



**Minutes of the October 14, 2025
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Craig Fischer.

PRESENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Brad Augustin – Secretary
3. Bill Eckstein – Treasurer
4. Rae Runck – PRI
5. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
6. Brian Braun – Brown County Commissioner Liaison (exited at 12:15pm)

ABSENT

1. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the September 9, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, the September 2025 Treasurer's Report, and the Bills Report dated September 4, 2025 to October 8, 2025. Motion was made by August and seconded by Eckstein to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, 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

- ◆ Report not provided due to government shutdown.

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.
- ◆ William Vogel, \$200.00 MAWQCP certification incentive payment. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the \$200.00 MAWQCP certification payment to William Vogel.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ BCCWMA-08-04, Mark Wellner, Stately 30, 35 acres treated for leafy spurge. Final project cost of \$644.33 with cost share payment of \$483.25 from the FY22/23 Cooperative Weed Management Grant. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to approve BCCWMA-08-04 cost share payment of \$483.25 to Mark Wellner.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CWMM-BRO-001, Greg Peichel, SSTS Incentive, Burnstown 12. Voucher for \$5,000 SSTS Incentive payment for completion of the installation of a septic system. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to recommend the voucher for submission to RCRCA, 25-CWMM-BRO-001 Septic System Incentive payment of \$5,000 to Greg Peichel.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CWMM-BRO-005, Dan Braulick, Strip-Till on 4 fields totaling 247 Acres, 1 year contract. Leavenworth, Stark, and Albin Townships. Flat rate cost share of \$35 per acre per year for a total cost share of \$8,645.00. Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota grant funds through RCRCA will be used for the project. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to recommend for submission to RCRCA, 25-CWMM-BRO-005 Strip-Till contract with Dan Braulick.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CWMM-BRO-006, Greg Braulick, Strip-Till on 2 fields totaling 212 acres, 1 year contract. Sigel and Stark Townships. Flat rate cost share of \$35 per acre per year for a total cost share of \$7,420.00. Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota grant funds through RCRCA will be used for the project. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to recommend for submission to RCRCA, 25-CWMM-BRO-006 Strip-Till contract with Greg Braulick.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CWMM-BRO-007, Joe Braulick, Strip-Till on 1 field totaling 75 acres, 1 year contract. Lake Hanska Township. Flat rate cost share of \$35 per acre per year for a total cost share of \$2,625.00. Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota grant funds through RCRCA will be used for the project. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to recommend for submission to RCRCA, 25-CWMM-BRO-007 Strip-Till contract with Joe Braulick.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ 25-CWMM-BRO-008, Tim Petersen, Single Species Cover Crop on 1 field totaling 77 acres, 1 year contract. Eden Township. Flat rate cost share of \$60 per acre per year for a total cost share of \$4,620.00. Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota grant funds through RCRCA will be used for the project. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to recommend for submission to RCRCA, 25-CWMM-BRO-008 Cover Crop contract with Tim Petersen.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ 25-CWMM-BRO-004, Beverly Berg, Well Decommissioning, Cottonwood 24. Cost estimate of \$1,200.00 with cost share of 50%, \$600.00, up to \$1,000 maximum. Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota grant funds through RCRCA will be used for the project. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to recommend for submission to RCRCA, 25-CWMM-BRO-004 Well Decommissioning contract with Beverly Berg.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **2025 Quarter 3 Budget Report:** Reviewed the quarter three budget report.
- ◆ **Grant Updates:** Reviewed the grant update information provided about a final grant report submitted to BWSR for the FY23 Buffer Grant and for a new grant agreement received from BWSR, the 2026/2027 Programs and Operations Grant, totaling \$72,986.00 which is for the annual Conservation Delivery Grant and Conservation Contracts Grant funds.
- ◆ **MASWCD Convention:** Discussed information about the upcoming MASWCD convention in December. Attendance will be approved at next month's board meeting
- ◆ **Wood Lake Task Force Updates:** Krueger provided information regarding the last task force meeting attended in September and advised a subcommittee will be meeting later this month to continue discussions on potential projects to be pursued.
- ◆ **November Board Meeting Date:** Discussed potential dates and availability for a November meeting reschedule due to it falling on a holiday. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve rescheduling the November Board meeting to Friday, November 7 at 10:30am.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Technology Upgrades:** Discussed information about technology upgrades needed due to the NAS system being 'end of life' and also for implementing Microsoft Office 365 along with upgrading the server. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to authorize District Manager to work with Nuvera to purchase the Synology NAS Server system and the Microsoft 365 Business Standard software as quoted.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

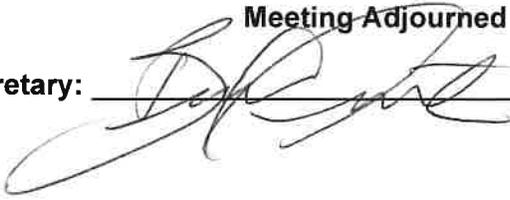
*Commissioner Braun exited 12:15pm

- ◆ **MASWCD Resolutions:** Reviewed the 2025 MASWCD Resolutions. Each Supervisor present gave their votes; Krueger tallied the votes and will submit to MASWCD via online balloting system by the November 1 deadline.
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Runck gave an update about the SCTSA board meeting attended in Mankato on September 18.
 - ◇ Eckstein gave a report about the MASWCD Area 6 meeting and bus tour attended on September 30 in Renville County.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Friday, October 17 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9:00am, Redwood Falls (Eckstein) (rescheduled from October 2nd)
 - ◇ Friday, October 17 – GBERBA Executive Meeting, 1:00pm, Webex or Windom (Augustin)
 - ◇ October – Personnel Committee Meeting (Eckstein, Wellner, Krueger) (date to be determined)
 - ◇ Thursday, November 6 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9:00am, Marshall (Eckstein)

- ◇ Friday, November 7 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 1:20pm

Secretary: _____



Date: _____

11-7-25