



**Minutes of the September 9, 2025
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 10:31am by Brad Augustin.

PRESENT

1. Brad Augustin – Secretary, Chair Pro Tempore for this meeting
2. Bill Eckstein – Treasurer
3. Rae Runck – PRI
4. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
5. Brian Braun – Brown County Commissioner Liaison

ABSENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair

ELECT CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

- ◆ Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to nominate Brad Augustin as Chair Pro Tem for the meeting.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the August 12, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, the August 2025 Treasurer's Report, and the Bills Report dated August 7, 2025 to September 3. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
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.
- ◆ Charles Kotten, \$300.00 MAWQCP assessment and certification incentive payment. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the \$300.00 MAWQCP assessment and certification incentive payment to Charles Kotten.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ \$10,000 payment to ISG for completion of the CD28 Multipurpose Drainage Management Plan project. The plan was provided to Brown SWCD on 8/14/25. RCRCA approved payment 9/4 pending Brown SWCD recommendation for payment. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to recommend payment from RCRCA to ISG for \$10,000 for completion of the CD28 Multipurpose Drainage Manage Plan.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CRP-BRO-001, Gregg Anderson, CRP Incentive for 7.66 acres, Burnstown 24. Incentive payment of \$766 after CRP1 contract start date. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to recommend for submission to Redwood SWCD, 25-CRP-BRO-001 CRP Incentive contract with Gregg Anderson.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CRP-BRO-002, Alan Holm, CRP Incentive for 8.92 acres, Sigel 7. Incentive payment of \$892 after CRP1 contract start date. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to recommend for submission to Redwood SWCD, 25-CRP-BRO-002 CRP Incentive contract with Alan Holm.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CRP-BRO-003, Arland Roiger, CRP Incentive for .83 acres, Stately 4. Incentive payment of \$124.50 after CRP1 contract start date. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to recommend for submission to Redwood SWCD, 25-CRP-BRO-003 CRP Incentive contract with Arland Roiger.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CRP-BRO-004, Michael Kuck, CRP Incentive for 5.73 acres, Cottonwood 4. Incentive payment of \$687.60 after CRP1 contract start date. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to recommend for submission to Redwood SWCD, 25-CRP-BRO-004 CRP Incentive contract with Michael Kuck.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CRP-BRO-005, Willard Tauer, CRP Incentive for 13.33 acres, Sigel 23. Incentive payment of \$1,333.00 after CRP1 contract start date. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to recommend for submission to Redwood SWCD, 25-CRP-BRO-005 CRP Incentive contract with Willard Tauer.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **MCIT Notices:** Reviewed information notices from MCIT about a Property Coverage deductible change for 2026, a 2025 dividend payment notice, and the 2026 estimated contribution costs for property/casualty and workers' compensation.
- ◆ **Wood Lake Task Force Updates:** Krueger provided information regarding the last task force meeting attended in August, some project items in the CD28 multipurpose drainage management report from ISG, and advised she was tasked with researching funding options through BWSR for potential projects.
- ◆ **November Board Meeting:** Discussed potential dates and availability for a November meeting reschedule due to it falling on a holiday. No decision today since all board members are not present. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to table to the October meeting.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Soil Health Practices Grant Program:** Manager provided an update about the Soil Health Practices Grant program contracts and grants approved so far and then requested motions approving her to request additional grants and to approve all contracts funded through this program. Discussion was held.
 - ◇ Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to authorize District Manager to request additional Soil Health Practices Grants from BWSR as needed to fund projects with landowners.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
 - ◇ Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to authorize District Manager as contract approval signature authority for all projects funded through the Soil Health Practices Grant program
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Krueger and Runck gave an update about the budget request meeting with the Commissioners on August 13.
 - ◇ Augustin gave a report from the GBERBA Executive meeting attended August 15.
 - ◇ Eckstein gave a report about the Cottonwood-Middle MN Policy meeting August 20.
 - ◇ Eckstein gave a report about the RCRCA meeting attended September 4.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Thursday, September 18 – SCTSA Board Meeting, 10:00am, Mankato (Runck)
 - ◇ Friday, September 19 – GBERBA Policy Meeting, 1:00pm, Webex or Windom, (Augustin nor Runck are able to attend, Krueger will notify GBERBA)
 - ◇ Thursday, September 30 – MASWCD Area 6 Meeting, 8:30am, Olivia (Eckstein)
 - ◇ Thursday, October 2 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9:00am, Redwood Falls (Eckstein)
 - ◇ Tuesday, October 14 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 12:36pm

Secretary: _____

Date: _____

10-14-25