



629 NORTH 11TH STREET
COURTHOUSE SUITE 7
MONTEVIDEO, MN 56265

PHONE: 320-269-2696

**Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
August 5, 2024**

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, 629 N 11th ST, Suite 7, Montevideo, MN 56265.

1. Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Calin Eisenlohr at 3:00 p.m.
 1. Members present: Steve Jacobson, Calin Eisenlohr, Aaron Ahrenholz, Michelle Overholser
 2. Other present: SWCD Staff- Zach Bothun, Desirae Jarett; BWSR BC: Luke Olson; County Commissioner: Matt Gilbertson
2. M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve the agenda with additions. All in favor.
3. M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve the July meeting minutes. All in favor.
4. Bills were presented for ratification and payment.
5. Luke Olson, BWSR Board Conservationist, gave the following update on BWSR grant happenings:
 1. Chippewa SWCD will be receiving soil health cost share grant for \$80,000, this grant can be used as match for Phase 3 RCPP funds; SWCDs will receive Phase 3—RCPP implementation grants next year, these funds can be used out of priority area if board sees fit; discussed the possibility of Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) request for proposal (RFP); discussed Multi-Purpose Drainage Management Funds—this work would be done closely with the county drainage authority—just shy of \$1M available; Luke requested an update on the Soil Health Capacity Grant - 1) Kanati Partnership — the district is brining Kanati up to speed on program availability & policies, will be contacting agronomy folks to teach them about available programs/cost share and 2) Renville SWCD .25FTE— Renville SWCD is working with staff and landowners on outreach events and will provide technical assistance to Chippewa staff and landowners when needed; Luke also updated the board on RIM 1W1P opportunities
6. **Action Items:**
 1. Zach Bothun presented a cost share contract CMRWP 24-20 in Lone Tree 35. This is a Drainage Water Management project to be cost shared through the CMRWP for a 40.4-acre storage area that will include tile, 7 water control structures, and a lift station and pump. Total project cost is \$136,512.18 with cost share requested \$51,415.59.
 - M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson approve cost share contract as presented. All in favor.
 2. 2024 Guidelines on Use of SWCD Aid Payments Resolution was presented.
 - M/S/P Ahrenholz, Jacobson approve resolution as presented. All in favor.
 3. Staff and board discussed 2024 Conservationist of the Year candidates.
 - M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz name Halvorson Management as 2024 Chippewa SWCD Conservationist of the Year. All in favor.
 4. Zach Bothun discussed a Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant application to fund a shared position between Chippewa, Swift, and Kandiyohi SWCDs. If successful, an outreach person would be hired by Kandiyohi SWCD. Chippewa SWCD would be the fiscal host.
 - M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson approve to move forward with submitting the CWF AIG application. All in favor.
7. **Discussion Items:**
 1. Zach discussed September personnel committee meeting—will check dates in first 2 weeks of September, prior to Sept 9 and find a day that works with staff and committee.



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8. Staff Reports

- District Manager: Monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: Prepping for the last session of the MASWCD Leadership Institute August 14-15th in Grand Rapids, MN; fair display put together and set up at the Chippewa County Fair; met the new DNR Hydrologist for our area; attended CRWA sub-committee meeting to develop cost share policy, project scoring and ranking, and developing our first work plan / budget request for our first round of WBIF funding for the Chippewa River watershed planning area; met with Kanati Land Management and Kandiyohi SWCD staff on July 10th to kick off our initial soil health outreach efforts; worked on a new Drainage Water Management project and developed contract folder for a CMRWP cost share project (CMRWP 24-20); WCA Joint Project Application processed for a solar farm along Hwy 7, wetland banking mitigation plan reviewed for the Hawk Creek Wetland Bank Mitigation Plan/Full Application, assisted landowners with drainage questions and set up appointments with DNR Hydrologist, reviewed and signed wetland banking transaction forms; read up on WCA statute changes. (The most significant changes (effective August 1) were made to align with the Federal Swampbuster's Certified Wetland Determinations.); RIM Vegetative Enhancement – Haying Agreement inquiries; conducted performance evaluations on staff following self-evaluations and completed my self-eval for the SWCD board; discussed Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant with Swift and Kandiyohi SWCD.

9. Important upcoming dates were announced.

10. Adjourn.

1. M/S/P Overholser, Jacobson approve adjournment of meeting. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2024—Commissioner's Room, Courthouse 3:00 P.M.
*****PLEASE LET OFFICE STAFF KNOW A.S.A.P. IF YOU WILL NOT MAKE IT TO THE MEETING*****