



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

PHONE: 320-269-2696

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

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, Courthouse, 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
 2. Other present: SWCD Staff-Desirae Jarett, Zach Bothun, Tom Sletta; County Commissioner- Matt Gilbertson
2. M/S/P Ahrenholz, Jacobson approve the agenda with additions. All in favor.
3. M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve the January meeting minutes. All in favor.
4. Bills were presented for ratification and payment.
5. **New Business**
 1. Zach presented an addition to the cost share policy to include tree cost share at a percentage-based rate.
 - M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve addition to cost share policy as presented. All in favor.
 2. Desirae presented an audit engagement letter from Peterson Company LTD.
 - M/S/P Ahrenholz, Jacobson approve 2023 audit to be completed by Peterson Company LTD per the audit engagement letter. All in favor.
 3. Desirae presented a letter from the Area II Envirothon requesting contribution of funds.
 - M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve to contribute \$150 to the Area II Envirothon. All in favor.
 4. Desirae presented information on the WCMASWCD Area II meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 and this year's Legislative Days to be held March 12-13, 2024.
6. **Staff Reports**
 1. District Manager: Monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: attended Leadership Training in Alexandria January 16-17; started the website migration process with Streamline; planned and hosted a nonstructural/soil health contract training on January 24th for surrounding SWCD partners to compare and discuss nonstructural cost share contracts and policies; wrote Soil Health Phase 1 Request for Proposal (RFP); attended CRWA virtual TAC meeting to discuss next steps and gear up for implementation; was put on CRWA subcommittee to work on pollution reduction estimators, cost share policy, WBIF agreements, etc.; attended CMRWP TC meetings to review and work through work plans for FY22 supplemental funding, and FY24025 WBIF's; worked on cost share policy updates; reviewed a new tracking tool called MS4 Front; attended BWSR operational facilitated discussion to review roles and responsibilities with contracted services, JPB roles, staff roles, and contracting with WBIF funds; held WCA TEP meetings to review project applications for Duininck's gravel pits; had correspondence with BWSR Wetland Specialist Dilan Christiansen on projects; and drainage requests processed. Zach also noted that discrepancies between WCA and Swampbuster could create future controversy with landowners due to the removal of FW's on USDA wetland determinations.
 2. District Technician: Monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: tree site visits with landowners; designed tree plans; received order of tree tubes; scheduling tractor brake repair; attended cost share meeting; sent in CREP/RIM title



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reimbursement; in process of obtaining title commitment from state for a RIM easement that is in the works; made maps to send to landowners for potential erosion projects; contacted contractor asking for bid packet; waiting on final design for rain garden; and looked online for carburetor for mulcher.

7. Desirae noted important upcoming dates.
8. Adjourn.
 1. M/S/P Jacobson, Ahrenholz approve adjournment of meeting. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: March 4, 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*****