

**Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
Regular Board Meeting  
July 10, 2023 – Carlton SWCD Office

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Board Chair Bob Fox.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Roll call** was taken:

Board Members present:	Barb Dahl Bob Fox Bruce Heikes Tim Michaelson Kim Samuelson
Staff present:	Brad Matlack, District Manager Cameron Gustafson, Community Conservationist
Guests present:	Susan Zymslony, Carlton County Board Allison Praet, NRCS

**Meeting Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda as presented. M/S Dahl/Heikes. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 regular SWCD Board meeting. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was presented by Dahl. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. M/S Michaelson/Samuelson Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** The 2023 SWCD Aid Resolution was presented by Matlack. These guidelines were put forth by the MASWCD and will be required to be approved and signed yearly by the Carlton SWCD. A motion was made to approve and sign the 2023 Guidelines on Use of SWCD Aid Payments. M/S Dahl/Heikes Motion carried.

**SWCD Committee Reports:**

Gustafson presented the agenda for the SWCD Area 3 Fall Meeting on September 21-22 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Board members were asked to work on short presentations regarding success stories in their area.

Fox presented the Finance Committee report. The Finance Committee has decided that the SWCD does not need to ask Carlton County Board for an increase in yearly funding. According to Matlack, the county budget should be approved by November or December.

Samuelson presented the report from the Awards Committee meeting. Matlack read the accomplishments of the Rising Phoenix Farm in Barnum, the runner-up nomination for last year's Outstanding Conservationist award and the only award nomination for this year. The farm is owned by Heather-Marie Bloom and John Hatcher. A motion was made to approve the Rising Phoenix Farm as the Carlton County 2023 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. M/S Heikes/Dahl. Motion carried.

Samuelson, Michaelson, Matlack, and Gustafson will meet after today's meeting to make decisions on this year's Conservation Awards Program.

**One Watershed One Plan Reports:**

- Nemadji River: No report
- St. Louis River: No report
- Kettle River: Samuelson reported on upcoming meetings.
- Upper Mississippi, Grand Rapids: Dahl reported on upcoming meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Cromwell Stormwater Project – Melanie Bomier, Assistant Manager for Water Quality, presented information about this project. Motion for approval to sign the contract with Minnesota Native Landscapes for plants and planting of rain gardens at Cromwell for \$18,728.05, as well as approve up to \$21,271.95 in additional funds for any additional Cromwell Stormwater related expenses. M/S Heikes/Dahl. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- New MPCA Contract for St. Louis River Watershed Outreach – presented by Bomier, This project will involve outreach, citizen engagement, and data collection in the St. Louis River Watershed. Motion was made to approve Bomier to sign the St. Louis River Carlton County SWCD WRAPS Cycle 2 (Project) agreement/contract once the activities and cost documents have been finalized. M/S Samuelson/Dahl. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**SWCD Cost Share Projects:**

- Kelly Black L2L Application  
Contract: # L2L FY23-4 Carlton and South St. Louis SWCD  
Practice: Pollinator Garden  
Funding: FY22 – Lawns to Legumes  
Amount: \$480.00  
Motion to approve: M/S Heikes/Michaelson. Motion carried.
- Ashley Frones – FY 23 BWSR Soil Health Voucher Packet  
Contract: # FY23 BWSR Soil Health-2  
Practice: 512 pasture and hay land planting  
Funding: FY23 BWSR Soil Health  
Amount: \$1,166.63  
Motion to remove this approval from the table (from last month's meeting).  
M/S Dahl/Michaelson. Motion carried.

Motion to approve this project. M/S Michaelson/Heikes Motion carried.

**Reports:**

- SWCD Staff Reports – in packet.
- NRCS Staff Report – presented by Allison Praet.

**Outside Organizations:**

- BSALWMP – report presented by Dahl on upcoming meeting.
- Laurentian RC&D – report presented by Samuelson on upcoming meetings.
- MN SWCD Forestry Assoc – no report
- Technical Services Area 3 – report presented by Fox informing of new format to keep track of workload.

**County Commissioner Comments:** presented by Zymslony.

**Ten Minute Topic:**

River Bennett, Ampact Community Forestry Member, presented information on what has been accomplished in Carlton County during his 11 months working with the Carlton SWCD. Notable accomplishments were the tree inventories done in Thompson, Scanlon and Cloquet as well as work with tree care and trail cleanup (Wrenshall), and projects concerning Buckthorn and EAB. Bennett will be leaving Carlton SWCD on July 14, but he is leaving a great foundation of work in urban forestry in Carlton County that will be continued and expanded by the new Ampact member who will be arriving at the end of August. Everyone was invited to enjoy cake after the meeting in honor of Bennett and his work at Carlton SWCD. Thank you, River!

**Other Business:**

Samuelson will take pictures of Heikes and Michaelson after the meeting for the board members photo wall.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 10:12 am. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion approved.

Next meeting – Monday, August 14, 2023 in the Carlton SWCD meeting room.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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SWCD Board Secretary

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SWCD Board Chair