

LYON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Lyon County Soil & Water Office

1424 E. College Drive, Ste 600

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Lyon County Soil and Water Conservation District

Present: Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Steve Prairie

Absent: Allen Deutz, Mark Meulebroeck

Staff: Courtney Williams, Brock Boerboom, John Biren, Blake Giles, Anita Cauwels

County: Paul Graupmann

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance 4:08 p.m.

2. IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest

3. AMEND/APPROVE AGENDA

Amend/Approve September 11, 2024 SWCD Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve

Mover: John Lanoue

Secunder: Steve Prairie

Moved To: Approve

For: 3 - Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Steve Prairie

Motion Result: Passed

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Approve August 14, 2024 SWCD Minutes

Motion to approve

Mover: John Lanoue

Secunder: Steve Prairie

Moved To: Approve

For: 3 - Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Steve Prairie

Motion Result: Passed

4.1 August 14, 2024 SWCD Minutes

[2024 August SWCD Minutes.pdf](#)

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

SWCD Financial Reports

5.1 Account Activity Report

Cauwels presented Account Activity Report

[Account Activity Report.pdf](#)

5.2 2024 SWCD Budget

Cauwels presented 2024 Budget

[Budget.pdf](#)

5.3 Grant Breakdown Sheet

Cauwels presented Grant Breakdown Sheet
[Grant Breakdown Sheet.xlsx](#)

6. BUSINESS

6.1 GBERBA Update

August 2024 update on Greater Blue Earth River Basin
Projects [August 2024 GBRBA Update.docx](#)

6.2 2025 Soil Health Delivery Grant Discussion and Nonstructural Conservation Practice Cost Share Policy Approval

Giles explained the Soil Health Deliver Grant for \$100,000.00. Received guidance from John Shea, BWSR Board Conservationist on Different phases of the Grant and how grant funds can be spent. Phase 2 can cover Staffing and Education Outreach. Phase 3 (Federal money) of the grant will solely at EQIP rates and rules for practices or incentive payments. Contracts can only be signed by someone with JAA.

Clarification on the Nonstructural Conservation Practice Cost Share.
Recommendation to rank practices and do payments by acres vs. the current \$7,500.00 per practice.

Will bring back in the future for more clarification on what the Board would like to see funds spent on.

[Nonstructural Policy.pdf](#)

[Soil Health Delivery Grant Agreement.pdf](#)

6.3 TSA Soil Health Staffing Grant Work Plan

TSA Soil Health Staffing Work Plan shared with Redwood SWCD. Landowners will have resources to work with consultants for knowledge of soil health practices and education.

[Soil Health Staffing Work Plan.pdf](#)

7. DISTRICT TECHNICIANS

Courtney Williams, Blake Giles, Brock Boerboom

Giles - Wrap up for Farmfest. Presenting at Area V Meeting. Working on possibly switching booth to join with NRCS Booth. Ordered Bumper Stickers for Equipment and Vehicles.

Boerboom - Working through Easement Applications, submitted 3 new wetland easement and 1 grassland easement.

8. DISTRICT ADMIN

Anita Cauwels

MASWCD Annual Convention sign up for December 3th & 4th, 2024 in Bloomington.

9. DISTRICT MANAGER

John Biren

Rebuild Dam at Garvin Park, will need archaeological facts and results should be in

soon. Would like to make it a dam and possibly a recreational area. Preliminary designs have been done.

10. PHEASANTS FOREVER/FARM BILL

BIOLOGIST *Mark Peper*

No report.

11. DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST/LEAD CST -

NRCS *Kelly Heather*

Kelly Heather talked about EQIP funds and most of them were spent on Structures and Grazing. EQIP deadline was last week. CSP has no deadline for 2025 yet. Soil Health Coalition has payment for Cover Crops.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports

12.1 RCRCA

- **Area II/RCRCA Legislative Gathering SAVE THE DATE:** *Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Springfield Area Community Center. Guest presenter will be Carrie Jennings from the Freshwater Society (formerly from the MN Geological Society) who always keeps the audience entertained by making science fun.*
- *RCRCA will be sending their joint powers agreement to Ann Goering for updating for the Cottonwood and Redwood 1W1Ps and for bylaws to be drafted.*

12.2 Area II River Basins

- **General Fund Construction Grants** *For the Island Lake 27 Dam Restoration, Area II is waiting on one more signature for the Flowage Easement, and will then request Lyon County to be the grant recipient at their September 17 meeting. If the Lyon County Attorney has issues with the grant agreement like Redwood County did, it is hoped that we can utilize a similar Use Agreement to allow the project to proceed. Fall construction is anticipated as Ground Works (Bill Sterzinger) was the low bidder.*
- **Corps of Engineers - Stream Mitigation** *Just like low-quality wetlands, low-quality streams must also have impacts mitigated. Since there is not an existing bank for credits, undertaking a stream restoration project is the only way to mitigate impacts at this time. In order to determine those impacts, the Corps has developed a Stream Quality Tool and Debit Calculator. However, unless you are a stream biologist and have had the 3-day training, using these tools is extremely difficult. Even trained professionals do not find the system easy. In order to move forward on a new dam construction project in Redwood County, Bolton & Menk has been hired to perform these tasks on the impacted site as well as the identified streambank to be restored. Bolton & Menk quoted \$9,500 to perform these services and up to \$10,700 is additional meetings with the Corps is necessary. After this first project, we will see if local technical staff will be able to perform the stream assessments.*

12.3 Area V

Meeting will be September 19, 2024 at St. Stephens Church

12.4 SW Prairie TSA

Meeting was held on September 9, 2024. Performance Review & Assistance

program will be finalizing report at Area 5 Meeting on September 19, 2024. Contract Renewal for Dawn Madison approved for 2 years. Approved ESTS Grant for \$242,500.00. Purchased new computers \$9,417.00. Approved purchase of pickup to include trade-in value of 2019 Chevy Pickup plus \$35,000.00. Next meeting (Virtual) is January 13, 2025.

12.5 Parks

Meeting was held on August 15, 2024. Topics of discussion are Camping Rates, Shelter Reservations, Hunting in Park, Tour of Construction and Acquiring land at Twin Lakes Park.

12.6 One Watershed One Plan - Yellow Medicine

August 21, 2024 Meeting. Approved Levy and Budget for 2025. Went over 5 Cost Share Contracts.

12.7 One Watershed One Plan - Des Moines

No report

12.8 One Watershed One Plan - Cottonwood-Middle MN

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** *The 60-Day Formal Review ran from July 1 to August 30. Agency comments were minor and easy to respond to. The Public Hearing has been set for 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 18 at the Springfield Area Community Center. Each county has published public notice of this meeting as well as posting on social media and website. The Policy Committee will meet immediately following the Public Hearing. The next steps will be for each partner (counties, SWCDs, JPOs, and City of Springfield) to adopt resolutions to submit the Plan to BWSR for approval. Your staff person will have the resolution ready for approval at your October meeting.*

12.9 One Watershed One Plan - Redwood

- **Redwood River 1W1P** *The Steering Team and Policy Committee will meet September 9. The Land and Water Resource Narrative is complete, priority issues have been drafted, and discussion on Measurable Goals is beginning. The first Advisory Committee meeting is anticipated to be October 14. This is Advisory Committee only. November 18, 2024 will be the Policy Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m. Steering Team will be virtual & Doodle Poll set. No meetings in December.*

12.10 County Board

Working on 2025 Budget.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Lyon SWCD Board Chair Signature

Attest by Board Member

Date

Date