

# **DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**

**August 11, 2025 – 7:30 A.M.**

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Monday, August 11, 2025. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Froemming, Rutten, and Ledermann. Also, in attendance were Soil Conservationist- Cole Montgomery, County Commissioner Way, Staff attending Haggemiller, Albertsen, Arceneau, Jenc, Rice and Olson.

**Pledge was recited.**

**Minutes of the regular July 7 meeting** were discussed. Motion by Rutten to approve the minutes, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** was read. Motion by Froemming to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

## **Reports**

- A. Coordinator's Report** – Haggemiller handed out his monthly report.
- B. Pomme de Terre Update** – Andy reported that Houston is in the process of the Mid Plan review of the 1W1P.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten said he attended Lake Osakis meeting on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. High Phosphorus and septic inspection for Todd and Douglas Counties.
- D. Chippewa River Report** – No Report next meeting is on August 19.
- E. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – No Report
- F. DCLA Report** – No Report
- G. Long Prairie Report** – No Report
- H. Douglas County Commissioner Report**- Commissioner Way mentioned getting ready for the County Fair, reviewing process of the Rainbow Riders building.

## **Old Business**

- A. MASWCD Governance is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- B. MASWCD 2025 Awards Application.** Motion by Dropik to nominate Bryan Miescher for the 2025 Outstanding Conservationist, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.
- C. Soil Health RCCP Grant Agreement** was approved for \$180,000.00
- D. Fair Schedule was handed out.**

## **New Business**

- A. NRCS Field Office** Cole Montgomery mentioned that Last Friday was our intern Rylee's last day. Unsure as of now if they will have a position open for her if she wishes to return full time after school. Finished obligating all the new EQIPs that were preapproved at the end of June. It ended up being another 2.2 million in EQIP in Douglas County bringing the

yearly number to 4.6 million. May still be more funds to come but likely not much. CSP funding should be done for the year as well. EQIP application deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup> came and went. They have about 75 applications in Douglas. Many applicants will receive a letter asking them if they are still interested and to respond by August 29<sup>th</sup> if so. They will then have until November 21<sup>st</sup> to have a plan in place. They met as a team to discuss screening and ranking. They are attempting to screen out applications doing a minimum suite of practices as well as those that do not have agreed upon plans in place for grazing, basins, or ag wastes. Ranking they are attempting to make sure that those doing basin projects or the most no-till & covers float to the top. EQIP 2026 changes so far - \$25,000 cap per practice & slight reduction in payment rates.

- B. Proposed 2026 Budget** – Haggenmiller will present budget at the August 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's Meeting.
- C. Long Prairie Watershed CRP Incentive Applications** Motion by Ledermann to approve D-LPCRP- 25-07 Leaf Valley Township Section 11 20.94 Acres \$500/Acre Total Incentive \$10,470.00 using Long Prairie CRP Incentive Funds and D-LPCRP -25-06 Leaf Valley Township Section 16 50.50 Acres \$500/Acre Total Incentive \$15,000.00 (Maximum Payment) using Long Prairie CRP Incentive Funds, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- D. Sauk River Watershed CRP Incentive Applications** Motion by Rutten to approve Orange Township 11 4.11 acres - \$100/ac (\$411.00) Orange Township 11 2.83 acres - \$100/ac (\$283.00) Orange Township 25 3.24 acres - \$100/ac (\$324.00) Hudson Township 25.35 Acres - \$100/ac (\$2,535.00) Leslie Township 27 6.11 Acres - \$500/ac (\$3,055.00) Leslie Township 27 13.08 Acres - \$500/ac (\$6,540.00) Osakis Township 8 17.64 Acres - \$100/ac (\$1,764.00) Orange Township 3 9.14 Acres - \$100/ac (\$914.00) Belle River Township 32, 33 64.23 Acres - \$500.00/ac (15,000.00), seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.
- E. FY 25 Soil Health Cost Share Applications**
1. FY25 Soil Health #6 Leaf Valley Section 20 Millerville Section 13 Multi-Species Cover Crop 190.41 Acres \$50.00/Acre Total Cost Share \$9,520.50 Using FY25 Soil Health Cost Share.
  2. FY25 Soil Health #7 Carlos Township Section 13 & 35 Multi-Species Cover Crop 33.08 Acres \$50.00/Acre Total Cost Share \$1,654.00 Using FY25 Soil Health Cost Share. Motion by Ledermann to approve FY 25 Soil Health # 6 & #7, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.
- F. FY 24 Conservation Contracts Cost Share Applications**
1. FY24 CC#3 Millerville Township Section 18 Water & Sediment Control Basins Total Cost \$38,543.00 Cost Share 75% \$28,907.25 with EQIP Cost Share rate at \$20,970 & FY24 Conservation Contract Cost Share \$5,418.82 & FY25 CC \$2,518.43. Motion by Froemming to approve FY 24 CC#3, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.
- G. FY 25 Soil Health Cost Share Payment**
1. FY 25 Soil Health #5 Leaf Valley Township Section 13 Windbreak Total Cost \$6,765.86 Cost Share \$4,875.00 from FY25 Soil Health Cost Share Motion by Rutten to approve FY 25 Soil Health #5, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried.

**H. FY24 NRBG Septic Update Cost Share Payment**

2. FY24NRBG #4 Belle River Township Section 32 Septic Upgrade Total Cost \$19,500.00 Cost Share Flat Rate \$12,000.00 using \$647.00 FY 24 NRBG Septic & \$11,353.00 FY25 NRBG Septic. Motion by Dropik to approve FY 24 NRBG # 4, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried

**I. FY25 NRBG Septic Update Cost Share Payments**

1. FY 25 NRBG #1 Millerville Township Section 9 Total Cost \$20,000.00 Cost Share Flat Rate \$15,000.00 using FY25NRBG Septic Cost Share.
2. FY25 NRBG #4 Millerville Township 15 Total Cost \$17,454.55 Cost Share Flat Rate of \$12,000.00 using FY25NRBG Septic Cost Share.
3. FY25 NRBG #8 Spruce Hill Township Section 12 Total Cost \$7,275.00 Cost Share Flat Rate \$7,275.00 using FY25 NRBG Septic Cost Share. Motion by Froemming to approve FY 25 NRBG #1, #4, #8, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried

**J. Agreement with Pope SWCD** Motion by Rutten to approve to review and sign with level 3 JAA on the NRCS 340 designs for Pope SWCD, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried

**Bills to Pay.** During the month of August, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11918-11954 for a total of \$143,531.07 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Ledermann to pay the bills, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

**Adjournment.** Motion by Barsness to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary