



**Minutes of the June 16, 2025
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Mark Wellner.

PRESENT

1. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair
2. Brad Augustin – Secretary
3. Rae Runck – PRI
4. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
5. Brian Braun – Brown County Commissioner Liaison

ABSENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Bill Eckstein – Treasurer

AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the agenda as presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the May 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, the May 2025 Treasurer's Report, and the Bills Report dated May 8, 2025 to June 11, 2025. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

SWCD STAFF REPORTS

- ◆ Reviewed staff reports provided by Botz, Giefer, Krueger, Olson, Portner and Spence.

PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT

- ◆ Reviewed staff report provided by Ecker.

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Reviewed report provided by Kjorness.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- ◆ Commissioner Braun provided an update on recent activities at Brown County.

COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share report and presented contract items for approval.
- ◆ CC2025-01, John Braun, Grassed Waterway, Linden 5. Final project cost of \$6,271.50. Federal EQIP funds were provided towards the project leaving a \$1,666.05 cost share payment from the SWCD's FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. Project slippage of \$2,845.25. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve CC2025-01 cost share payment of \$1,666.05 to John Braun.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ Amendment 1, WBIF-VV-24-08-03, Kathy Wellman, Shoreline Protection, Lake Hanska 30. Amendment to add practice code 327 Conservation Cover to the contract to meet GBERBA's requirement of an 8ft native vegetation buffer, increase site diversity, and support pollinator habitat. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to recommend for approval to GBERBA, contingent upon land occupier and technical authority signatures, Amendment 1 to WBIF-VV-24-08-03 cost share contract with Kathy Wellman for the addition of 327 practice code for the native vegetation buffer seeding.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Area 6 Meeting Hosting Update:** Manager provided an update about the hosting duties for staff and board members at the Area 6 meeting next week.
- ◆ **FY26 Local Partners Agreement:** Reviewed the annual agreement and local match request of \$3,250 from Pheasants Forever for the Farm Bill Biologist position in Brown County. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the FY26 Local Partners Agreement with Pheasants Forever.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **DNR Observation Well Agreement:** Discussed the annual observation well agreement that will be received sometime this month from DNR. Manager estimates the payment for work will remain the same as last year at \$60/reading and requested authorization to sign the agreement upon receipt. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to authorize District Manager to accept and sign the annual observation well agreement with the DNR.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **RCRCA Grant Disbursal Agreement:** Reviewed the grant proceed disbursal agreement presented. This agreement allows Brown SWCD to bill RCRCA for reimbursement of staff time and/or expenses, according to grant policies, through the Cottonwood-Middle MN Watershed Implementation Grant funds. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the Grant Proceed Disbursal Agreement with RCRCA.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **2026 County Budget Request:** Reviewed and discussed the 2026 county budget request information. Manager explained changes made to items within the budget line items and answered questions from those present. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the 2026 County Budget Request as presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

◆ **Meeting Reports:**

- ◇ Augustin gave a report about the GBERBA Policy and Executive board meetings he attended via Webex on May 30 and June 13.
- ◇ Krueger gave a report on behalf of Eckstein about the RCRCA meeting he attended on June 5 in Redwood Falls.
- ◇ Runck gave a report and shared The Journal' newspaper article about the MN River Congress event he attended on June 12 in Mankato.

◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the upcoming meetings/events:

- ◇ Wednesday, June 18 – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, 1:00pm, Springfield (Wellner)
- ◇ Tuesday, June 24 – MASWCD Area 6 Meeting, North Mankato, 8:30am (Fischer, Eckstein, Runck, Augustin)
- ◇ Thursday, June 26 – SCTSA Board Meeting, Mankato, 9:30am Budget Committee, 10:00am Board Meeting (Runck)
- ◇ Thursday, July 3 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9:00am, Marshall (Wellner)
- ◇ Tuesday, July 8 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)

Affirmative: Augustin, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 12:23pm

Secretary: _____



Date: _____

7/8/25