



Minutes from August 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order Chair John Tollgaard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Members Present:**

John Tollgaard  
Al Moline  
Paul Fish  
Jim Kruse

**Others Present:**

R.C. Boheim, SWCD Staff  
Allison Praet, NRCS  
Melanie Bomier, BWSR

**Members Absent:**

Debra Taylor

Agenda The Board reviewed the agenda. Motion by Fish, seconded by Moline to approve the agenda.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard  
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Approval of Minutes The Board reviewed Minutes from the July Meeting. Motion by Kruse, seconded by Fish to approve the Minutes.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard  
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Financial and Administrative Reports

**Financial Reports** The Board reviewed the financial reports. The total fund balance as of July 31, 2025 was \$940,968.66. Motion by Kruse, seconded by Fish to approve the Financial Report.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard  
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

**Treasurer's Report** Moline reported he went through material prior to the meeting and everything checked out. Motion by Fish, seconded by Kruse to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard  
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

**Monthly Report** Boheim gave a verbal report highlight activity from the last month. Tryg Solberg will start September 8<sup>th</sup> as the new Conservation Specialist – Forester.

**Kingsbury Environmental Review** Motion by Moline, seconded by Fish to approve the following Resolution:

Resolution Declaring Environmental Assessment Worksheet for Kingsbury Creek Restoration Project is Not Required Under Minnesota Rule 4410.4300, Subpart 26

WHEREAS, the South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (the "District") is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the Kingsbury Creek Restoration Project, located in the City of Proctor, Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, Kingsbury Creek is a designated trout stream in the State of Minnesota, and therefore any proposed diversion, realignment, or channelization activity involving the stream may fall under Minnesota Administrative Rule 4410.4300, Subpart 26, which requires a mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for such actions, and

WHEREAS, the proposed project involves re-meandering a previously ditched and straightened reach of Kingsbury Creek to restore its natural function and stability using Natural Channel Design methods based on an identified reference reach with similar geomorphic conditions, and

WHEREAS, the objective of the Kingsbury Creek project is to restore the stream to its assumed pre-disturbance alignment, profile, and dimension using sound ecological and hydrological data, and does not seek to divert or channelize the stream in a new or artificial direction, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board rules provide that an EAW is required only when a proposed activity meets or exceeds the thresholds for mandatory review, and a reasonable interpretation of Rule 4410.4300, Subpart 26 is that it pertains to stream diversion or channelization activities that do not include ecological restoration projects that reestablish the natural geomorphology and hydrology of the stream, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is to evaluate the potential for significant environmental effects and determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed, and

WHEREAS, an EIS has never been, and is not reasonably expected to ever be, required for a stream or floodplain restoration project where the primary intent and demonstrable outcome is to improve ecological function, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and restore natural aquatic habitat, and

WHEREAS, the District has thoroughly reviewed the scope and intent of the Kingsbury Creek project and finds it consistent with ecological restoration practices and not constituting a diversion, realignment, or channelization in the regulatory sense intended under Rule 4410.4300, Subpart 26;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, acting as the RGU, hereby determines that the Kingsbury Creek Restoration Project does not meet the threshold for a mandatory EAW under Minnesota Rules, Part 4410.4300, Subpart 26, and that an EAW shall not be required for this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District on August 20, 2025.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard  
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

District Conservationist's Report Praet provided a verbal report and passed around some landowner contracts for review.

#### Cost-share & Project Approvals

**Kubis Payment Woodland Stewardship \$500, Robert Durovec Cover Crop \$2,180, Peter Taylor Payment Native Vegetation \$4,438.50** Motion by Fish, seconded by Fish to approve all three projects.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard  
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

#### Grant Agreements None

Area 3 Fall Meeting September 8<sup>th</sup> Mora Taylor, Fish and Tollgaard will attend the Fall Meeting.

#### Committee and Board Membership Reports

**Area III SWCD Technical Service Area** The next meeting is September 24th.

**SWCD Forestry Association** Met July 17 and discussed forest health and wildlife.

**Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development** The MARCD Summer Meeting was August 7<sup>th</sup> and fire prevention was the main topic. The regular meeting was on July 28<sup>th</sup>, and the carbon credit project was discussed.

**MASWCD Northeast Area 3** No report

#### Supervisor Reports

**Fish** attended the Farm SOL pasture walk and said Kyle did a great job.

Supervisor Expenses Tollgaard reviewed expense reports with the Board. Motion by Fish, seconded by Kruse to approve the reports.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard

Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Adjourn Motion by Moline to adjourn the meeting.

Affirmative: Fish, Kruse, Moline, Tollgaard

Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.