

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

"Helping People Help the Land"



Murray SWCD

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murrayswcd.org

Supervisors

Chair

Jason Miller

District II

Vice Chair

Anthony Conrad

District III

Secretary

Mona Henkels

District IV

Treasurer

Karen Hurd

District V

PR & I

Paul Posthuma

District I

Staff

District Administrator

Shelly Lewis

Program Manager

Craig Christensen

Resource Specialist

Joe Kaseforth

Members Present:

Jason Miller- Chairman

Karen Hurd-Treasurer

Mona Henkels-Secretary

Paul Posthuma-P.R.&I.

Members Absent:

Anthony Conrad-Vice Chairman

Others Present:

Shelly Lewis-District Administrator

Craig Christensen-Program Manager

Joe Kaseforth-Resource Specialist

Allisa Wendland- District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: The chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Miller to approve the agenda with the following additions:

Update on MASWCD Area V meeting

SWCD office rent

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Minutes of May 14, 2026: A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to approve the Murray SWCD minutes of May 14, 2026.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

The monthly Statement of Treasurer was read and filed for audit.

Salaries: Motion by Henkels second by Hurd to approve Supervisor's vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for May & June 2026.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None.

Motion carried.

DC Report: Zach Ruppert

EQIP thus far in FY26

- 4 contracts
- 3 in preapproval status
- Pasture, cropland and farmstead
- All 7 will assist in resource concerns on 371.2 acres and will bring in 1.2M into Murray County

CSP

- 2 contracts
- 2 applications in preapproval status under Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)
- All 4 will bring 1.2M to Murray County and provide resource concerns management on 4,208 ac

CRP

- 40 reenrollments and/or new contracts

Wetland N/Her Compliance

- Backlog of tiling requests-14 months, approximately 42 outstanding requests for Murray County

Training

- Attended Understanding Virtual Fence-Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge

Ag Certification: The Board reviewed the Ag Certification report for May 2026. A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Hurd to approve the ag certification contract and payment for Jerry Blankens in the amount of \$100.00

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Murray SWCD's Server: The Murray SWCD server was purchased over 7 years ago and needs to be replaced. Jason Lorenz (IT supervisor for Murray County) was down and talked about replacement. The quote of \$3,580.00 for changing our setup to a NAS that has cloud backup. A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Posthuma to approve the purchase of the setup to NAS.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Leadership Training: The Supervisors were given information on the MASWCD Leadership Institute for 2026-2027. A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Miller to approve any Supervisors or Staff to attend the leadership training.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Wolf Farms No Till: A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to approve the following payment:

Wolf Farms #26-03 No Till \$7,353.50 SWCD Technical FY25 Soil Health
Delivery

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

FY23 Capacity Grant: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Posthuma to approve the following voucher: #25-05 Audrey Miller #25-05 Waterway \$17,942.04 SWCD Technical

FY23 Capacity Grant

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Coast Share cancellation: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Miller to approve the cancelation of the following:

Dustin Schuld #24-01 Waterway \$16,493.32 FY23 Capacity Grant

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Des Moines River 1W1P: A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to approve the voucher for #23-DMRW-MUR-033 and forward to Des Moines River 1W1P for payment.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to approve 2 cost-share applications and forward to the Des Moines River 1W1P for funding.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

State of MN Joint Powers Agreement: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement for the Murray SWCD to read groundwater level monitoring for 8 observation wells.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

2027 Murray SWCD Budget: The board reviewed the 2027 Murray SWCD Budget. A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Miller to approve the 2027 Murray SWCD Budget.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Murray SWCD contract position (farm mentor): A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Hurd to approve the farm mentor contract for Brian Biegler with funds coming from the TSA staffing grant.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Murray SWCD outstanding conservationist: A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to ask Peter Notting if he declines then ask Jim Buschena to be the Murray SWCD outstanding conservationist.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Area V Meeting: Henkels updated the Supervisors on the SWMASWCD area v meeting. The state office spoke in the morning. The subject of prevailing wages was discussed along with resolutions.

Murray SWCD Office Rent: The landowner is asking for an increase in the office building rent due to expenses in operating the building having gone up dramatically. He is proposing an increase to \$23.00 per square foot for 850 square feet with a 4-year term. A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the rent increase of \$23.00/square foot and sign a 4-year term starting in 2027.

Affirmative-Miller, Henkels Hurd

Opposed-Posthuma

Motion carried.

District Administrator Update: Lewis updated the Board on the following:

- Attended Des Moines River 1W1P Technical Mtg-June 15
- End of the month - Murray SWCD, SWPTSA, Des Moines River 1W1P
- Posting time in eLINK for grants for TSA & SWCD
- Paying bills for Des Moines River, TSA, & SWCD
- End of the quarter

Des Moines River 1W1P – getting information for auditor

TSA Meeting June 29

Program Manager Update:

- Des Moines River 1W1P technical meeting-June 15
- Attended a County Zoning meeting
- Local Work Group Meeting June 17
- MASWCD Area V meeting June 18
- Working on rental equipment -repairing the drills
- Working on RIM haying agreements

Resource Specialist Update:

- Attended Soil Health Training
- Signed up for Wetland Conservation Act training in Brainerd in September
- Environmental fair planning
- MASWCD Area V meeting
- Soil health contracts & plans
- Cost-share vouchers
- Working on 10 cost share contracts for cover crops and no till

Bills: A motion by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to approve the Murray SWCD bills from May 15, 2026- July 9, 2026, in the amount of \$35,850.29.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 13, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Approved by Mona Henkels, Secretary of District Supervisors

Date