

P.O. Box 545 ◆ 1000 10th AVE, Suite 3 ◆ Clarkfield, Minnesota 56223

MINUTES OF THE YELLOW MEDICINE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DECEMBER 30, 2025

- I. The regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Jerry Nelson at 9:01 AM. Meeting started with the pledge of allegiance and reading of the mission statement.

Those present:

Jerry Nelson – Vice-Chair
Darwyn Bach – Secretary
Garret Niska – Board member
Brayden Anderson – Director

Emily Albin – Office Administrator
Michael Pitzl – Conservation Technician
Ryan Reishus – Conservation Technician
Mitch Kling – CO Commissioner

- I. After adding line items Added – V. Approvals, payments & amendments subsections Subsection a.iii – RCPP contract cancellation request; subsection c. FYI – John Jeseritz 1W1P contract approved for payment; subsection i. RCPP payments, motion by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska, to approve agenda as updated. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- II. Motion by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska, to approve minutes of the last meeting, dated November 20, 2025. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- III. Motion by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska, to approve treasurers report for month of December 2025. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- IV. APPROVALS, PAYMENTS & AMENDMENTS:

a. RCPP contract approvals

- i. November approved contracts - \$105,625 – FYI LIST – *no action*

Contract #	Ranking Score	Cost	Total Spent if Approved	Acres	Practice	Notes	Key
87-3-1	60	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,665	35	P/H	Spring Planting	
87-2-7	40	\$ 7,760	\$ 32,425	9.7	P/H	Spring Planting 2026	\$120,000 November
87-3-2	35	\$ 12,000	\$ 44,425	15	P/H	Spring Planting	
87-3-5	35	\$ 8,800	\$ 53,225	11	P/H	Spring Planting	
87-3-4	35	\$ 25,000	\$ 78,225	301	NoTill		S-CC= Single Species
87-3-6	30	\$ 25,000	\$ 103,225	106.8	S-CC/NoTill		M-CC= Multi Species
87-3-3	25	\$ 2,400	\$ 105,625	3	P/H	Spring Planting	P/H= Pasture Hay

Ranking Score Range: 1-86

Nov Leftover: \$ 14,375

- ii. December contracts – Decision – *List of applications, including possible January applications*

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Contract #	Ranking Score	Cost	Total Spent if Approved	Acres	Practice	Cost2	Notes	Key
	Cancelled Contract		\$ (8,000)					
	Leftover Nov Funds		\$ (14,375)					
	50		\$ (22,375)	32	P/H	\$ 25,000	Not Eligible with FSA yet	\$120,000 December
	46	\$ 22,080	\$ (295)	27.6	P/H			\$120,000 January
	40	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,705	31.25	P/H			
	40	\$ 25,000	\$ 49,705	98	M-CC/NoTill			
	35	\$ 10,800	\$ 60,505	13.5	P/H			
	35	\$ 22,470	\$ 82,975	242	NoTill			
	30	\$ 25,000	\$ 107,975	31.5	P/H			
	25	\$ 6,930	\$ 114,905		NoTill			
87-1-21	25	\$ 25,000	\$ 139,905	106.9	M-CC/NoTill			
	21	\$ 5,600	\$ 145,505	7	P/H			
87-1-12	20	\$ 25,000	\$ 170,505	111	M-CC/NoTill			Ranking Score Range: 1-86
	20	\$ 25,000	\$ 195,505	31.25	P/H			
	20	\$ 25,000	\$ 220,505	160	M-CC/NoTill			
		\$ 1,600	\$ 222,105	2	P/H			

- Motion to give Director authorization to approve and sign December RCPP contracts not to exceed \$25,000 per contract with 15-point minimum score. Staff will score all new contracts and adjust ranking list as necessary by Garret Niska, seconded by Darwyn Bach. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried

- Cancellation request – CT#87-1-32 - \$8000 (approved with September funds). Motion to approve by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- Approval – John Jeseritz -Jeseritz Farms 20 Alternative Intakes – Ct# 2025-02 - \$20,000. Motion to approve by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- FYI – John Jeseritz – 1W1P Ct#2024-033 payment- 12 alternative intakes - \$5851.22 *no action*
- TABLED - Payment- Dorn Severtson Alternative Intakes- Ct# 2024-04 - \$3150
The motion that " Payment- Dorn Severtson Alternative Intakes- Ct# 2024-04 - \$3150 " was taken from the table. Following the discussion, the motion to approve was made by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- Payment- Shaun Vermlund WASCOB – Ct# 2024-01- \$29,523.86. Motion to approve by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- Payment- Tim Velde WASCOB – Ct# 2024-05 - \$5744.25. Motion to approve by Garret Niska, seconded by Darwyn Bach. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- Payment – Soil Health Delivery Cts –
 - Gordon Palm - Ct#SH2025-03 — \$7800. Motion to approve by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- MAWQCP – Darwyn Bach – Second Payment: Staff received training with Danielle Evers, MAWQCP, in mid-December and learned about how other SWCDs handle MAWQCP incentive payments. Incentive payments are not paid by SWCD but are paid by MAWQCP funds.

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- i. Authorization for Director to sign MAWQCP incentive payment forms – Decision
Motion by Garret Niska, seconded by Darwyn Bach, to give Director authorization for Director to sign MAWQCP incentive payment forms.
- i. RCPP Payments – Approve vouchers. Motion to approve RCPP contracts as read by Director made by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried. (See Table below)

12.30.25 RCPP Contract Voucher List

Contract #	Practice	Contract Total		Contract Total	12.30.25 Payment amount	Check #
		Years	Acres			
87-1-8	SS CC	3	165.3	\$ 24,795.00	\$ 8,265.00	13644
87-1-6	SS CC	1	115.6	5,780.00	5,780.00	13646
87-1-19	MS CC	1	76	4,560.00	4,560.00	13647
87-1-22	SS CC	3	168	25,000.00	8,333.00	13648
87-1-27	MS CC	1	134	8,040.00	8,000.00	13649
87-1-28	SS CC	1	77.7	3,885.00	3,885.00	13650
87-2-2	SS CC	3	167	25,000.00	8,333.00	13651
87-2-5	MS CC	1	101.5	6,090.00	6,090.00	13652
87-2-6	SS CC	2	148	15,200.00	7,400.00	13653
87-1-3	P/H	5	32	25,000.00	25,000.00	13643
87-1-5	P/H	5	11.4	9,120.00	9,120.00	13645
Totals			1196.5		\$ 94,766.00	

V. REPORTS.

a. Staff Reports:

- 1. DIRECTOR BRAYDEN ANDERSON – updates on WCA, MASWCD, requested funds for Soil Health Delivery funds, RCPP grant fund update, 1W1P priority area letters sent out, attended Yellow Med WS advisory meeting, policy meeting for WS priority areas should be in February 2026, NRCS regenerative pilot program, scheduled for 2026 Yellow Medicine County Board updates in June and December, Cty Ditch 5 feasibility study grant application submitted.
- a. Grant summary – overview of grant standings

Remaining Grant Fund Summary

Grant	Expiration Date	Approximate Dollars Remaining
RCPP Soil Health Staff time	12/31/2028	\$11,943
2026/2027 Conservation Delivery	12/31/2028	\$38,526
2026/2027 Conservation Contracts	12/31/2028	\$39,698
2025 Conservation Contracts	Extended to 6/1/2026	\$7,572
2026 Buffer (Need to complete Workplan)	12/31/2028	\$35,000
2025 Buffer	12/31/2027	\$35,000
2024 Buffer	12/31/2026	\$13,803.87
AIS	NONE	\$59,436
WCA		\$0
		TOTAL
Watershed Funds are not listed		\$240,979

- 2. OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR EMILY ALBIN – updates on assigned funds, MnPFMLA updates by QuickBooks, 2026 tree sales in QB, update on supervisor benefit deductions, end-of-year plans, pay equity report due end of Jan.
 - a. Follow-up on Assigned Fund Tracking – will add to January agenda
- 3. TECHNICIAN RYAN REISHUS - Updates on tree program, structural practice letters conversations, in-progress RIM easements updates, new interest for RIM, AgBMP, Soil Health Summit in January with Michael.

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4. TECHNICIAN MICHAEL PITZL – updates on RCPP/cover crop, cover crop inspections completed, tree orders website, sponsored tree sale Facebook posts instead of post cards this year, attended MASWCD.
- b. SUPERVISOR REPORTS:
 1. SUPERVISOR DARWYN BACH – Attended watershed advisory meeting, LqP advisory annual meeting, held annual Personnel Committee meetings with staff on Dec 11.
 2. SUPERVISOR GARRET NISKA – *no updates*
 3. SUPERVISOR JERRY NELSON – *no updates*
- c. PARTNER REPORTS:
 1. County/Mitch Kling – updated on Levy, union negotiations complete, nonunion COLA 5% increase, Ditch 9 estimate received.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. 2026 Budget– decision. No Changes from November meeting. Motion to approve by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.

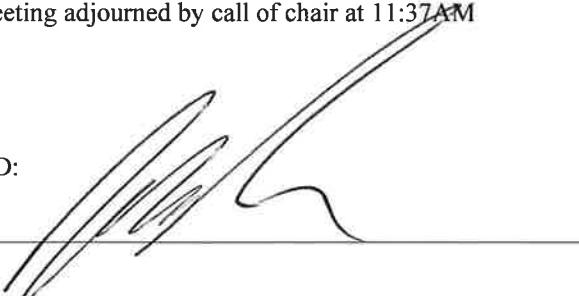
VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Soil Health Summit – Fargo, ND – January 14th-15th – decision. Motion to approve staff to attend by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- b. 2025 NRCS Local Work Group Response – discussion. Reviewed highlights of handout. *No action*
- c. 2025 MASWCD Resolution Results – Discussion. Reviewed results. *No action*.
- d. 2026 Cost of Living and Pay Scale Adjustments: YMC Non-Union COLA is 5% - Decision. Motion by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska, to approve the following effective January 1, 2026: pay scale at 3.5% COLA adjustment; Director at Grade 16, Step 6; Office Administrator at Grade 10, Step 1; part-time permanent Conservation Technician Pitzl at Grade 11, Step 1, with a move to full-time Grade 12, Step 2 upon graduation Conservation Technician Reishus at Grade 12, Step 4. Affirmative: 3, Opposed:0. Motion carried.
- e. 2026 Staff Job descriptions – Decision. Motion to approve updated Staff Job Descriptions as written by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska. Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.
- f. FYI Expiring 2028 CRP contracts handout – *No action*

VIII. Due to schedule conflicts, motion by Darwyn Bach, seconded by Garret Niska, for the next meeting of the Board to be scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9AM Affirmative:3. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.

IX. Meeting adjourned by call of chair at 11:37AM

APPROVED:



DATE:

1/29/26