



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 1st Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

Minutes from the December 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

The meeting was held in person at Todd County Historic Courthouse, Prairie Conference room located at 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN 56347. The meeting was moved to the Prairie Conference room due to another meeting being held in the Commissioner's Board room.

Chairperson Wendel called the Thursday, December 11, 2025 meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call for Introductions.

Board members present in person were: Wayne Wendel, Barb James, Tom Williamson and Larry Bebus.

Absent: Dale Katterhagen.

James joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Others present in person were: Deja Anton, District Manager, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Dylan Pratt, Conservation Technician, Josh Votruba, Conservation Technician, Kasen Christiansen, Conservation Technician, Alyssa Scheve, Conservation Technician, Jessica Moore, Conservation Technician, Luke Thoma, NRCS, Bob Byers, Todd County Commissioner, Tim Denny, Todd County Commissioner and Kevin Faust, guest speaker.

Denny joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Wendel asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Williamson made a motion, seconded by Bebus to accept the agenda for the regular December 11, 2025 meeting.

Affirmative: Wendel, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Bebus made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve the minutes as distributed from the November 11, 2025 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Wendel, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

James joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Wendel asked the board to review the November 2025 Treasurer's Report. Program Coordinator summarized disbursement and revenues. Williamson made a motion, seconded by Bebus to accept November's 2025 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$96,888.65 and disbursements totaling \$91,292.37. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Wendel called for conflict of interest. Bebus reported conflict of interest with item 5.2 – Birchdale Township request for cost share payment.



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Celebration: Congratulations on a very successful MASWCD Convention.

Denny joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Reports:

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Byers reported the finance committee was able to make cuts to the levy. Todd County has one of the lowest levy's in the state for 2026. The Truth and Taxation meeting was held recently. Solid Waste will be having their grand opening. Some of the Commissioners attended the AMC conference. Byers also commented that the SWCD Work Session was a well-organized meeting.

Commissioner Denny added the County worked on the budget for 2026 and made cuts where they could. He noted some departments are doing a five-year budget outlook.

Director Report: No report.

Staff Visual Report: Moore's visual reported was included in the board packet. Moore highlighted that she has been attending a lot of trainings, presented at Enviro fest, working on Nutrient Management plans, and her background included working various positions with the state. She has been with Todd County since June 2025.

Manager Report on Staff Accomplishments: Anton reported all the technicians and herself attended BWSR academy.

Anton reported Moore has been attending trainings and has been working on a feedlot permit.

Anton reported Scheve has been busy with the RCPP funding, wrote the conservation award winner article and attended the Sauk River Education and Outreach meeting.

Anton reported Votruba had 20 site visits since October and has completed RIM easement inspections.

Anton reported Christiansen worked on the Julig fencing project, completed cost share spot checks, and is reviewing possible wetland fill violations.

Anton reported S. Katterhagen started preparing the for Long Prairie Watershed grant reconciliation and the 2026 Tree and Plant order form has been disbursed.

Anton reported Pratt has been busy with 21 site visits, cost share projects and feedlot inspections.

SWCD Manager Report: Anton presented her visual report. Report is available upon request.

NRCS Report: Thoma reported the NRCS office was closed for six weeks due to Government Shutdown. Now they are playing catch up with payments and other assignments. No guidance has been provided for 2026 payments.

FSA Report: No report.



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1W1P- Sauk River Report: Williamson reported the policy committee reviewed the FY24 Sauk River work plan rewrite.

1W1P Red Eye Report: No updates.

1W1P Long Prairie Report: The policy meeting met on November 20, 2025. Policy committee liked the numbers of hits the billboards are getting. Anton questioned how long will the billboards be effective for.

1W1P Crow Wing Report: No updates.

1W1P Mississippi Brainerd Report: Bebus reported Anton presented on the Alum Treatment project at the previous policy meeting.

BWSR Report: Mayers was unable to attend the meeting, but sent e-mail update. S. Katterhagen read the e-mail. Mayers would like to remind the board grant extension request deadline is December 15, 2025, fiscal years 2024 and 2025 Programs and Operational grants are expiring 12/31/2025. Grant reporting deadline is February 1, 2026.

Buckthorn Presentation: Kevin Faust, Todd County landowner presented on what he does for Buckthorn Control on his property.

Decisions needed for encumbering cost share funds:

No encumbering requests.

Decisions needed for cost share contract amendments:

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve request for additional C22-7830 Red Eye 2.0 cost share funds from Mike Lovelace, C#20250410-3.4X in the amount of \$17,595.29 for a new cost share total of \$27,420.29 for a pit closure project. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Decision needed for payment of cost share funds:

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment request of C22-7830 Red Eye WBIF 2.0 cost share funds from Mike Lovelace, C#20250410-3.4X in the amount of \$27,420.29 for a pit closure project. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve payment request of FY24 Conservation Contracts in the amount of \$5,740.78 and FY25 Conservation Contracts in the amount of \$19,384 from Birchdale Township, C#6062025-00, for a total cost share payment of \$25,124.78 for a stabilization project. Affirmative: Wendel, James and Williamson. Abstained: Bebus. Motion Carried.



Bebus made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment of P23-2945 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Jason Batts, C#20250814-3.2 in the amount of \$1,200 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Bebus to approve payment of P23-2945 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Robert Fritze, C#20250814-3.3 in the amount of \$585 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Bebus to approve payment of P23-2945 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from John Houle, C#20250814-3.10 in the amount of \$1,200 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve payment of P23-2945 Long Prairie LCCMR funds from Jon and Sonja Nelson, C#2025.10.9-3.2 in the amount of \$1,200 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Pratt, Votruba, Christiansen, Scheve and Moore left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Commissioner Byers and Commissioner Denny left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Guest Speaker Kevin Faust left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Decisions needed for operations:

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve 2026 Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting schedule as printed.

Discussion: The meetings will continue to held on 2nd Thursday of each month, except for February when the board meets with the Todd County Commissioners. It was also noted that October and November board meetings may be held at a different location.

Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Bebus to approve 2026 Todd SWCD Board Order as the following:

Chairman	Dale Katterhagen
Vice Chairman	Barb James
Secretary	Tom Williamson
Treasurer	Larry Bebus
Member	Wayne Wendel

Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.



Bebus made a motion, seconded by James to approve 2026 Todd SWCD Committee assignment as the following:

Liaison/Interview Committee	Dale Katterhagen and Wayne Wendel	
PC & BOA Liaison	Barb James	Alternate: Dale Katterhagen
WCTSA Committee	Tom Williamson	Alternate: Wayne Wendel
County Comprehensive Plan Review	Larry Bebus and Wayne Wendel	
Local Work Group	Dale Katterhagen	Alternate: Barb James
1W1P for SRWD	Tom Williamson	Alternate: Larry Bebus
1W1P for Red Eye	Wayne Wendel	Alternate: Barb James
1W1P for Long Prairie	Dale Katterhagen	Alternate: Barb James
1W1P for Brainerd-Mississippi	Larry Bebus	Alternate: Barb James
1W1P for Crow Wing	Wayne Wendel	Alternate: Barb James
Finance Committee	Larry Bebus and Wayne Wendel	

Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Bebus made a motion, seconded by James to approve Resolution #20251211-6.4, The Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) Revised FY2024 Workplan. Affirmative: Wendel, James, Williamson and Bebus. Motion Carried.

Discussion Items:

Draft review of the 2026 Plan of Action (POA): Anton reviewed the draft POA. Anton highlighted the Supervisors responsibilities. She would like the Supervisors to review and provide feedback. She will bring forward in January for approval.

C22-7830 Red Eye 2.0 Adjustment of \$235.25: Anton noted during a grant reconciliation review it was found that overpayment was provided to a landowner for cost share payment in the amount of \$235.25. The overage will come from SWCD feedlot performance funds.

Supervisor per diems: Discussion was held on when and when not, supervisors should receive per diem reimbursements. Anton will bring a draft policy to the board in January for review.

E.A.R.T.H. Signs: Anton showed the board the updated design for the signs for the E.A.R.T.H program.

Contracts and documents approved by the Chair:

None.

Informational:

The following information was provided for information purposes:



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2nd Friday of the month – Radio Show.

Todd SWCD Tree and Plant order was released on December 1, 2025.

Tree Order and Soil Health insert into the Leader B and Anchor papers.

Jay Noska is retiring from the Precipitation Network Volunteer Program. A Thank you letter will be sent from the board.

FY2026 Buffer Compliance request of interest was submitted on 11/10/2025.

Anton provided the board with links to BWSR article about Helle’s pit closure project.

The next scheduled meeting for the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will take place at the Historic Courthouse in the Commissioner’s Board Room located at 215 1st Avenue South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

Chairperson Wendel adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Sarah Katterhagen
Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Preparer

1-8-26
Date

Deja Anton
Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

1/8/26
Date

Tom Williamson
Tom Williamson, Secretary

2/8/26
Date