz abstain from Agenda Item G.

**Approve Agenda** – Motion by Lanoue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laleman to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried

**Approve June 12, 2024 Minutes**

Motion by Meulebroeck 2<sup>nd</sup> by Prairie to approve June 12, 2024 Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

**Financial Reports**

Financial Reports presented.

**Business**

- A. **GBERBA Update– Handout** – Handout from Danielle going over Area 5 MAWQCP applications and projects and assessments.

- B. #17/23 – Gary & Carol Mitzner – Grassed Waterway – Voucher Approval – Discussion & Approval** - Motion by Lanoue, 2nd by Prairie to approve the Voucher for the Grassed Waterway in the amount of \$2,268.11 which is 75% of the total cost of \$3,394.81 from all agencies. Landowner funds are \$848.70. Funds will be from 2023 Local Capacity. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. #18/23– Gary & Carol Mitzner – Grassed Waterway – Voucher Approval– Discussion & Approval** - Motion by Prairie, 2nd by Laleman to approve the Voucher for the Grassed Waterway in the amount of \$11,919.68 which is 75% of the total cost of \$20,366.24 from all agencies. Landowner funds are \$5,091.56. Funds will be from 2023 Local Capacity. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. Signs for Pollinator Plots – Discussion** – Looking at getting signs with the City of Marshall to enhance the Pollinator Plot areas. The city goes through Action Signs. Quotes came in at \$450.00. Motion by Meulebroeck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lanoue for 2 signs at \$450.00. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. #18/24 – Verly Brothers Farm Partners LLC – Well Sealing – Handout and Approval**  
Motion by Meulebroeck, 2nd by Lanoue to approve the Well Sealing Contract in the amount of \$500.00 which is 50% up to \$500.00 per well sealing policy of the total cost of \$1,883.40. Landowner funds are \$1,383.40. Funds will be from 2023 Local Water Management. All in favor, motion carried.
- F. #19/24 – Verly Brothers Farm Partners LLC – Well Sealing – Handout and Approval**  
Motion by Meulebroeck, 2nd by Lanoue to approve the Well Sealing Contract in the amount of \$500.00 which is 50% up to \$500.00 per well sealing policy of the total cost of \$2,079.50. Landowner funds are \$1,579.50. Funds will be from 2023 Local Water Management. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. #12/23 – Allen Deutz – Soil Health Cost Share Voucher – Handout and Approval** - Motion by Lanoue, 2nd by Meulebroeck to approve the Soil Health Cost Share Voucher in the amount of \$7,500.00. This voucher follows the Lyon SWCD Non-Structural Policy for the Soil Health Cost-Share Grant – “3-year contract paid in full after the first year of practice implementation.” Policy not to exceed \$7,500.00. Funds will be from 2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. Dan Lanoue – Amiret Section 25 & 27 – WASCOB Discussion** - 4 Basin projects have been sent to TSA. They put farmable basins in where they thought they made sense. One is against the farming practice direction and the other in the headland area. Asking the board if they would cost share on the farmable basins since it is TSA recommendation and not requested by Dan. The price will be a little more expensive to do the farmable basin. Prairie mentioned that if we start doing the cost share, it may start a precedent that we cost share on the farmable. Suggestion to have the landowner pay the difference between the farmable and non-farmable. Board would like cost estimates of what the basins will come in at. Future discussion.
- I. #14/24 – Bill, Dan & John Fischer – Grassed Waterway & Underground Outlet Contract Approval – Handout & Approval** - Motion by Laleman, 2nd by Lanoue to approve the Voucher for the Grassed Waterway & Underground Outlet in the amount of \$4,467.60 along with \$4,712.40, NRCS Cost –Share which is 75% of the total cost of \$12,240.00. Landowner funds are \$3,060.00. Funds will be from 2025 Conservation Delivery. All in favor, motion carried.
- J. #15/24 – Bill, Dan & John Fischer – Grassed Waterway– Contract Approval – Handout & Approval** - Motion by Meulebroeck, 2nd by Laleman to approve the Voucher for the Grassed Waterway in the amount of \$8,083.80 along with \$7,081.20, NRCS Cost – Share which is 75% of the total cost of \$20,220.00. Landowner funds are \$5,055.00. Funds will be \$ 776.00 from 2025 Conservation Delivery and \$7,307.80 from 2025 Conservation Contracts. All in favor, motion carried.

- K. **#17/24 – Bill, Dan & John Fischer – Grassed Waterway & Underground Outlet – Contract Approval – Handout & Approval** - Motion by Lanoue, 2nd by Laleman to approve the Voucher for the Grassed Waterway & Underground Outlet in the amount of \$32,863.20 along with \$7,156.80, NRCS Cost – Share which is 75% of the total cost of \$53,360.00. Landowner funds - are \$13,340.00. Funds will be from SWCD Aid. All in favor, motion carried.

**District Technician – Courtney, Blake & Brock**– Blake – approval from BWSR to reimburse the City of Marshall for HELP Pollinator Grant, working on Feedlot. Truax Seeder should be good to go. Brock – working on CREP and Rim Applications. Waterway design work. Courtney – Took Wetland Delineation class. 3 more projects designed. WCA Application and 1 violation.

**District Admin – Anita** – Email everything for Board Packets.

**District Report – John** - Enclosed grant application in packets for RCPP funds on Water Storage Funds. Comprehensive plan and possible soil loss ordinance.

**District Conservationist – Kelly Heather** – No report

**Pheasants Forever – Mark Peper**– No report

### **Committee Reports**

#### **RCRCA**

• **16th MN River Congress** – June 13, 2024. Ted Suss spoke on behalf of the MN River Collaborative and was patting speaking on their successes (Lyon CD 14, YM CD 9, Limbo Creek, etc.). Area II and Lyon County were given credit several times during the evening for being leaders in water storage. Julie Blackburn of ISG ended the evening with a presentation regarding the challenges to water storage, especially in ditch systems. She shared many photos of damages caused by ditch systems that are improperly sized and result in greater damage that if they are allowed an improvement.

• **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** Netzke Final Plan is out for Formal Review (July 1 – August 30). The Steering Committee will meet August 21, and the Public Hearing will be held on September 18, following by a Policy Committee meeting. The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet this Fall to review the Plan, with BWSR Board review/approval scheduled for their December meeting. The majority of the partners wish to utilize RCRCA’s existing JPA for implementation. Partners were asked to discuss this once more with their respective boards before the Policy Committee takes formal action upon this. The JPA will need revision to include the “orphan” areas outside of the Redwood and Cottonwood watersheds.

• **Redwood 1W1P** Public Information Kick-off meetings were held on June 25 at Lake Benton, and June 26 in Marshall and Redwood Falls. Attendances were 24, 24 and 11 respectively. Good discussion and comments were received at each meeting.

The Steering Committee and Policy Committee met July 8 to review the comments received, and review/edit the draft Land and Water Resources Narrative for the Plan. A revised logo was presented and approved.

• **2024 Canoe Trips** Both trips had to be cancelled due to the flood events which occurred the 3rd week of June.

#### **Area II River Basins**

• **Yellow Medicine Watershed Pilot Water Storage Project** The last meeting for this project was June 10, 2024. With the identified sites for future water retention, a 4.7% reduction in flows (cfs) is a realistic watershed goal. In summary: 1) existing storage projects have made a big difference in the hydrograph, 2) it’s important not to lose any of the existing storage, and 3) the existing projects have been located well and have impacted the peaks. A technical work group will meet to learn how to use the model and manipulate the data.

• **General Fund Construction Grants** Frustrations continue with the MMB process. Yellow Medicine County has approved two agreements which have been returned to BWSR & MMB for final approval. The Redwood County attorney refused to approve the agreement ‘as is’ due to stipulations that are not relevant to the county as a grantee (such as insurance on private property). The attorney marked up the agreement which was forwarded to MMB for review, and most likely Attorney General review. Once she is satisfied with the agreement, she will allow the county to sign. I am awaiting the decision on a revised grant agreement before approaching the Lyon County Commissioners with the 4th project (Island Lake 27 Dam Repair).

**Area V** –Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> in Windom included Jeffers Petroglyphs tour. Meeting to be held in September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Marshall, MN. Farmfest

- **SW Prairie TSA** –Meeting was held on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Soil Health Staffing grant approved. PRAP Grant and purchased equipment. Next meeting on September 9th
- **Park & Rec** – Flooding at Garvin park
- **Yellow Medicine Watershed** – No report
- **One Watershed One Plan (Yellow Medicine)** – No report
- **One Watershed One Plan (Des Moines)** – No report
- **One Watershed One Plan (Cottonwood-Middle MN)** - Netzke Final Plan is out for Formal Review (July 1 – August 30). The Steering Committee will meet August 21, and the Public Hearing will be held on September 18, following by a Policy Committee meeting. The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet this Fall to review the Plan, with BWSR Board review/approval scheduled for their December meeting.

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**One Watershed One Plan (Redwood)** – Public Information Kick-off meetings were held on June 25 at Lake Benton, and June 26 in Marshall and Redwood Falls. Attendances were 24, 24 and 11 respectively. Good discussion and comments were received at each meeting.

The Steering Committee and Policy Committee met July 8 to review the comments received, and review/edit the draft Land and Water Resources Narrative for the Plan. A revised logo was presented and approved.

**County** – No report

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

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Lyon SWCD Board Chair Signature

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Attest by Board Member

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Date

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Date