



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 March 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

The meeting was held in person at Todd County Historic Courthouse, Commissioner's Board Room, located at 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

Chairperson Katterhagen called Thursday, March 12, 2026 meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call for Introductions.

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

Absent: Larry Bebus. Bebus was attending an AREA II meeting that was held in Morris, MN.

Others present in person were: Adam Ossefoort, Division Director, Deja Anton, District Manager, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Josh Votruba, Conservation Technician, Alyssa Scheve, Conservation Technician, Jessica Moore, Conservation Technician, Luke Thoma, NRCS, Josh Hanson, NRCS and Tim Denny, Todd County Commissioner.

Katterhagen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept the revised agenda for the regular March 12, 2026 meeting.

- Remove: RCPP Soil Health Cost Share project payouts
- Move: 7.1 Discussion of USFWS and The Nature Conservancy grant to under Operations to authorize Manager to sign grant for wetland restoration

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

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve the minutes as distributed from the January 8, 2026 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve the minutes as distributed from the February 17, 2026 joint meeting with the Todd County Commissioners. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen asked the board to review the January and February Treasurer's Report. Williamson made a motion, seconded by Wendel to accept January 2026 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$90,829.47 and disbursements totaling \$20,208.94; and to accept February 2026 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$104,790.50 and disbursement totaling \$147,063.54. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen called for conflict of interest. Katterhagen reported conflict of interest with item 3.5 – Katterhagen Tree Establishment encumbering request.

Celebration

Gratitude was expressed for Commissioner Byers and Denny attending SWCD Board meetings. Recognition was given to Votruba, WCTSA and the combined Division staff for a successful contractor meeting. Welcome was extended to Brett Arne the new BWSR Board Conservationist for Todd SWCD.

Reports

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Denny reported finance committee is reviewing budgets, County is working on review of cannabis ordinance and review of the County Comprehensive plan.

Discussion was held on the solar gardens. The board requested more public information and awareness and expressed concerns regarding the lift expectancy of solar panels and their disposal.

Director Report

Ossefoort reported Planning and Zoning is working on cannabis ordinance revisions, review of applications for cell towers, review of incorporating SWCD E.A.R.T.H. Program into variance applications. Ossefoort also reported County Comprehensive Plan will be open to the Public for Public comment.

SWCD Manager Report

Anton presented her visual report. The report is available upon request. Highlights included:

- North and South of Long Prairie billboards will be updated with safe drinking water messaging
- Walk In access program expires in June 2026
- Annual Feedlot meeting will be March 18, 2026
- E.A.R.T.H signs are completed.
- AIS budget reduced by 30% due to anticipated state budget cuts
- A stormwater complaint was received near Wards Springs.

Staff Visual Report

Anton presented on Christiansen's visual report.

Manager Report on Staff Accomplishments

Anton reported:

- Votruba attended the AIS meeting, presented at the contractor's meeting and met with landowners about shoreland projects.
- S. Katterhagen worked on the 2025 SWCD Audit, tree orders and feedlot registrations.

- Scheve is working on easements, attended a Sauk River education and outreach meeting, assisted with feedlot meeting planning and worked on recertifications for the ag water quality program.
- Moore reviewed feedlot registrations, working on CNMP's, attended trainings and Todd SWCD now has a certified level 1 conservation planner.
- Pratt assisted with feedlot meeting planning and MACFO conference planning.

Board asked what it means to be a certified conservation planner. Anton responded Moore can sign off on plans.

NRCS Report

Thoma discussed the open programs for NRCS.

FSA Report

No report.

1W1P Reports

- **Sauk River Report:** Williamson attended a policy meeting; a resolution will be reviewed later in the meeting
- **Red Eye Report:** Wendel attended a policy meeting. The group is working on a visual report to be presented at SWCD Board meetings.
- **Long Prairie Report:** Policy meeting on March 19, 2026.
- **Crow Wing Report:** No updates.
- **Mississippi Brainerd Report:** No updates.

BWSR Report

None.

Decisions needed for encumbering cost share funds

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve encumbering C24-0198 Mississippi Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Rick Baum, Jr., C#2026.03.12-3.1 in the amount of \$1,527.54 for a cover crop project.

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

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve encumbering FY26 County Riparian Aid cost share funds for Jason Alstead, C#2026.03.12-3.2 in the amount of \$1,413.42 for riparian buffer/tree establishment.

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

Chairperson Katterhagen called a recess at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 9:35 a.m.



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James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering FY26 County Riparian Aid cost share funds for Julia Hanson, C#2026.03.12-3.3 in the amount of \$727.56 for a stormwater control/tree establishment project. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering C24-0198 Mississippi Brainerd WBIF cost share funds for Mark and Gwen Kunkel and Galen and Geraldine Allen, C#2026.03.12-3.4 in the amount of \$21,879 for a shoreline stabilization project. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Chairperson Katterhagen turned the meeting over to Vice Chairperson James.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering FY26 Soil Health cost share funds for Dale and Marie Katterhagen, C#2026.03.12-3.5 in the amount of \$703.72 for a tree establishment project. Affirmative: James, Williamson and Wendel. Abstained: Katterhagen. Motion Carried.

Vice Chairperson James turned the meeting back over to Chairperson Katterhagen.

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for W. Sobiech, C#2026.03.12-3.6 in the amount of \$1,125 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve encumbering FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for R. Sobiech, C#2026.03.12-3.7 in the amount of \$1,200 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James to approve encumbering FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for G. Sobiech, C#2026.03.12-3.8 in the amount of \$525 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering FY26 County Riparian Aid cost share funds for Muehlbauer Group, C#2026.03.12-3.9 in the amount of \$11,445 for waterway diversion project. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve encumbering FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for Renneberg, C#2026.03.12-3.10 in the amount of \$525 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Decisions needed for cost share contract amendments

None for this meeting.

Decision needed for payment of cost share funds



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James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve payment of C25-0118 Red Eye WBIF cost share funds for Lanny Rettig, C#20260108-3.2 in the amount of \$795 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment of C24-0198 Mississippi River WBIF cost share funds for Peter Ploof, C#05.08-2025-3.5 in the amount of \$525 for forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment of C24-0198 Mississippi River WBIF cost share funds for Tom Ploof, C#05082025-3.1 in the amount of \$712.50 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment of FY23 Long Prairie LCCMR cost share funds for Richard and Gayle Grundtner, C#20251113-3.1 in the amount of \$825 for a forest stewardship plan. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Denny, Thoma, Hanson, Votruba, Scheve and Moore left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Chairperson Katterhagen called a recess at 9:55 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m.

Decisions needed for operations

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James to approve resolution to accept minor amendment to the Sauk River 10-year Management Plan to add:

- Assess the Cold Spring Dam for modifications opportunities to improve ecological functions; fish passage; water quality and altered hydrology improvements as a Priority Implementation Action.

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

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to select the 2026 Farmer of the Year Award recipient. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

James made motion, seconded by Williamson to select the 2026 Land Stewardship Award recipient. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James to approve renewal membership with Soil Health Coalition in the amount of \$25. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by James to approve updated fees for the Irrigation Scheduling services at \$500 per field, and \$400 per field if multiple fields are enrolled.

Discussion: These rates match Wadena SWCD and East Otter Tail SWCD. Rates previously were \$200 per field, and \$175 per field if landowner signed up more than one field. In 2025 Todd SWCD did not participate in the program due to staffing.

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

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve 2025 annual report and newsletter for printing and publication. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Wendel to approve letter of support by inclusion in the Morrison and Crow Wing application for a forest health grant in the Brainerd Lakes Conservation Focus Area, which includes small easterly sections of Todd County. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to support USFWS and The Nature Conservancy partnership on administering a grant approximately in the amount of \$25,000 for wetland restoration work provided it does not involve land acquisition concerns. Affirmative: Katterhagen, James, Williamson and Wendel. Motion Carried.

Discussion items

Board consensus to move forward on a Sourcewell grant application for walk path for Fairy Lakes Park Trail.

Contracts and documents approved by the Chair

On February 9, 2026 Board Chairperson Katterhagen approved amendment for the Marthaler cost share project increasing cost share funds from \$109,997.25 to \$115,978.50 to match the Sauk River WBIF Steering Committee approval.

Informational

Seconded Friday of each month is the radio show.

WaterGuards was selected as the AIS Inspection contractor for 2026.

Anton signed BWSR FY26 (P26-0856) Soil Health Delivery grant in the amount of \$40,000.

CLA audit findings will be presented on April 9 at 8:45 a.m.

Feedlot Meeting has been publicly noticed for both Commissioners and Supervisors for March 18, 2026, at the Clarissa Ballroom. Meet and greet at 9:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

BWSR Prevailing Wage Guidance update and video were provided during Anton's staff report.

Invitation from Brett Arne, BWSR for a Supervisor Training March 27, 2026 from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. in Detroit Lakes. This would be a good refresher for seasoned supervisors and training for new supervisors



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Anton provided update during staff report that the Walk in Access program will be done for Todd County June 2026.


The next meeting scheduled for the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, April 9, 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 Katterhagen adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.



Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Preparer

4-9-26
Date



Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

4/9/26
Date



Tom Williamson, Secretary

4/9/26
Date