



MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2026, BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lyle Dittmann at 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann
Vice Chair: Steve Inwards
Treasurer: Bruce Albright
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt

Others Present: County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz
OTC Land & Resource: Chris LeClair
NRCS District Conservationist: Troy Baumgart
District Manager: Darren Newville
Administrative Assistant: Chantal Tougas

Members Absent: Public Relations: Wayne Enger

Agenda: Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Steve Inwards to adopt the agenda with the following additions under Cost share Conservation Crop Rotation and 13b. Marcie Peeters resignation. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Bruce Albright to approve the previous Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Bruce Albright to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Steve Inwards to reinvest CD 3486 for 5 months @ 3.75%. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid & Bills Payable: Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

COST SHARE

A discussion was held regarding the Variable Rate Fertigation cost share amounts and Conservation Crop Rotations using Winter Camelina in groundwater sensitive areas. Staff recommendations were presented and a motion was made by Bruce Albright, second by Steve Inwards to approve recommendations. Opposed: none, motion carried.

RED EYE WBIF

6-C25-0118-08; Oak Point Acres, LLC; Bluffton Twp, Section 15; is requesting cost share assistance for a forest management plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,353.00 with cost share of \$676.50 or 50%, whichever is less. The plan writer is Joel Holden, and they plan to enroll in 2C. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Bruce Albright to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.



OTTER TAIL WBIF

6-C23-4546-39; Paul Seedorf; Perham Township, Section 17; is requesting cost share assistance for sprinkler system. The estimated cost of the project is \$5,096.46 with cost share of \$3,822.35 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

6-C25-0116-21; John Menth; Candor Twp, Section 28; is requesting cost share assistance for a forest management plan. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,610.00 with cost share of \$805.00 or 50%, whichever is less. The plan writer is Jaden Bjorkland, NLH and they plan to enroll in 2C. Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES P26-0039

56A-1-19; Randy Curtis; Newton Township, Sections 1 & 12; is requesting cost share assistance for a 1-year multi-species cover crop practice on 81.09 acres. The flat-rate cost share is \$2,838.15, which is \$35/acre. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

District Manager's Report: Read by Darren Newville.

NRCS Conservationist Report: Read by Troy Baumgart.

County Commissioner's Report:

- The county is hiring a Drainage Inspector.
- March 3-4, 2026, will be discussing OTC issues with State Legislators
- Old Productive Alternative buses can now be used by the public. The only disadvantage is, you will need to schedule a pickup a day in advance.
- Road work: Co. Hwy 123 by Ethel Beach will be getting a facelift this year. Co. Hwy 60 from Vergas to Corliss is a possibility for next year.
- This Sunday the FFA will be having a pancake breakfast at the school.
- March 12, 2026, there will be a Fair meeting in Battle Lake to discuss the Blue Ribbon Auction and where the money goes.

Other Agency Reports: OTC Land & Resource Chris LeClair

- 10.5 million gallons of Septic were pumped in 2025. 9.7 million of those gallons were land applied to fields not grown for human consumption, mostly alfalfa fields.
- Permit numbers are down.
- State AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) funding was cut by 50% by the state legislators. This change will start in FY2027.
- Cannabis is the hot topic in the county. There are 5 registered shops in OTC. Some applications have been denied to their locations. The setback for schools is 1000', it is 500' for parks and Daycare centers.



OLD BUSINESS

TSA Update: a meeting is scheduled for next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Meetings:

- ❖ Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Terry Greenwaldt to approve those attending Legislative Days at the Capitol in March. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- ❖ Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Steve Inwards to move the March board meeting to Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 7:30 a.m. due to a conflict with Legislative Days. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- ❖ Motion made by Steve Inwards, second by Terry Greenwaldt to allow Darren to attend the NACD Fly-in to Washington DC and cover costs that will be split with Wadena SWCD. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- ❖ Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Terry Greenwaldt for Savanna, Peter, and Olivia to attend the MIP Conference in Perham. Registration is \$60.00. Opposed: none, motion carried.

DNR JPA: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, second by Bruce Albright to approve entering into a JPA with the DNR for survey and preliminary engineering design for a modification of the Blanche Lake Dam to improve fish passage and aquatic ecology and appointing Darren Newville, District Manager, as the authorized representative for the EOT SWCD. This project will entail the SWCD soliciting engineering services from outside sources. JPA will not exceed \$20,000. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Letter of Resignation: Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Steve Inwards to accept Marcie Peeters letter of resignation. Her last day is Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (today). Opposed: none, motion carried.

Trimble Update: Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Steve Inwards to proceed with the update on our Trimble equipment. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: none.

Adjourn: Motion made by Bruce Albright, second by Steve Inwards to adjourn at 9:14 a.m. Opposed: none, motion carried.