MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2026, at 9:00 am
Morrison County Government Center, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDING IN-PERSON: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Knopik, McDonald, Sanoski and Noska; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; BWSR: Mayers
AGENDA - MSC Scholl/Faber to accept with the addition of agenda item #9 under New Business to discuss the Environmental Classroom design contract. Motion passed unanimously.
RE-ORGANIZATION – APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Bruscher/Scholl to approve 1-15 except for 10 to allow more discussion of this item. Motion passed unanimously. Faber/Brutscher to approve 10. Discussion was surrounding the requirement for project sign-off and this being held by USFWS staff instead of NRCS or District Staff. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Swearing in of New Board Members – No new members
2. Official Date, Time, Location: Fourth Friday of Each Month with the exception of November and December which will be the third Friday of those months, 8:00 a.m. at USDA County Office or Morrison County Government Center in special circumstances
3. Official Per Diem and Mileage:
4. Per Diem - Full Board Meetings, Day Meetings, Committee Meetings, and/or Payroll Signature - $125
5. Mileage – Increase from $.70 to $ .725 as of 1/1/2026 based on IRS Established Rate
6. Official Publication: Morrison County Record
7. Official Posting Location: Morrison SWCD Website and USDA Service Center Building
8. Official Bank of Deposit: Pine Country Bank Checking and Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund (4M Fund)
9. Resolution adopting the Morrison County Local Water Management Plan and adopting it as the District's Annual Plan.
10. Affirm Wetland Restoration Technical and Job Approval Authority (JAA) to USFWS staff
11. Grant Agreements / Contracts Signature Approval: Morrison SWCD's District Manager, Shannon Wettstein, in the absence of SWCD Board Members, may sign grant agreements and/or contracts.
12. Minimum Fund Balance Approval: The minimum Fund Balance will be 3 months of Operating Expenditures.
13. (ie: PL Operating Exp. + Personnel for FY, divided by 12 x 3 months = MFB)
14. Capital Assets Policy of Threshold Approval: Capital Assets Policy Report, $5,000 and above will remain the level of threshold documented, for depreciation, for all purchases by Morrison SWCD.

15. Officers for 2026:

Roles	**2025**	**2026**
Chairman	Scott Saehr	Tom Brutscher
Vice Chairman	Tom Brutscher	Bill Faber
Secretary	Bill Faber	Dave Hubner
Treasurer	Dave Hubner	Dale Scholl
Public Relations	Dale Scholl	Scott Saehr
Committee Assignment	**2025**	**2026**
Finance Committee	Brutscher / Saehr	Brutscher / Saehr
Personnel Committee	Hubner / Faber	Hubner / Faber
Water Plan Representative	Brutscher	Brutscher
WCTSA	Faber / Hubner	Faber / Hubner
One Watershed One Plan	Scholl / Faber / Brutscher / Saehr	Scholl / Faber / Brutscher / Saehr

SECRETARY MINUTES Saehr/Faber to approve as written. Motion passed unanimously.
FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS Brutscher/Faber to approve. Wettstein pointed out the transfer of funds that occurred on January 10, 2026 to cover the invoices from Sunram Construction on the Weyerhaeuser project. Funds will be transferred back once a reimbursement is received from DNR. Motion passed unanimously.
COMMISSIONERS REPORT - Absent

GUEST REPORTS

1. NRCS – Zapzalka shared they have 122 applications right now they are working through. Morrison will get $2.45M for Regenerative Ag. practices and $1.425M for Regenerative Ag. Practices within the CSP program.
2. BWSR – Mayers reminded the room that eLink reporting is due February 1. The new Board Conservationist (BC) will be Brett Arne who is currently a BC in the Red River Valley area.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conservation Agronomist Position – MSC Faber/Brutscher to move forward with an offer to the top candidate at a Grade 6 Step 1 for this position. Motion passed unanimously.
2. WCA Appeal Update – Wettstein gave the briefing schedule to the board and shared the oral arguments will be heard by the BWSR Dispute Resolution Committee in the spring with a date to be determined yet.
3. Peterson Company LTD – Audit Engagement Confirmation – MSC Saehr/Faber to sign. Motion passed unanimously.
4. MASWCD FY2026 Dues - $7,654.59 – MSC Faber/Scholl to approve payment. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) Insurance - $16,111.00 – MSC Saehr/Faber to approve payment. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Soil Health Video Series Preview – Wettstein shared the video that has been created with the support of the University of Minnesota Soil Health grant.
7. Crow Wing SWCD MDA Equipment Grant Recipient - No-Till Drill – Wettstein briefed the board that Crow Wing SWCD is considering purchasing the drill but is still looking for approximately $24K. They will continue looking for additional funds but was curious if the board would be willing to put some money towards the drill if needed. The group agreed they would like them to continue pursuing other funding but if they are not able to come up with the funds, the District would help support the drill purchase.
8. The Nature Conservancy Subaward for Wetland Restoration Funds – Wettstein is working with TNC on sub-award language that would execute private fund dollars. At this time no action is needed.
9. Environmental Classroom – Contract for design services from Split Rock Studios (SRS) – Wettstein explained that funding has been promised to finish the rest of the design work with SRS and asked the board for approval to move forward with a contract with them once that money arrives to keep the project moving. The current contract is more than 30 days old and may not be honored. MSC Scholl/Saehr to sign contract as-is once funding is secured but if the price has increased, Wettstein will bring it back to the board next month. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-12) Saehr/Scholl to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1.	Payment	MRBRD 24-17	Surma, Mary Nona	$1,012.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
2.	Payment	MRBRD 24-19	Retka, Gordon	$1,027.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
3.	Payment	MRBRD 24-22	Ploof, Galen	$675.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
4.	Payment	MRBRD 24-25	Lemme Family LTD, Linda Rucker	$967.50	Forest Stewardship Plan

5.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Peterschick, Brian	$225.00	Field Windbreak
6.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Tabatt, Randy	$720.00	Tree/Shrub Establishment
7.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Czech, Noah	$379.78	Tree/Shrub Establishment
8.	Contract	FY25 Soil Health Delivery	Haakonson, Eric	$1,848.75	Tree/Shrub Establishment
9.	Contract	FY25 Soil Health Delivery	LeBlanc, Clint	$360.00	Field Windbreak
10.	Contract	FY25 Soil Health Delivery	VSP Partners, Dan Peterson	$1,683.29	Tree/Shrub Establishment
11.	Contract	FY25 Soil Health Delivery	Cekalla, Jill	$270.00	Field Windbreak
12.	Contract	FY25 Soil Health Delivery	Surma, Mary Nona	$1,570.37	Tree/Shrub Establishment

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl shared with the group has identified closing wells as a priority.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber mentioned they do not have a meeting until March 19.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher has no updates.
4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – Saehr shared the plan section on the Land and Water Resources was approved but section 3 was tabled for further discussion. The question has also been raised on whether the group will move towards a collaborative or a Joint Powers Agreement.

MANAGER REPORTS

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2026, at 9:00 am
Morrison County Government Center, Commissioners Board Room

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – NACD Annual meeting next month with Brutscher and Becker to attend.
2. Tree Open House and Tree Sale – Knopik shared that about 60% of sales were online this year and that 82% of trees are sold out at this point.
3. ACUB Annual Report – McDonald went through the 2025 annual summary for the program.
4. Correspondence – Thank You from MN State Envirothon
5. Presentations – Minnesota Forest Resource Council, January 21, 2026 (Wettstein and Josh Hanson from NRCS) & BWSR Leadership Meeting January 22 (McDonald)

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Annual Lobbying Expense Reporting Due January 31
- Mississippi River Sartell Policy Committee Meeting, February 11, 8:30-10:30 Lions Building, City of Rice
- Winter Agronomy Meeting, February 27, 9:00-1:00, Sauk Rapids Government Center
- Rum River Watershed JPE Meeting, March 26, 4:30-6:30, Mille Lacs County Courthouse
- Tree Pick-up Date, April 24, 9-4PM, Little Falls Exchange Arena

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- February 27, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- March 27, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- April 24, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON RECOGNIZING THE FOLLOWING:

- Morrison County Wildlife Habitat Steward Award – Donna and Randy Klaphake
- Outstanding Conservationists – Curt and Janice Plante
- Community Conservationists- The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
- Female Farmer of the Year – MN Farm Fest Top Five Finalist – Holly Saehr
- Morrison SWCD Super Partner – Terry Zapzalka

Regular meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM. Awards Luncheon followed from 11:30-1:00 PM.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr, Hubner and Scholl; Commissioner: Winscher; SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Becker; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; BWSR: Hrubes and Arne

SECRETARY MINUTES MSC Saehr/Faber to approve with one change, to update the Secretary at the bottom from Faber to Hubner. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS MSC Scholl/Hubner to approve. Wettstein shared we have not received the reimbursement request from DNR yet so that is why the total money on deposit is lower this month. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT Winscher went over business happening at the county including the renewable energy moratorium, tribal appeal, and redistricting the shotgun rifle zone.

GUEST REPORTS

1. NRCS – Zapzalka shared there has been a lot of interest in conservation. Right now, they are ranking 108 applications and hoping to get 20-30 funded.
2. BWSR, Brett Arne Board Conservationist – Arne introduced himself as our new Board Conservationist. Jeff Hrubes was also in attendance and presented that it is budget time for the Clean Water Council, so they are talking about the Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF).

NEW BUSINESS

1. DNR Reimbursement for LCCMR Project Funds – Wettstein explained that the DNR will not reimburse as the Memorandum of Agreement we have with the Historical Society is not sufficient for a financial transaction and is recommending a Contract for Services be developed instead. MSC Scholl/Faber to move forward with executing the contract after the attorneys agree on the final document and the MCHS board approves. Wettstein explained that once the MCHS board signs, she will move forward and they will update the reimbursement request with LCCMR. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Letter of Support to Great River Greening for LCCMR Forest Health Application in the Brainerd Lakes Conservation Focus Area – MSC Faber/Hubner to sign a letter of support of this application. Motion passed unanimously.
3. WCA Appeal Update – Wettstein updated the board that our attorney is working on a brief as it is due the first week in March and then Kalahar-Grissom will submit one before Stroschein submits the final brief. The oral argument will be heard at BWSR in St. Paul on April 23.
4. The Nature Conservancy Subaward for Wetland Restoration Funds – Wettstein asked the board if she could continue talks with TNC on securing private funds to execute wetland restorations. This is money that Sanoski is lining up projects for and has a lot of interest from landowners. Board all agreed to move forward with these discussions. Wettstein will work to have a subaward agreement for next month's meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-8) MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve items 1-8. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1.	Payment	MRBRD 24-21	Koenig, Tim	$2,550.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
2.	Payment	MRBRD 24-23	Fischer, Craig	$787.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
3.	Payment	MRBRD 24-20	Roering, Brandon	$835.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
4.	Amendment & Payment	MRBRD 24-07	Ploof, Doug	$562.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
5.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Salo, Vitaly	$622.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
6.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Bertsch, Bob	$554.36	Forest Stewardship Plan
7.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Kostreba, Mark and Nancy	$735.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
8.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd FY24 WBIF	Chock, Ryan	$322.13	Field Windbreak

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update -Scholl reported the IPO will meet this month and the JPE meets on March 26.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared the Collaboration meets on the 19th of March.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher said the Collaboration meets on April 20th next.

4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – Saehr opened a discussion to the board on the preference between JPE or Collaborations. Arne contributed that about 20% of the state has gone to a JPE model. Saehr would like to know what the group would like to do. Each member shared the merits of their arrangements in the watershed groups they attend.

MANAGER REPORTS

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – Annual Meeting – Brutscher attended along with Becker from the district. The meeting was held in San Antonio Texas and again had a strong presence from Minnesota. Brutscher and Becker shared some of the topics they attended sessions on and thanked the board for the opportunity to attend.
2. Presentations – Morrison County Contractor Meeting – Wettstein and Becker are working together to present at a series of meetings that Land Services is offering to shoreline contractors to attend. It is now a requirement for contractors working on shorelines to attend this meeting, pay $200 and get a license from Morrison County.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Winter Agronomy Meeting, February 27, 9:00-1:00, Sauk Rapids Government Center
- Mississippi River Sartell Policy Committee Meeting, March 11, 8:30-10:30 Rice Lions Building
- Rum River Watershed JPE Meeting, March 26, 4:30-6:30, Mille Lacs County Courthouse
- Staff and Board Photos, April 10, TBD Location
- BWSR Dispute Resolution Committee Meeting, April 23, MPCA Building St. Paul
- Tree Pick-up Date, April 24, 9-4PM, Little Falls Exchange Arena

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- March 27, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- April 24, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- May 22, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting ended at 10:30 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Scholl; Commissioner: Winscher; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka

SECRETARY MINUTES MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS MSC Saehr/Faber to approve. Wettstein shared we have not received the reimbursement request from DNR yet again this month so that is why the total money on deposit is lower this month. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT Winscher shared the solar CUP did not pass. Also, Representative Isaac Schultz shared there have been so many people in St. Paul government that have left and they are so worried about fraud that no one is willing to make a decision. Also, a lot of people showed up to express their support for a rifle deer hunting area.

GUEST REPORTS

1. DNR Reimbursement for LCCMR Project Funds – Wettstein mentioned this earlier in the meeting.
2. WCA Appeal Update – Wettstein shared that the next step is for Stroschein's attorney to submit the final brief and then the oral arguments will be held in front of the dispute resolution committee. Wettstein and Scholl had discussed not attending this hearing and letting the attorney represent the district. The previous briefs prepared by our and Stroschein's attorney and Ben Kalahar, Ellen Kalahar's son, were shared.
3. The Nature Conservancy Subaward for Wetland Restoration Funds- MSC Faber/Scholl to approve signing the subaward agreement for $55,000. Wettstein explained that this subaward sounds promising for additional private donation funding to support this work. This initial money will need to be spent down this year, but Sanoski has a long list of interested landowners.
4. USFWS Small Grant- Wettstein had received a call last month from USFWS asking if we would be able to accept funds to pay contractors to do work on private land wetland restoration. This is again work that Sanoski has landowners interested in. Due to changes at the federal level USFWS was no longer going to be able to do this work but they could have a partner agency receive a grant from them. Due to the time sensitive nature of it, Wettstein had called Brutscher and discussed moving forward with our interest. Wettstein can report back if this mechanism will work but the initial grant would be $49,975.
5. 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Annual Plan of Work – This work was prepared by McDonald and Wettstein asked the board to review for next meeting.
6. One Watershed One Plan Workload Discussion – Wettstein shared that she was hoping to put together a better comparison of each of the watersheds and the amounts we have for each to help with a discussion. The board said that it would not be necessary and continued to have an open discussion about some of the differences and challenges as well as holding the opinion that they would like to continue to see more dollars going to projects and resist spending more on administration and staffing.

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-8) MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve items 1-3 and 5-7. Motion passed unanimously. MSC Scholl/Faber to approve item number four. Motion passed with Saehr abstaining from the vote. MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve number eight. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1	Contract	Long Prairie WBIF	Tauring, Karina	$2,688.75	Well Sealing
2.	Contract	Long Prairie WBIF	Jones, Lucy/Pine Bluff LLC	$1,875.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
3.	Contract	Crow Wing River WBIF	Faber, Tom	$1,425.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
4.	Contract	FY26 Conservation Contracts	Saehr, Scott	$7,000.00	Critical Area Planting
5.	Amendment /Payment	MRBRD 24-14	Brausen, Mike	$720.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
6.	Payment	MRBRD 24-15	Ploof, Peter	$337.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
7.	Payment	MRBRD 24-31	Nancy and Mark Kostreba	$735.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
8.	Contract	FY24 Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Yorek Dairy Farm LLC	$34,440.55	WASCOB

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update- Scholl briefed the board on the use of money for this watershed and how they have used a significant amount to hire four staff and cover administrative expenses.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared that at their last meeting the group is proposing adding an outreach staff for the watershed.

3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher had nothing new, their meeting will be held in April.
4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – The last meeting it was directed to have the county attorney's review what may be the best agreement for the implementation part of the plan.
5. Area 2/WCTSA Board Meeting – Zapzalka, Wettstein and Brutscher attended the meeting and heard presentations on the USFWS partnership, Centra Sota Environmental Services offerings, Prevailing Wage and dam removals on the Pomme de Terre.

MANAGER REPORTS

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – Wettstein mentioned if the board is interested in submitting resolutions this is the time of year to start this process.
2. Tree Week Approaching – All tree sales are done and Knopik is now organizing for tree week packaging and pick-up. Wettstein invited the board to come by the tree garage after the board meeting next month because that is when the pick-up will be held.
3. Staffing – Christopher Borash started with the District March 30.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Long Prairie River Watershed Meeting, March 19, 9:00-10:30, Todd County Courthouse
- Rum River Watershed JPE Meeting, March 26, 4:30-6:30, Mille Lacs County Courthouse
- Staff and Board Photos ~~April 10, TBD Location~~
- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting, April 20, 1:00-3:00, Crow Wing County Courthouse
- BWSR Dispute Resolution Committee Meeting, April 23, MPCA Building St. Paul
- Tree Pick-up Date, April 24, 9-4PM, Little Falls Exchange Arena

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- April 24, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- May 22, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- June 26, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting ended at 10:09 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 24, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka

SECRETARY MINUTES MSC Scholl/Saehr to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS MSC Scholl/Faber to table the April Treasurers Report until the board can approve a resolution documenting the transfer of funds to the checking account that supports the Mississippi River Sartell planning grant. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT Absent

GUEST REPORTS

1. NRCS- Troy Daniel is hosting a series of round tables and he hosted one on ag waste where local farmers who had done these NRCS practices were invited and gave feedback to NRCS. There were four projects funded with the RCPP Irrigation, more money coming for CSP and EQIP and the Local Work Group will be on June 3.
2. BWSR, Brett Arne Board Conservationist – Shared at the legislature WCA rule is being discussed as is the wording in the 103A statute to replace the phrase "land occupier." He is working on holding contract review trainings. Also updated the board that Moriya Rufer will be leaving HEI to work for BWSR as a Board Conservationist in his old work area and that all the RCPP Soil Health funding is encumbered.

NEW BUSINESS

1. DNR Reimbursement for LCCMR Project Funds- Wettstein shared these funds are not here yet.
2. WCA Appeal Update – the Dispute Resolution Committee at BWSR heard the appeal and will be recommending to the full BWSR Board that they uphold the SWCD decision. This meeting will be May 27 in St. Paul. Once a decision is made there, parties would have 30 days to appeal.
3. 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Annual Plan of Work – MSC Saehr/Faber to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
4. One Watershed One Plan Discussion – Wettstein had this on the agenda in the case anyone wanted to discuss this issue further. The group talked about administrative time to implement these planning efforts and funding. The differences between the watersheds in how some are hiring staff, others are discussing doing this and the demand for project money. Scholl talked about the Rum putting together the budget for the next round of funding.
5. Soil Health RCPP Funding – This funding does have a contract on the agenda later on the meeting (SHRCPP). We have been told not to list the landowner name on the agenda for this grant. This funding is now all encumbered for the state so the funds we have are what is available.

6. LSOHC Phase 14 Proposal – Faber/Scholl to approve moving forward with a proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
7. NACD Budget Request FY26 – the district is waiting on this money. It includes funding for the new space at the Military museum, funds for staff to do outreach and technical assistance and the remaining funds needed to purchase the no-till drill Crow Wing SWCD received state funds from MDA on.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-10) MSC Saehr/Faber to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1	Payment	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Ploof, Peter	$750.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
2	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Czech, Barney	$1,125.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
3	Contract	Conservation Contract	Kliber, Dan	$1,302.75	Prescribed Burn
4	Contract	Conservation Contract	Lochner, Steven	$1,736.25	Well Sealing
5	Contract	Long Prairie WBIF	Lessard, Mike	$8,278.46	Shoreline Restoration
6	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Pietrowski, Doug	$1,000.00	Pollinator Planting
7	Payment	Crow Wing, CWMSWCD26-01	Faber, Tom	$1,410.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
8	Contract Amendment	SHD 26-25	Haakonson, Eric	$1,530.00	Field Windbreak
9	Contract	49-1-1 SHRCPP		$3,360.00	No-Till
10	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Rutz Farms LLC	$5,865.00	No-Till

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, April 24, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl had shared earlier about the board meeting on the 26th.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Next meeting is June 18th.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher reported there was a meeting last week. The group discussed what has been done to date, talked about how to continue to update the county boards in the progress and discussed meeting again in June to potentially approve moving some funds before the end of the grant.
4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – Saehr had requested to get a report on other watersheds, what different ones are spending on administration vs. project costs.

MANAGER REPORTS

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – Wettstein reminded the group this is the time of the year to submit resolutions if we want to submit anything. These are then recommended to the Area and then to the state for the annual convention.
2. ACUB Quarterly Summary- McDonald prepared a report for the board with a summary of where the program is at.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting, April 20, 1:00-3:00, Crow Wing County Courthouse
- BWSR Dispute Resolution Committee Meeting, April 23, MPCA Building St. Paul
- Tree Pick-up Date, April 24, 9-4PM, Little Falls Exchange Arena
- Local Work Group, June 3rd, Morrison County Government Center

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- May 22, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- June 26, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- July 24, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting adjourned.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, May 29, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON: Supervisors: Brutscher, Hubner, Faber, Saehr and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Borash; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; BWSR Staff: Arne; FSA Staff: Fellbaum
SECRETARY MINUTES- MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as written. Motion passed unanimously.
FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS- April and May – RESOLUTION for Transfer
-MSC Saehr/Hubner to approve the April and May treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously. MSC Saehr/Hubner to pass the Resolution for Transfer with one change to include an additional Whereas referencing the transactions in Exhibit A. Motion passed unanimously.
COMMISSIONERS REPORT- Absent. Wettstein shared she had talked to Winscher, and he had shared the county passed an energy moratorium which applies to community solar, solar farms and wind energy projects.

GUEST REPORTS

1. NRCS – Zapzalka shared the had nine more EQIP projects funded, one has cancelled and they are all agricultural waste projects. All seven of the CSP projects for the county have been funded. Also, the Yorek project the district piggy backed funding on is nearing completion.
2. BWSR, Brett Arne Board Conservationist – Arne shared that the legislature wrapped up on May 18th. It was a bonding year, so RIM was funded. Some language updates to the statute were made including changing the wording "land occupiers" to "landowner or authorized agent." He will be putting together a training for staff in July on Contracts.
3. FSA- Alex Fellbaum joined the meeting to report to the board that acreage reporting is due July 19th. Elections for County Committee members whose terms are expiring will be coming up. CRP sign-ups are open and they will be notifying producers of an increase in base acres; the first time this has happened since 2002.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Employee Christopher Borash, Conservation Agronomist – Wettstein introduced Borash to the board for the first time, but he has been working for two months already. Borash shared he had over two years of experience in Pope SWCD and is happy to be here. He was raised on a dairy farm in Morrison County, and his wife is also from the area. He will be working with producers on cover crop, no-till, reduced till contracts and helping with the MAWQCP.
2. DNR Reimbursement for LCCMR Project Funds – Wettstein shared they have received confirmation that a reimbursement payment is coming. As of this morning it is not in the checking account.
3. WCA Appeal Update – The BWSR Board has voted on the recommendation from the Dispute Resolution Committee to uphold the Morrison SWCD WCA decision it made for

Ellen Kalahar-Grissom. Marvin Stroschein will have a 30-day window to appeal this decision to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-50)- MSC Saehr/Hubner to approve items 1-50 except for 47, 48 and 50. Motion passed unanimously. MSC Faber/Hubner to approve items number 47, 48 and 50. Call for the vote had Brutscher, Hubner and Faber voting in favor, Scholl and Saehr abstained. No opposition.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1.	Contract	Conservation Contracts	Schmidtbauer, Sharon	$562.50	Well Decommissioning
2.	Contract	Conservation Contracts	Schmidt, John	$2,130.00	Well Decommissioning
3.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd	Stoch, Catherine	$1,080.00	Conservation Cover
4.	Contract	RCPP Soil Health	49-1-03	$10,678.25	Cover Crop
5.	Contract	RCPP Soil Health	49-1-04	$17,017.00	Cover Crop
6.	Contract	RCPP Soil Health	49-1-05	$19,250.00	Cover Crop
7.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Blaine, Greg	$5,000.00	Wetland Restoration
8.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Brian Peterschick	$16,835.00	Wetland Restoration
9.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Ploof, Galen	$21,800.00	Wetland Restoration
10.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Pugh, Mark	$21,300.00	Wetland Restoration

11.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Schulte, Jack	$9,500.00	Wetland Restoration
12.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Thoma, Luke	$4,200.00	Wetland Restoration
13.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Weidenbach, David	$7,000.00	Wetland Restoration
14.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Cummins)	Bjorge, Austin	$11,100.00	Wetland Restoration
15.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Cummins)	Bumpy Road LLC (Bumpy Faust)	$15,500.00	Wetland Restoration
16.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Cummins)	Knopik, Robert and Jennifer	$3,850.00	Wetland Restoration
17.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Starbucks)	LeBlanc, Joe	$6,107.00	Wetland Restoration
18.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Starbucks)	Bleichner, Kristina & Okroi, Craig	$2,212.00	Wetland Restoration
19.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Starbucks)	Kusky, Paul	$2,500.00	Wetland Restoration
20.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Starbucks)	Gottwalt, Eugene	$13,553.00	Wetland Restoration
21.	Contract	The Nature Conservancy (Starbucks)	Jelinski, James	$21,928.00	Wetland Restoration
22.	Contract	USFWS Grant	LeBlanc, Bryan	$3,765.00	Wetland Restoration

23.	Contract	USFWS Grant	LeBlanc, Roger	$16,322.00	Wetland Restoration
24.	Contract	USFWS Grant	LeBlanc, Joe	$18,888.00	Wetland Restoration
25.	Contract	USFWS Grant	Jelinski, James	$4,000.00	Wetland Restoration
26.	Contract	Conservation Contracts	Jelinski, James	$3,272.00	Wetland Restoration
27.	Contract	BWSR Peatlands	Blaine Revocable Trust	$64,900.00	Wetland Restoration
28.	Contract	BWSR Peatlands	Jelinski, James	$11,300.00	Wetland Restoration
29.	Contract	BWSR Peatlands	Johnson, Bill and Neil	$19,700.00	Wetland Restoration
30.	Contract	BWSR Peatlands	Lashinski, Allen	$15,000.00	Wetland Restoration
31.	Contract	BWSR Peatlands	Lukasavitz, Emily	$23,850.00	Wetland Restoration
32.	Contract	BWSR Peatlands	Thoma, Dennis	$27,200.00	Wetland Restoration
33.	Payment	Conservation Contracts 06-26	Kliber, Dan	$1,302.75	Prescribed Burn
34.	Payment	MRBRD 24-24	Schulte, Jack	$3,600.00	Tree Establishment
35.	Payment	MRBRD 24-26	Peterschick, Brian	$225.00	Field Windbreak

36.	Payment	MRBRD 24-27	Tabatt, Randy	$720.00	Tree Establishment
37.	Payment	MRBRD 24-28	Czech, Noah	$379.78	Tree Establishment
38.	Payment	MRBRD 24-30	Bertsch, Bob	$554.36	Forest Stewardship Plan
39.	Payment	MRBRD 24-32	Chock, Ryan	$322.13	Tree Establishment
40.	Payment	SHD 22-25	Rademacher, Gary	$7,931.55	Cover Crops
41.	Payment	SHD 24-25	Case, Jim	$540.00	Tree Establishment
42.	Payment	SHD 25-25	Stuckmayer, Eric	$720.00	Field Windbreak
43.	Payment	SHD 26-25	Haakonson, Eric	$1,530.00	Tree Establishment
44.	Payment	SHD 27-25	LeBlanc, Clint	$360.00	Field Windbreak
45.	Payment	SHD 30-25	Surma, Jack and Mary Nona	$1,570.37	Tree Establishment
46.	Payment	RCPP 49-1-01	49-1-01	$3,360.00	Residue and Tillage Management
47.	Contract	Conservation Contracts	Scholl, Dennis	$993.75	Well Sealing
48.	Payment	FY26 Conservation Contracts 05-26	Saehr, Scott	$7,000.00	Critical Area Planting (Shoreline Restoration)

49.	Payment	MRBRD 24-35	Rutz Farms, LLC	$5,502.00	Residue and Tillage Management, No-till
50.	Contract	RCPP 49-1-6	49-1-6	$1,200.00	Residue and Tillage Management, No-till

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – IPO meeting is happening now with the next JPE meeting in June Scholl reported.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared their meeting is coming up and that the next round of WBIF funds is being discussed.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher has a meeting on Monday.
4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – Saehr has a meeting on June 10th.

MANAGER REPORTS

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – Wettstein shared there is a new NRCS Chief who has been appointed, Colton Buckley, the youngest chief in the organizations history at 32 years old.
2. Financial Reconciliation for BWSR Clean Water Fund, Cover Crops – Wettstein shared the report BWSR gave after the reconciliation. Overall, the financials were good with a few recommendations on contracts that staff were able to clean up. Arne agreed with the summary and shared that his contract training in July will be another opportunity to work with staff on what BWSR needs to see on contracts.
3. Nitrate Summary – McDonald created a summary of the week-long clinic which resulted in 73 wells being tested.
4. Region 5 Survey Reminder - https://regionfive.org/survey-e - Reminder from Wettstein to fill out the survey if you have not already.
5. City of Buckman Proposed Water Treatment- Wettstein presented a map of the improvements planned for Buckman. The comment period is open for 30 days.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Mississippi River Brainerd Watershed Policy Committee Meeting, June 1
- Supervisor Filing Period runs through June 2nd.
- Local Work Group, June 3, 2026, 10:00-2:00, Morrison County Government Center

- Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting, June 10
- Area 2 Meeting, June 17, 8:30-2:00, Alexandria
- Rum River Watershed Board Meeting, June 25, 4:30 PM, Mille Lacs County Courthouse
- Long Prairie River Watershed Meeting~~, June 18th~~July 16, 9 am, Todd County Courthouse
- We Are Water Exhibit, Great River Arts, Fall 2026

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- June 26, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- July 24, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- August 28, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON: Supervisors: Hubner, Faber and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; Commissioner: Winscher

SECRETARY MINUTES- MSC Scholl/Hubner approve with the omission of one sentence under the BWSR report regarding the passing of legislation to update the Soil and Water state statute. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS- -MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT- Winscher reported they held the Truth and Taxation meeting and the county fair is taking place.

GUEST REPORTS

1. NRCS- Zapzalka said EQIP funds are trickling in, with the possibility of them getting six or seven more projects funded. He also said there is a job announcement open to fill Steve Cole's vacancy from when he retired. The position is the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations.
2. BWSR, Brett Arne Board Conservationist- Absent. Wettstein shared all the staff will be attending a contract refresher training this month that Arne is holding in Baxter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Contract for Services, Brinks Wetland Services, LLC – Hubner/Scholl to authorize entering into a contract.
2. Potential Data Breach – Wettstein explained that her email account was hacked and that she had worked with Morrison County IT to restore her email. The hackers had control of her account for several hours and in that time had reviewed emails and sent out a phishing email to over 1600 email contacts. The recommendation from Amy Middendorf, IT Director for Morrison County is to file a claim with MCIT to further explore if any of the emails contained sensitive information that would require the district to send out letters informing customers or vendors if they were involved in a data breach. Wettstein reviewed the emails the IT Department presented as read by the hackers, but none appear to contain sensitive information. As a SWCD, Wettstein reminded the board, we do not handle Social Security numbers, bank account numbers or sensitive information of that nature, most is public information. MSC Scholl/Hubner to file a claim with MCIT to have a more thorough review of the risk of a data breach. Motion approved unanimously.
3. DNR Reimbursement for LCCMR Project Funds- The funding reimbursement has been received as reported on the treasurer's report. No additional action is needed.
4. WCA Update – Stroschein has filed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals to challenge the WCA decision the office made, and which was upheld by the BWSR Board.
5. 2027 County Request for Funding – Wettstein asked the board to consider what has been recommended by our state association, to hold steady with the current allocation the county

has sent us at $150K. MSC Scholl/Hubner to keep the request in-line with the past request at $150K. Motion passed unanimously.

6. RCPP Notice of Funding Opportunity- NRCS has announced this funding opportunity. This was the fund that we were awarded but then was rescinded by the new administration. The application is ready to go but it would still take a considerable amount of time to update partner letters, document match and work through contracts if awarded. No action is needed at this time, but it is something to consider.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-11) MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve items 1-11. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1.	Payment	RCPP 49-1-6	49-1-6	$1,200.00	Residue and Tillage Management, No-till
2.	Contract	RCPP 49-1-2	49-1-2	$3,729.00	Cover Crops
3.	Contract	RCPP 49-1-7	49-1-7	$5,516.50	Cover Crops
4.	Contract	RCPP 49-1-8	49-1-8	$16,000.05	Cover Crops
5.	Contract	RCPP 49-1-9	49-1-9	$16,206.85	Cover Crops
6.	Contract	Conservation Contract	Kroll, Duane	$1,221.00	Well Decommissioning
7.	Contract	LCCMR What a Match!	Wallin, Juanita	$825.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
8.	Contract	BWSR – Peatlands	Winkelman, Mike	$17,750.00	Wetland Restoration
9.	Payment	Conservation Contracts 02-26	Friends of Crane Meadows	$3,000.00	Conservation Cover

10.	Payment	M-LPWBIF-25-01	Tauring, Karina	$2,688.75	Well Decommissioning
11.	Payment	MRBRD 24-29	Vitaly, Salo	$502.50	Forest Stewardship Plan

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl reported the group is working on the 2027 budget, they are planning a tour in September and they discussed personnel as part of the budget considerations.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update- Faber shared their meeting is coming up in July.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update- No update.
4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update- A meeting with attorneys and lead staff is scheduled for July to discuss implementation governance.
5. Area 2/WCTSA Meeting- Zapzalka and Wettstein attended. Faber was absent but was re-elected chair of the WCTSA.

MANAGER REPORTS

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – The district hosted the Local Work Group/Water Plan annual meeting with Brutscher and Hubner in attendance. The meeting discussed county priorities for future NRCS funding and was an opportunity to get updates from those in the room.
2. Tree Sale Profit and Loss Statement – Knopik prepared a report on this year's program. The board thanked the staff for all their work on this years sale.
3. Audit -All the requested information has been submitted information to the auditors. They are planning on coming to the office in September to do an in-person review of our finances.
4. LSOHC Application Submitted for $5.82M – The district submitted an application and will wait to hear if we are called for an in-person presentation. Historically we have never received what our original request was for if we were selected. It has been about half of our request.
5. LCCMR Application Not Selected for Presentation- This proposal was not successful. It was for forestry plans and practices and was in partnership with Crow Wing SWCD and Great River Greening.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Rum River Watershed Board Meeting, June 25, 4:30 PM, Mille Lacs County Courthouse
- Long Prairie River Watershed Meeting~~, June 18th~~ July 16, 9 am, Todd County Courthouse

- We Are Water Exhibit, Great River Arts, Fall 2026

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- July 24, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- August 28, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- September 25, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, July 24, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON- Supervisors: Faber, Saehr, Brutscher and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; BWSR staff: Arne
AGENDA- MSC Saehr/Brutscher to correct numbering on the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
SECRETARY MINUTES- MSC Faber/Scholl to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS- -MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
COMMISSIONERS REPORT- None

GUEST REPORTS

- NRCS – Zapzalka reported they have 24 contracts for $3.44 million in EQIP, nine CSP contracts for a total of $536,000. Three irrigation RCPP contracts approved. Deferral letters are getting sent out, if everyone is willing to defer, they will have over 120 applications next year.
- BWSR- Arne talked about how waste, fraud and abuse is on everyone's mind in St. Paul. July 1 there were lots of updates for the Grants Administration Manual and contract guidance. There have also been some updates to the RIM Easement process including moving towards surveying each easement and requiring Forest Stewardship Plans on forested easements.

NEW BUSINESS

- Long Prairie Watershed Fiscal Agreement – MSC Faber/Scholl to sign into. Motion passed unanimously.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Camp Ripley and Morrison SWCD – Renewal – MSC Faber/Scholl to renew this MOU. Motion passed unanimously.
- WCA Update – Wettstein shared that we were not summoned properly by Stroschein's attorney regarding the appeal to the MN State Court of Appeals. Our attorney was not sure what the judge would do about this as he has never seen it happen before.
- RCPP Notice of Funding Opportunity- Wettstein shared that we have decided not to pursue this funding round due to the timing restrictions and workload and instead will look forward to an application in 2027.
- The Nature Conservancy – Strengthening Forest Economies Request for Proposals – MSC Faber/Saehr to move forward with a proposal. Wettstein clarified that the proposal would be Crow Wing and Morrison SWCD staff time monies and all the payments to landowners would be handled by The Nature Conservancy. Motion passed unanimously.

- Award Nominees, Review and Selection for Morrison County and MASWCD – The board reviewed the nominations submitted by staff and voted for each award grouping to be selected as the 2026 award winner. It was also discussed to nominate the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls again for the MASWCD/MPCA Community Conservationist Award.
    - Outstanding Conservationists- Lee and Tasha Wood
    - Wildlife Habitat Steward Award – Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation
    - Outstanding Forest Steward Award – Armadillo Investments
    - Teacher Award – Pat Tax
- Art-Tech Productions Contract for Camp Environmental Center Exhibits- $92,893.00 – MSC Faber/Scholl to execute an agreement with Art-Tech once we have an executed grant agreement from NACD. Art-Tech was able to demonstrate they could provide some of the diorama exhibit construction for a much lower price and still had the reputation and experience needed to do the project. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-14)

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
	Payment	10-26 Conservation Contracts	Scholl, Dennis	$993.75	Well Decommissioning
	Payment	8-26 Conservation Contracts	Schmidtbauer, Sharon	$562.50	Well Decommissioning
	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd	Ploof, Galen	$487.50	Forest Stewardship Plan
	Contract	RCPP 49-1-10	49-1-10	$8,532.70	Cover Crops
	Payment	SHD 28-25	VSP Partners, Dan Peterson	$1,683.29	Reforestation
	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Scherping, Dean	$5,549.50	Cover Crop
	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Nelson, Mikel	$1,965.15	Cover Crop

	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Venske, Dan	$1,255.10	Cover Crop
	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Dalquist, Kyle	$7,629.60	Cover Crop
	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Herzog, Fred	$7,040.60	Cover Crop
	Contract	RCPP 49-1-11	49-1-11	$6,239.75	Cover Crop
	Contract	RCPP 49-1-12	49-1-12	$16,493.95	Cover Crop
	Contract	RCPP 49-1-13	49-1-13	$5,298.15	Cover Crop
	Payment	SHD 29-25	Cekalla, Jill	$270.00	Field Windbreak

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – No updates.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared he is hosting a pontoon tour on August 13th on Lake Alexander as part of the watershed.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update- No updates.
4. Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – Next meeting is in September.

MANAGER REPORTS

1. MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – No updates.
2. Brinks Wetland Services LLC Assistance – Wettstein has invited Mitch Brinks to our next month meeting to introduce himself and share what he is doing for Morrison SWCD.
3. Cyber Security Claim – Eckert Seaman Attorney at Law – They are reviewing the documents for any potential privacy data breach.
4. Josh Hanson Promotion – Hanson joined the meeting earlier to thank the board and to say that he will plan to attend a future meeting. He will be taking over as the Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations for the Northeast and will be based out of Baxter.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Lake Alexander Pontoon Tour, August 13 at 9:30 am, East Access DNR Boat Launch

- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting, September 8
- Rum River Watershed Bus Tour, September 24
- We Are Water Exhibit, Great River Arts, Fall 2026

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- August 28, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- September 25, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- October 23, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, August 28, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON- Supervisors: Faber, Hubner, Saehr, Brutscher and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka, Reberg; BWSR staff: Arne; Guests Duane Kroll, Randy Klaphake, Paul Anez and Mitch Brinks

SECRETARY MINUTES- MSC Saehr/Hubner to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS- -MSC Scholl/Faber to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

GUEST REPORTS

- Mississippi River Sartell Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members who are representing the agricultural community, Duane Kroll, Randy Klaphake and Paul Anez – They shared their experiences and concerns with the Mississippi River Sartell Planning process as members of the TAC. Kroll starting by sharing there have been red flags to him on this process since the Kick-off meeting. He is also worried this board is losing local control if it signs onto a Joint Powers Entity. Anez shared the model that was used for the plan is outdated. When they suggested they take all the land that is now in solar panels into the equations it was found that wasn't possible. He felt, as a taxpayer, there would be very little benefit as the funding didn't get into addressing and making measurable differences. They were able to incorporate some changes and get more funding for nutrient management. Klaphake shared there are 79 thousand people that have septic systems in this watershed. He has brought up several times septic's do not remove all the nitrates, mainly bacteria concerns. He felt there was an opportunity to get people more information to make the right decision by offering a test, so they knew if they had a well/septic interaction. The board had a discussion on governance structure following the update and agreed with keeping local conservation decisions at the board level. They thanked them for coming and for their time.
- Mitch Brinks, Brinks Wetland Services LLC- Brinks shared the work he has been doing for the district and presented several maps for the board to see. They thanked him for helping and coming to the meeting.
- NRCS, Terry Zapzalka – Julie Reberg is serving as the Acting Team Lead for 120 days. She is normally the District Conservationist in Buffalo. Zapzalka shared that they have 130 applications, so they are working on planning and payments in not only Morrison but Todd and Wadena as well.
- BWSR, Brett Arne Board Conservationist – Arne is hosting another conservation cohorts training and it will be on BWSR Train Tracks soon.

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, August 28, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

NEW BUSINESS

1. Festler Land Survey Inc. Contract, $3,500.00 – MSC Scholl/Faber to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
2. IRS Standard Mileage Rate Adoption (Adjusted July 1 to 76 cents per mile)- MSC Scholl/Faber to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
3. November and December Board Meeting Dates – MSC Faber/Scholl to set at November 20th and December 18th due to the holidays. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-20) – MSC Faber/Scholl to approve Items 1-20. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1.	Cancellation	MRBRD 24-36	Pietrowski, Doug	$1,000.00	Conservation Cover
2.	Payment	M-LPWBIF-25-02	Pine Bluff LLC	$1,875.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
3.	Payment	WAM 26-01	Wallin, Juanita	$825.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
4.	Payment	09-26 Conservation Contracts	Schmidt, John	$1,138.88	Well Decommissioning
5.	Contract	Long Prairie WBIF	Doucette, Steve	$5,100.00	Cover Crop
6.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Lorenz, Bob and Erik	$2,970.00	Cover Crop
7.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Backowski, Joe	$1,605.65	Cover Crop
8.	Contract	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-14	$10,146.50	No-Till/Planting Green
9.	Contract	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-15	$935.00	Cover Crop
10.	Contract	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-16	$10,710.00	No-Till/Planting Green

11.	Contract	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-17	$2,814.00	No-Till/Planting Green
12.	Payment	NRCS RCPP Soil Health 49-1-13	49-1-13	$5,298.15	Cover Crop
13.	Contract Amendment and Payment	2026 WR-01	Bjorge, Austin	$11,100.00 $12,100.00	Wetland Restoration
14.	Payment	2026-WR-06	Kuske, Paul	$2,500.00	Wetland Restoration
15.	Payment	MRBRD 24-42	Schulte, Jack	$9,500.00	Wetland Restoration
16.	Payment	2026-WR-07	Gottwalt, Eugene	$13,553.00	Wetland Restoration
17.	Contract Amendment and Payment	2026-WR-16	Thoma, Dennis	~~$27,200.00~~ $29,200.00	Wetland Restoration
18.	Payment	MRBRD 24-44	Weidenbach, David	$7,000.00	Wetland Restoration
19.	Payment	MRBRD 24-43	Thoma, Luke	$4,200.00	Wetland Restoration
20.	Payment	MRBRD 24-40	Ploof, Galen	$21,800.00	Wetland Restoration

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

- Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl shared there is a bus tour coming up. He will be attending the meeting but not the tour.
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared they have a meeting on October 15.
- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher shared their next meeting is at the Great River Arts because the We Are Water exhibit is there.
- Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – This was covered earlier in the meeting.
- Budget Committee Update – They are working on a draft budget for the full board to consider at a later date.

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, August 28, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

MANAGER REPORTS

- MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – No new updates.
- NACD Executed Agreement Received – This funding is for the military museum which unfortunately opens September 11th so the exhibit will have a coming soon sign.
- LSOHC Proposal Rejection – Our CRSL proposal was not invited for presentation.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting, September 8, Great River Arts
- Mississippi River Sartell Policy Committee Meeting, September 9
- Rum River Watershed JPE Meeting and Bus Tour, September 24
- Audit, September 21, Morrison SWCD Office
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 22-23
- We Are Water Exhibit, Great River Arts, Fall 2026

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- September 25, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- October 23, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- November and December TBD

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

ATTENDING IN-PERSON- Supervisors: Faber, Saehr, Brutscher and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; Guests Tim Terrill

SECRETARY MINUTES - MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as presented. Motion amended by Saehr to add Mitch Brinks as under the Attending in-Person. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL and TREASURER REPORTS-MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

GUEST REPORTS

- Tim Terrill, Mississippi Headwaters Board Executive Director – Terrill gave an overview of the MHB. They have zoning authority for the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, they help complete projects, do land protection, events, offer mini grants and have a social media presence that attracts a lot of attention. MHB has helped Morrison County through rain garden designs for the City of Little Falls and they helped fund part of the Soil Health Field Day the district held a few years ago.
- NRCS, Terry Zapzalka – Reported that they have 115 EQIP applications they are working on and 9 CSP applications so they are very busy until January getting those together. He also reminded the board Noska can do their forestry applications and Borash helps with cover crop applications and it helps them out to have the district staff doing those.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2027 Draft Budget - Presentation by Budget Committee- Saehr presented the draft budget to the board giving attention to the personnel expenses section. MSC Faber/Scholl to table a decision until next meeting to offer a comparison budget with the increased COLA as the draft budget is 2.5% and the latest recommendation is 3.4%. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Employee Policy Draft – Wettstein asked if the Personnel Committee would be willing to help review a cleaned-up draft as the one we just got back from the attorney has a lot of just small edits. Once the legal updates have been reviewed by the smaller group it will come to the full board. Faber and Hubner are the board Personnel Committee members. The group was comfortable with that plan.
3. HEI Revised Contract for Services for Plan Writing and Facilitation Services for the Mississippi River Sartell Watershed (MRSW) Planning - $29,500 – Wettstein shared the MRSW Policy Committee has recommended to this board, as the fiscal agent, to revise the contract with HEI. MSC Faber/Scholl to approve revising the contract. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Mississippi River Sartell Governance Structure Recommendation – The board discussed this briefly at the last meeting and continued the discussion. MSC Faber/Scholl to support a Joint Powers Collaboration so continued discussions about learning more about this type of structure will happen. Motion passed unanimously. Wettstein reminded the group Morrison SWCD may be the only member currently pushing for this.

5. Resolution Packet Presentation – Due November 1- Wettstein asked the board to be prepared to vote on the packet at the next meeting.
6. Contract Extension for Landscape Stewardship Plan Writing – Bethany Chaplin – Wettstein explained that the contract expired June 30th but due to a lapse in the contract the DNR held with the LSP Coordinator the work had to be delayed. MSC Scholl/Saehr to extend the contract with Chaplin. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Items 1-23) – MSC Faber/Saehr to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Item	Type	Grant Source / Contract #	Name	Amount	Practice
1.	Contract	Rum River WBIF	Ratka, Pete	$3,000.00	Cover Crop
2.	Contract	Mississippi River Brainerd WBIF	Hubner, David	$8,250.00	Cover Crop
3.	Contract Amendment/Payment	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-3	$10,318.00	Cover Crop
4.	Payment	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-11	$6,239.75	Cover Crop
5.	Payment	NRCS RCPP Soil Health	49-1-15	$935.00	Cover Crop
6.	Payment	MRBRD 26-04	Venske, Dan	$1,255.10	Cover Crop
7.	Payment	MRBRD 26-03	Nelson, Mikel	$1,965.15	Cover Crop
8.	Contract Amendment/Payment	Rum River WBIF	Beack, Jordan	$9,308.40	Cover Crop
9.	Payment	M-LPWBIF-23-05	Doucette, Steve	$3,300.00	Cover Crop
10.	Contract	Long Prairie Watershed/What a Match!	Daniels, Mike	$810.00	Forest Stewardship Plan

11.	Contract	Conservation Contracts	Cyr, Robert (Abby Cyr)	$1,135.50	Prescribed Burn
12.	Contract Amendment/	MRBRD ~~24-34~~ 26-09	Czech, Barney	$1,125.00	Forest Stewardship Plan
13.	Payment	2026-WR-09	LeBlanc, Bryan	$3,765.00	Wetland Restoration
14.	Payment	2026-WR-10	LeBlanc, Roger	$16,322.00	Wetland Restoration
15.	Payment	MRBRD 24-38	Blaine, Greg	$5,000.00	Wetland Restoration
16.	Payment	2026-WR-11	Blaine Revocable Trust	$64,900.00	Wetland Restoration
17.	Payment	2026-WR-05	Okroi, Craig and Bleichner, Kristina	$2,212.00	Wetland Restoration
18.	Payment	MRBRD 24-39	Peterschick, Brian	$16,835.00	Wetland Restoration
19.	Payment	MRBRD 24-41	Pugh, Mark	$21,300.00	Wetland Restoration
20.	Payment	Conservation Contracts 07-26	Lochner, Steven	$1,736.25	Well Sealing
21.	Payment	M-LPWBIF-25-03	Lessard, Mike	$8,278.46	Shoreline Restoration
22.	Payment	2026-WR-04	LeBlanc, Joseph	$24,995.00	Wetland Restoration
23.	Payment	2026-WR-14	Lashinski, Allen	$15,000.00	Wetland Restoration

MEETING MINUTES

Morrison SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2026, at 8:00 am
USDA Service Center, 16776 Heron Road, Little Falls

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

- Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl reported the next meeting is in December and they will be discussing the budget.
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared the next meeting will be October 15.
- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher attended the last meeting, it was held at the Great River Arts because the We Are Water display was featured there. Their chair, Commissioner Steve Barrows from Crow Wing County, is not running for re-election so the group thanked him for his leadership at the meeting.
- Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed One Plan Update – The next policy meeting is October 14.
- Area 2/West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA) Meetings – Faber, Wettstein, Brutscher and Zapzalka attended the September 17th meeting in Paynesville. The group discussed how we financially support the WCTSA through making partial payments on what they invoice us for work in the county. The goal has been to support them by covering at least 30% of the full invoice as they are also funded by state grants. Wettstein shared we have a line item in our budget for them as well under Engineering Services and in 2027 the budgeted amount is for $30K. We can also supplement what we pay to them by using WBIF funds.

MANAGER REPORTS

- MASWCD/NACD Updates for SWCDs – Upcoming national convention is in Las Vegas this year. The board should think about if they would like to attend our MASWCD meeting in December as well.
- MASWCD Nominations Submitted – These have been submitted and we will wait to hear if we have any statewide award winners.
- Audit with Michael Peterson – Wettstein shared our auditor was onsite September 21.
- Storage Use Agreement with Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls and Crow Wing SWCD & No Till Drill Purchased – This is an update. The drill will be available for plantings in 2027.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Private Lands Conference, September 22-24, Alexandria
- Rum River Watershed JPE Meeting and Bus Tour, September 24
- Fall Forestry Day, Belle Prairie Park, October 9
- Mississippi River Sartell Policy Committee Meeting, October 14 at 8:30 am
- Long Prairie River Policy Committee Meeting, October 15 at 9:30 am

- ~~Morrison County Water Festival, September 22-23 CANCELLED~~
- We Are Water Exhibit, Great River Arts, Fall 2026
- BWSR Academy, October 20-22
- MASWCD Annual Convention, December 1-2, Bloomington

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- October 23, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- November 20, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls
- December 18, 2026 at 8:00 am, USDA Service Center, Little Falls

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary