

**DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
Wednesday, January 14, 2026–8:00 A.M.**

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Froemming, Rutten, and Lederman. Also, in attendance were Commissioner Way, Staff attending Haggemiller, Albertsen, Anderson, Arceneau, Jenc, Rice and Olson.

Pledge was recited.

Re-Organization of the Board of Supervisors. Motion by Rutten to have no change from 2025 to 2026 Officers, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried. Barsness-Chairman, Rutten-Vice-Chairman, Ledermann-Treasurer, Dropik-Secretary.

Minutes of the regular December 8, 2025, meeting was discussed. Motion by Froemming to approve subject to audit, seconded by Ledermann Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read. Motion by Dropik to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Reports

- A. Coordinator's Report** – Haggemiller handed out his monthly report.
- B. Pomme de Terre Update** – Barsness reported that Rachel Bohn gave a Mid-Point Review. They reviewed the budget, did a re-organizational of board, Barsness is Vice President and will sit on the budget committee. Next meeting is on February 13.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten reported on the Houston report on JD2 cleanout.
- D. Chippewa River Report** – Ledermann reported they met on December 19. Reviewed the Grant Applications, Work Plans and WRAPS.
- E. Long Prairie Report** – Dropik reported their meeting was cancelled until March.
- F. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – No meeting
- G. Douglas County Commissioner Report-** Way reported Rush went over the new ordinances. Re-organization of Board. He is Vice President again and on the Library Board. Reviewed AIS meeting, Year end update, CR 14 repairs will start in Spring, ACM first week in December was well attended

Old Business

MN Paid Leave Rate Adjustment – Motion by Froemming to approve .22% District and .44% Employees, subject to audit, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

New Business

- A. NRCS Field Office** Jerry gave the field report
- B. 2026 Meeting Schedule** – Haggemiller mentioned the schedule was approved at the December meeting.
- C. Set Supervisors Compensation** Motion by Rutten to leave compensation at \$125, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- D. Set Mileage Rate** Motion by Froemming to follow the Federal Mileage Rate of .72.5¢/mile for 2026, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- E. Designate Depositories** Motion by Froemming to designate Old National Bank as the Douglas SWCD depository, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- F. Assign Committees**
- 1. Chippewa River Watershed Association**– Ledermann, Alternate - Froemming
 - 2. Pomme de Terre Watershed Group** – Barsness, Alternate-Ledermann
 - 3. Sauk River Watershed Group** – Rutten, Alternate- Dropik
 - 4. West Central Area II Joint Powers** – Froemming, Alternate Ledermann
 - 5. Long Prairie Watershed Group** – Dropik, Alternate Froemming
 - 6. EQIP Local Work Group**–Barsness, Froemming
 - 7. Douglas Legacy Fund**-Froemming
- G. Dues**
- National Association of Conservation Districts - \$775.00** Motion by Ledermann to approve National Association of Conservation Districts - \$775.00 dues, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- MN Assn of Conservation Districts - \$7,654.59** Motion by Rutten to approve MN Assn of Conservation Districts - \$7,654.59 dues, seconded by Froemming Motion carried.
- Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust - \$11,752.00** Motion by Dropik to approve Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust - \$11,752.00 dues, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.
- H. WCA Applications** - Motion by Ledermann to approve Douglas County Public Works McKay Avenue Trail proposal to fill .05 Acre and replace 2:1 through Wetland Banking seconded by Dropik Motion carried. Motion by Rutten to approve Douglas County Public Works CSAH 14 fill .95 acres & replace 2:1 1.9 acres through wetland banking. seconded by Froemming Motion carried.
- I. Cost Share Payments**
- 1. Contract #21-1-1 Cover Crops Leaf Valley Township Section 16 & 17 284.4 Acres @ \$35/Acre Total Cost Share \$9,954.00 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share** Motion by Ledermann to approve Contract #21-1-1 Cover Crops Leaf Valley Township Section 16 & 17 284.4 Acres @ \$35/Acre Total Cost Share \$9,954.00 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

2. **Contract #21-1-2 Cover Crops Holmes City Township Section 31 & Solem Township 20 228.0 Acres @ \$35/Acre Total Cost Share \$7,980.00 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share** Motion by Rutten to approve Contract #21-1-2 Cover Crops Holmes City Township Section 31 & Solem Township 20 228.0 Acres @ \$35/Acre Total Cost Share \$7,980.00 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
 3. **Contract #21-1-3 Cover Crops Solem Township Section 18 34.4. Acres @ \$50/Acre Total Cost Share \$1720.00 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share** Motion by Froemming to approve Contract #21-1-3 Cover Crops Solem Township Section 18 34.4. Acres @ \$50/Acre Total Cost Share \$1720.00 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
 4. **Contract #21-1-4 Cover Crops Spruce Hill Township Section 3, 10 &13 282.7 Acres@ \$35/Acre Total Cost Share \$9,894.50 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share** Motion by Dropik to approve Contract #21-1-4 Cover Crops Spruce Hill Township Section 3, 10 &13 282.7 Acres@ \$35/Acre Total Cost Share \$9,894.50 using FY25 RCCP Cost Share, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.
 5. **Chippewa River WBIF Contract Water & Sediment Control Total Cost \$ 26,347.00 Cost Share \$19,760.25 using Chippewa River WBIF Funds** Motion by Ledermann to approve Chippewa River WBIF Contract Water & Sediment Control Total Cost \$ 26,347.00 Cost Share \$19,760.25 using Chippewa River WBIF Funds, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried.
- J. **Well Sealing Cost Share Rate** Motion by Rutten to approve 75% as the new rate, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- K. **MASWCD & BWSR on Election options** – Barsness and Froemming
- L. **MN DNR – Public Waters Inventory Update** – Rice, Siira and Commissioner Rapp will meet.
- M. **BWSR – FY26 Buffer Grant Agreement \$20,000** Motion by Rutten to approve BWSR – FY26 Buffer Grant Agreement \$20,000, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- N. **2025 Audit Letter** Motion by Dropik to sign 2025 Audit Letter, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- O. **Thank You** – Envirothon Raffle Donation – handed around thank you.
- P. **Jerome Haggemiller Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$2.25 plus .90 for extra work for part time employee (\$3.15), seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- Q. **Jessica Albertsen Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$1.28 plus .90 for extra work for part time employees (\$2.18), seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- R. **Danielle Anderson Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$1.42, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

- S. **Starla Arceneau Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$1.56, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- T. **Kasey Jenc Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$1.36, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- U. **Ian Olson Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$1.42 plus .90 for extra work for part time employees (\$2.32), seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.
- V. **Andy Rice Review** Motion by Rutten to approve \$1.84 plus .90 for extra work for part time employees (\$2.74), seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

VIII. Bills to Pay. During the month of January, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11685-11715 for a total of \$400,255.41 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Rutten to pay the bills, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

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

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary