



522 South Johnson Drive • Litchfield, MN 55355

320.693.7287

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 8:00 a.m.
Meeker SWCD Offices
522 South Johnson Drive
Litchfield, MN 55355

Present: Fred Behnke, John Haffley, Jon Hoff, Greg Jans, and Bob Schiefelbein. Staff Present: Joe Norman, Jaden Hunter, Ann Steinhaus and Lacey Clark, SWCD; Jacob Stitch, NRCS; Dustin Paesler, Pheasants Forever.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Schiefelbein at 8:04 a.m.

Election of Officers: Motion by Jans and seconded by Behnke to elect Bob Schiefelbein to the office of Chair, John Haffley to the office of Vice Chair, Greg Jans to the office of Secretary and Fred Behnke to the office of Treasurer of Meeker SWCD. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Motion by Hoff and seconded by Haffley to maintain the current election framework for SWCD Board members. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Agenda: Motion by Jans and seconded by Haffley to approve the agenda as presented. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Minutes: Motion by Hoff and seconded by Haffley to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2025, meeting. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Jans and seconded by Hoff to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit, including bills payable in the amount of \$47,733.97 and bills paid. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Motion by Hoff and seconded by Haffley to approve Clark purchasing a new laptop. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Field Office Report: Norman, Hunter, and Steinhaus reported on recent activities and programs.

Farm Bill Report: Stitch and Paesler reported on their activities.

Meeting/Training Reports: None.

Training/Meeting Requests: None.

Meeting Place, Day and Time Designation: Motion by Haffley and seconded by Behnke to hold District Board meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Litchfield, Minnesota. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Committee Assignments: Motion by Behnke and seconded by Jans that Hoff and Schiefelbein be appointed to serve on the Meeker SWCD Personnel Committee, Haffley be appointed to be Meeker SWCD's representative on the WCTSA Committee with Scheifelbein being alternate, Haffley be appointed to be Meeker SWCD'S representative on the North Fork W1P with Schiefelbein being the alternate, Haffley be appointed to the South Fork 1W1P Policy Committee with Hoff being alternate, and Schiefelbein to the Mississippi/St. Cloud 1W1P Policy Committee with Haffley being alternate. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Bank and Newspaper Designation: Motion by Jans and seconded by Haffley to maintain a checking account at Home State Bank in Litchfield, Minnesota, and that the official newspaper of Meeker SWCD to be the *Litchfield Rail* in Litchfield, Minnesota. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Mileage Rate: Motion by Haffley and seconded by Hoff to pay the highest mileage rate allowed by the IRS during 2026. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

PERA Rate: Clark reported that there have been no changes to the PERA rates for 2026.

Supervisor Compensation Rate: Motion by Haffley and seconded by Behnke to continue to pay \$125/meeting. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Blanket Payment for Rent, Internet and Reimbursable Copy Expense: Motion by Haffley and seconded by Hoff to allow blanket payments for 2026 on rent for the office, internet service, data plan, employee life insurance, and sales tax. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Review of Existing Policies: Motion by Jans and seconded by Haffley to amend the State Aid Cost Share Tree Planting Policy, allowing up to \$20,000 per year of State Aid Funds, with a \$5,000 cap per land owner. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None. Motion by Behnke and seconded by Jans to revise the Water Retention Basin Program State Aid Funding Cost Chare Policy as presented. Affirmative: All. Opposed: None.

Cost Share: None.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 8 a.m.

Adjournment: After a motion by Haffley, Chairman Schiefelbein adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Secretary

Date