DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

Monday, June 08, 2026–8:00 A.M.

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Monday June 08, 2026. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members attending were Barsness, Dropik, Froemming, Rutten, and Ledermann. Also, in attendance were Commissioner Way, Cole Montgomary, NRCS, Staff attending Haggenmiller, Albertsen, Jenc, Rice and Olson.

Pledge was recited.

Minutes of the regular May 11, 2026, meeting were discussed. There were some dollar amounts on the previous minutes that were incorrect. Motion by Rutten to approve subject to audit and with the corrections, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read. Past due bills are slowly getting paid. Motion by Ledermann to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Reports

A. **Coordinator's Report –** Haggenmiller handed out his monthly report.

B. **Pomme de Terre Update –** No Meeting, next meeting is this Friday

C. **Sauk River Report –** Meeting was last Wednesday, June 3. Lots of Discussion on the Cold Spring Dam Project Updates

D. **Chippewa River Report –** May 15 was the last meeting. Review funding, activities and annual reports. WRAPS report on Water quality and watershed. Increasing amounts of water flow.

E. **Long Prairie Report –** No Meeting for June, Next meeting is in July

F. **Water Quality Legacy Fund –** No Meeting

G. **Douglas County Commissioner Report**- Way mentioned that CR 40 was repaved and now is nice. CR 14 is being worked on currently. Kensington Railroad was voted to keep the railroad open and functional. Railroad company oversees upkeep. Elections are underway, with only one district for commissioners running opposed, as well as the county attorney. Closer to working on compliance officer for Land and Resource. Library and Hockey arena tax didn't pass during the legislative session so it will not be on the ballot.

Old Business –

A. **Tree Shed driveway repair quote-** Still waiting on getting quotes to fix.

B. **Area II Meeting June 17 – Alexandria** - All supervisors will be attending and 6 staff.

C. **Supervisor Filing Period** May 19 - June 2. Barsness & Froemming both filed to re-run.

D. **Dittberner's Creek Culvert Project** Bid award – 9 contractors requested bid packets and 8 were returned. Low bid came in at $266,130 for Joe Riley Construction. Project cost will be reimbursed through a grant with the MN DNR. Motion by Rutten to approve Joe Riley Constructions bid. Second by Ledermann. Motion Carried.

E. **Draft Strategic Plan -** Packet didn't get sent before board meeting to staff and supervisors. Will be sent out after board meeting and review for July meeting.

New Business

A. **NRCS Field Office** Cole Montgomery reported that Walker has started his 120 day tour acting as the Assistant to the State Con for Field Ops. Montgomery has started his 120 day tour acting for Team Lead and Guzik has started her 120 day tour acting as the Douglas County DC. NRCS Chief has stepped down unexpectedly and a new one has already been appointed temporarily. EQIP – has received 1 application for funding in the regenerative pilot program pool for $450,000. 3 Other preapproved applications outstanding to finish up. June funds assessment – 6 million additional funds has been requested for the team and about 2 million of that would come to Douglas County. Staffing is still at a hiring freeze. CSP – obligated the first 2 contracts are funded. NW Area got a ton of money for CSP and most of it is coming to the local team. 1 pasture was funded through the reg. pilot program pool and 6 were funded through classic funds in Douglas County. Lots of progress has been made with spring spot checks. Almost all the no-till and hay plantings have been checked. Most of the wildlife seedlings have gone in. Most contracts will remain on schedule.

B. **Cost Share Cancelation**

1. FY25 Soil Health #11 Landowner wishes to cancel and refund cost share. Total Cost Share paid $1,456.00. Motion by Ledermann to approve cancelation and refund of contract. Second by Rutten. Motion Carried. Froemming obtained.

C. **Cost Share Applications**

1. D-LP WBIF 23- Lake Shore Restoration Project, LaGrande Twp. Sec. 22. Total estimated cost $15,339.00. Cost Share at 75% or $11,504.25 using FY23 LP WBIF funds. Motion by Rutten to approve cost share application. Second by Dropik. Motion Carried.

D. **Cost Share Amendment**

1. D-LP WBIF 23-09 Lake Shore Restoration Project Leaf Valley Twp. Sec. 24 request to increase cost share amount by $450 because a well was discovered during a lakeshore restoration project and needed to be sealed. Fund for amendment from the FY23 LP WBIF funds. Motion by Ledermann to approve, Second by Dropik. Motion Carried.

E. Cost Share Payments

1. FY 22 NRBG Septic #5 Ida Sec. 33 Septic Update. Total Cost is $27,312.00. Cost share flat rate at $15,000 using $1,213.00 FY22, $6,286.00 FY24, and $7,501.00 Fy25 funds. Motion by Rutten to make payment. Second by Ledermann. Motion Carried

2. D-LP WBIF 23-09 Lake Shore Restoration Leaf Valley Twp. Sec. 24. Total cost $31,795.00 Cost Share at 75% or $23,846.25 using FY 23 LP WBIF funds. Motion by Dropik to approve payment. Second by Ledermann. Motion Carried.
3. FY 26 RCCP 21-1-9 No-till Millerville TWP. Sec. 13 and Leaf Valley Twp. 21. 248.9 acres $30/acre total payment $7,467.00 from FY 26 RCPP Soil Health Funds. Motion by Rutten, seconded by Ledermann. Motion Carried.
4. FY 26 RCCP 21-1-10 No-till Leaf Valley Twp. Sec 4 and Effington Twp. Sec. 33. 84.43 acres at $30/acre total payment $2,533.00 from FY26 RCCP Soil Health Funds. Motin by Ledermann to approve payment, Second by Dropik. Motion Carried

F. Alexandria Twp. Stormwater Study Grant Engineering Agreement. Widseth Engineering has the contract for $176,192.00. Motion made by Rutten to approve the grant agreement. Seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried

G. Private Lake Watershed Analysis Study Engineering Agreement. Location is Eat of Lake Chippewa Cty ditch 10 which runs into Private Lake. Lots of water quality issues. Houston Engineering got the agreement for $48,000. Motion by Ledermann to approve study engineering agreement. Dropik seconded. Motion Carried.

H. Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Amendment to Fiscal Agent Agreement. The Fiscal Agent will be changing from Stearns County to Stearns Conservation District. Motion to approve collaborative amendment by Rutten, Seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.

I. Long Prairie Watershed Pontoon Tour July 29, around Lake Carlos. Pontoons are sponsored by the Let's Go Fishing-Alexandria Lakes. Enough room for 30 people including the captains of the boats. Spots will be on a first come first serve basis and will be opened to the Steering committee first, then to others. Anderson will be sending out more information.

J. Public Waters Inventory update. Some public waters have been removed, and some have been added to the new inventory public waters list. Roughly 30 changes for Douglas County. This will be open to public comments from the MN DNR. The County in collaboration with the Douglas SWCD will be sending out letters in July for Proposed/final changes.

K. July Board meeting – Haggenmiller will not be at meeting, so Rice will be running the board meeting.

Bills to Pay. During the month of June, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #12264-122307 for a total of $175,579.34 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 at 8:46, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary