

LYON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Lyon County Soil & Water Office
1424 E. College Drive, Ste 600
Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Lyon County Soil and Water Conservation District

Present: Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Absent: Mason Johnson

Staff: John Biren, Courtney Williams, Anita Cauwels, Ben Skorczewski County: Gary Crowley

Other: Megan Williams

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *All recited Pledge of Allegiance.*

2. **IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST** *No conflict of interest.*

3. **AMEND/APPROVE AGENDA**

3.1 Agenda

Motion by Hively, 2nd by Deutz to approve agenda with addition of 6.10 Custer 11 Garvin Park Grade Stabilization - Approval for Chairman Laleman to sign voucher at a later date.

Mover: Justin Hively

Second: John Lanoue

Moved To: Approve as Amended

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

4. **APPROVE MINUTES**

4.1 June 11, 2025 Minutes

[June SWCD Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion by Hively, 2nd by Lanoue to approve the June 11, 2025 Minutes.

Mover: Justin Hively

Second: John Lanoue

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively,

Motion Result: Passed

5. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

5.1 Account Activity Report

Cauwels presented Account Activity Report
[Account Activity Report.pdf](#)

5.2 2025 SWCD Budget

Cauwels presented 2025 SWCD Budget

5.3 Grant Breakdown Sheet

Cauwels presented Grant Breakdown Sheet
[Grant Breakdown Sheet.docx](#)

6. BUSINESS

6.1 #19/25 - Dan, Bill & John Fischer - Grassed Waterway - Underground Outlet - Contract Approval

Fischers's project is for a Grassed Waterway and Subsurface Drainage. Total amount of project is \$13,633.00. 75% Cost share in the amount of \$6,646.35 with Landowner Fee of \$3,408.25 and NRCS Cost Share of \$3,578.40. Funds from 2023 SWCD Aid, 2023 State Cost Share and 2025 Conservation Contracts.

[19-25 - Bill, Dan and John Fischer - Contract Approval.pdf](#)

Motion by Lanoue, 2nd by Deutz to approve the Contract for the a Grassed Waterway and Underground Outlet in the amount of \$6,646.35.

Mover: John Lanoue

Seconder: Allen Deutz

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

6.2 #20/25 - Dan, Bill & John Fischer - Grassed Waterway - Contract Approval *Fischers's project is for a Grassed Waterway. Total amount of project is \$9,050.00. 75% Cost share in the amount of \$3,322.50 with Landowner Fee of \$2,262.50 and NRCS Cost Share of \$3,465.00. Funds from 2023 SWCD Aid and 2025 WCA.*

[20-25 Bill, Dan and John Fischer - Contract Approval.pdf](#)

Motion by Deutz, 2nd by Lanoue to approve the Contract for the a Grassed Waterway in the amount of \$3,322.50.

Mover: Allen Deutz

Seconder: Justin Hively

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

6.3 #8/25 - Megan Williams - Grassed Waterway - WASCOB - Subsurface Drainage and Underground Outlet - Voucher Approval

Voucher Approval for a Grassed Waterway, Subsurface Drain, 6 - Water and Sediment Control Basins and Underground Outlets in the amount of \$45,080.77 (75% of total cost). Landowner cost is \$27,050.58. Total amount of project is \$72,131.35. Funds will be from 2023 SWCD Aid.

[Megan Williams - Voucher Approval.pdf](#)

Motion by Deutz, 2nd by Hively to approve the Voucher Approval for a Grassed Waterway, Subsurface Drain, 6 - Water & Sediment Control Basins and Underground Outlets in the amount of \$45,080.77. Landowner cost is

\$27,050.58.

Mover: Allen Deutz

Seconded: Justin Hively

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

- 6.4 #18/25 - Mark Fischer - WASCOB - Underground Outlet - Contract Approval
Approve Contract for WASCOB and Underground Outlet in the amount of \$35,678.03. Landowner fees of \$11,892.67. Funds will be from 2024 and 2025 Local Water Management and 2023 SWCD Aid.

[Mark Fischer - Contract Approval.pdf](#)

Motion by Hively, 2nd by Lanoue to approve Contract for WASCOB and Underground Outlet in the amount of \$35,678.03.

Mover: Justin Hively

Seconded: John Lanoue

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

- 6.5 Request for Work Clothing Funds for New Employee

Motion by Lanoue, 2nd by Deutz to approve \$200 clothing allowance for new employee.

Mover: John Lanoue

Seconded: Allen Deutz

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

- 6.6 25-CWMM - LYO - 005 - Scott & Deb Thooft - Contract Approval - Cottonwood - Middle MN - WASCOB - Underground Outlet
FY 25 Cottonwood - Middle MN WBIF Funding.

[Scott and Deb Thooft - 25-CWMM-LYO-005.pdf](#)

Motion by Deutz, 2nd by Lanoue recommend for submittal to the RCRCA Board for Scott and Deb Thooft WASCOB and Underground Outlet Contract - 25-CWMM-LYO-005

Mover: Allen Deutz

Seconded: John Lanoue

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

- 6.7 25-CWMM - LYO - 006 - Linda Louwagie- Contract Approval - Cottonwood - Middle MN - WASCOB - Underground Outlet
FY 25 Cottonwood - Middle MN WBIF Funding.

[Linda Louwagie - 25-CWMM-LYO-006.pdf](#)

Motion by Deutz, 2nd by Hively recommend for submittal to the RCRCA Board

for Linda Louwagie WASCOB and Underground Outlet Contract - 25-CWMM-LYO-006

Mover: Allen Deutz

Seconded: Justin Hively

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

6.8 25-CWMM-LYO-007 - Greg Deutz - Contract Approval - Cottonwood - Middle MN - WASCOB -Underground Outlet

FY 25 Cottonwood - Middle MN WBIF Funding.

[Greg Deutz - 25-CWMM-LYO-008.pdf](#)

Motion by Hively, 2nd by Lanoue recommend for submittal to the RCRCA Board for Greg Deutz WASCOB and Underground Outlet Contract - 25-CWMM-LYO-005

Mover: Justin Hively

Seconded: John Lanoue

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

6.9 25-CWMM - LYO - 008 - Mike Lamfers - Contract Approval -Cottonwood-Middle MN - Grade Stabilization - Underground Outlet

FY 25 Cottonwood - Middle MN WBIF Funding.

[Mike Lamfers - 25-CSMM-LYO-008.pdf](#)

Motion by Deutz, 2nd by Hively to recommend for submittal to the RCRCA Board for Mike Lamfers Grade Stabilization and Underground Outlet Contract - 25-CWMM-LYO-008

Mover: Allen Deutz

Seconded: Justin Hively

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

6.10 - Custer 11 Garvin Park Grade Stabilization - Approval for Chairman Laleman to sign voucher.

Approval for Chairman Laleman to sign voucher upon project completion and certification. Project is 95% complete. Total amount of project requested from Lyon SWCD is \$17,058.10. Funds will be from Miscellaneous Funds.

Motion by Lanoue, 2nd by Deutz to approve Chairman Laleman to sign Voucher for Custer 11 Garvin Park Grade Stabilization.

Mover: John Lanoue

Seconded: Allen Deutz

Moved To: Approve

For: 4 - Allen Deutz, Gary Laleman, John Lanoue, Justin Hively

Motion Result: Passed

7. DISTRICT TECHNICIANS

Discussion on overspray issue on land to be planted with cover crop and Soil Health Delivery Contract. Payment is paid after 1st year of payment. Field was sprayed with double spray of 2-4D. Recommendation to have landowner wait a year to plant. Williams has applied and accepted new position. Not sure when last day is.. Skorczewski has been working on online training, feedlot registrations and inspections.

8. DISTRICT ADMIN

Fair Booth in August, Farm Fest in August and Environmental Fair in September

9. DISTRICT MANAGER

CD 14 - successful Grant Application, but can't pay for the tile.

10. PHEASANTS FOREVER/FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

CRP is in batching, but not sure how many are eligible or who got accepted yet.

11. DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST/LEAD CST -

NRCS EQIP application deadline is August 1, 2025.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 RCRCA

- **Canoe Trips** *There were 21 on the Redwood River trip held June 17. The Cottonwood River trip (Iberia to County Road 11) was cancelled as only 2 signed up. We hope to advertise earlier next year and gather more interest in the new route.*

12.2 Area II River Basins

- **Legislative Update – Special Session**

Area II was appropriated \$140,000 per year for 2026 and 2027. There was no funding in the Bonding Bill.

- **Custer 11 Dam Restoration (Garvin Park)** *Currently, Ryan West Excavating has removed over 8,100 CY of sediment from the pond, replaced the metal culvert with a reinforced concrete culvert, and has about 75% of the new embankment placed. Wet weather conditions have slowed the completion of the embankment.*

12.3 Area V

Meeting was in Windom on June 26, 2025. SWCD Governance & Leadership Essentials training. Let Cauwels know if you would like attend.

12.4 SWPTSA

No report.

12.5 Parks

Parks Meeting is on 7-10-25.

12.6 One Watershed One Plan - Yellow Medicine

Hire a Drone Operator to inspect Ditch 16. Policy meeting on July 16.

12.7 One Watershed One Plan - Des Moines

Johnson will attend meeting on July 17, 2025

12.8 One Watershed One Plan - Cottonwood-Middle MN

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update** *The Technical Committee met June 18 at the Springfield Community Center to finalize the Scoring and Ranking worksheet, hear updates on the CRP Incentive Grant (administered by Redwood SWCD), and review the first four contracts submitted for cost-share assistance from Lyon County. The Policy Committee met at 1:00 to hear presentations from Houston Engineering, Inc. on the MS4Front tracking software, the BEAST reduction calculator, and hydrology model. Rather than pinpointing locations on the landscape for retention projects, the model broke the watershed into about 10 subwatersheds that could be analyzed individually for their contribution to the flow and the timing of that flow at the confluence with the Cottonwood River. From the hydrographs of existing flows, the subwatersheds of Plum Creek, Pell Creek, Dutch Charley Creek and Highwater Creek were identified as areas where retention would be advantageous. Since the Plan owns the model, it can be used to insert proposed retention projects and see the results of whether the project will improve or potentially worsen the hydrograph.*

RCRCA requested a 2-month grant extension to August 29, 2025 so that the final expenses to Houston Engineering can be paid out, and plans printed with the remaining planning dollars. The last Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled for August 20 at 1:00 PM in Springfield.

RCRCA advertised the position for the Watersheds Coordinator that will oversee the administration of this Plan as well as the Redwood Plan when it is approved. This position will be 100% grant funded by the combination of the two grants. An offer has been made, and negotiations are ongoing.

12.9 One Watershed One Plan - Redwood

- **Redwood CWMP Update** *A joint Steering Team/Advisory Committee meeting was held June 9, both in-person and virtually, to review and discuss the draft Plan. Comments were due from the internal review by June 27. The Steering Team and Policy Committee will meet July 14 to review/address the comments received and authorize the Plan for Formal Review (August – September). The*

Steering Team and Policy Committee will meet again on October 13 to address formal comments and schedule the public hearing for November 10. The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet in December with the BWSR Board approval following in January 2026.

12.10 County Board

Starting to work on Levy.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Lyon SWCD Board Chair Signature

Attest by Board Member

Date

Date