



# Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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**October 8, 2024**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The October Board meeting of the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District was convened on October 8, 2024, at the North Branch Area Library, 6344 379<sup>th</sup> Street, North Branch, MN 55056. Chair Birkholz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Supervisors: Jim Birkholz, Rick Cedergren, Lance Petersen, David Tollberg, and Justin Wilson.  
Staff: Craig Mell (SWCD), Megan Lindberg (NRCS, partial attendance)  
Other: Paul Swanson (Pine SWCD)

### **AGENDA**

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to approve the agenda after removing agenda item 6a1) Cost Share Request – Structural Practices. Motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Petersen and seconded by Wilson to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Board action taken at this time.

### **STAFF/SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

District Conservationist Lindberg and District Administrator Mell reviewed the NRCS and SWCD activities of the past month. No board action taken at this time.

### **COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

No Board action taken at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No Board action taken at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership**

Administrator Mell reviewed the draft FY25 WBIF grant budget with the board and provided an update on the status of the open LSC WP Ag Outreach Position. No board action taken at this time.

#### **BWSR Soil Health Grant**

Administrator Mell provided an update on the status of the Phase 3, Federal RCPP funding. No board action taken at this time.

**East Metro Water Resource Education Program Partner Agreement**

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Cedergren to approve the Contract (Contract 25-EMWREP) by and between the Washington Conservation District and the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District for services related to the East Metro Water Resource Education Program. Motion carried.

**Building Lease**

Administrator Mell provided an update on the status of our building lease. No board action taken at this time.

**Personnel Committee Recommendations**

Motion by Birkholz and seconded by Wilson to approve the September 26, 2024 Personnel Committee’s recommendations to:

1. Establish the 2025 employee benefit package for all regular full- and part-time employees as follows:
  - o option #1: equal to the cost of the single premium for medical and dental insurance plus full contribution towards an employee’s health savings account provided by Chisago County, an employee may use this benefit for insurance premiums or invested into the MSRS deferred compensation program or request a prorated amount of 90% of their balance as a cash option.
  - o option #2: cover 80% of the medical and dental insurance premium cost of the Single + Spouse or Single + Children insurance options provided by Chisago County.
2. Adopt the Chisago County 2025 Master Wage Schedule for all SWCD employees effective January 1, 2025, and approve a one-step increase in pay effective January 1, 2025, for all SWCD staff who receive an overall positive annual review rating for 2024.

Motion carried.

**MASWCD Resolutions Packet**

Administrator Mell discussed the MASWCD 2024 Resolution Packet. Board members were reminded to individually submit their online ballots directly to the MASWCD no later than 5 p.m. on November 1<sup>st</sup>. No Board action was taken at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Board action taken at this time.

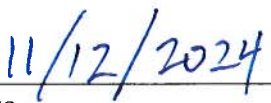
**UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

  
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 Secretary

  
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 Date