

**Chippewa River Watershed Association
 Joint Powers Board (JPB)
 Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 19th, 2025
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am
Location: Pope County Courthouse
Note Taker: Katie Disrud

Attendees

Name	Organization	Attended	Name	Organization	Attended
Katie Disrud	CRWA	Y			
Holly Kovarik	Pope SWCD	X	Jason Weirnerman	BWSR	X
Ron Staples	Stevens County	X	Debbi Anderson	Stevens SWCD	
Larry Mahoney	Swift County		Orvin Gronseth	Swift SWCD	
Paul Gerde	Pope County	X	Keith Nygaard	Pope SWCD	
Robert Lahman	West Ottertail County	X	Wayne Rotz	West Ottertail SWCD	
Dale Anderson	Kandiyohi County		Donnel Williamson	Kandiyohi SWCD	
Ken Johnson	Grant County	X	Aaron Weinandt	Grant SWCD	
Jeff Way	Douglas County	X	Rod Froemming	Douglas SWCD	
Matt Gilbertson	Chippewa County		Calin Eisenlohr	Chippewa SWCD	
Mark Weimerskirch	Swift SWCD	X			
Randy Mitteness	Pope SWCD	X			
Rod Wenstrom	West Ottertail SWCD	X			
Darin Hanson	Grant SWCD				
Steve Freidlein	Kandiyohi SWCD	X			
John Ledermann	Douglas SWCD	X			
Michelle Overhosler	Chippewa SWCD				
Dennis Feuchtenberger	Stevens SWCD				

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Agenda

Agenda Item
Welcome & Introduction
<p>Approval of Agenda Holly Kovarik mentioned that the MCIT 2026 coverage recently arrived and should be a discussion point added to the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Jeff Way. The motion was seconded by Randy Mitteness. Motion passed.</p>
<p>Approval of previous meeting minutes a) October 17th, 2025 Robert Lahman made a motion to approve October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeff Way. Motion passed.</p>
<p>New Business a) 2026 Meeting Schedule A motion to approve the proposed 2026 meeting schedule was made by Paul Gerde. Motion was seconded by Robert Lahman. Motion passed. b) WBIF FY26 Workplan The group discussed the drafted workplan. It was noted that aside from the pollution reduction numbers, and the two new categories, the workplan was replicated from our existing FY24-WBIF grant. There was discussion on well sealings, and availability of contractors across the watershed. It seems to not be an issue within the watershed. Another comment made was from BWSR, noting that for the wind erosion category, BWSR recommends verbiage to be drafted as reducing soil blowing concerns linked to water quality, rather than leaving this open for all tree plantings. Robert Lahman made a motion to allow the coordinator and fiscal agent to work with the Board of Water and Soil Resources on final wording and to approve the drafted workplan. The motion further grants authority to Holly Kovarik, fiscal agent, to sign the agreement via Docusign upon receipt. Motion was seconded by John Ledermann. Motion passed. c) 2026 Budget The group discussed accrued interest as another income source but have not listed it as it can be so variable. A motion to approve the drafted 2026 budget was made by Rod Westrom. Seconded by Mark Weimerskirch. Motion passed.</p>
<p>Coordinators Report a) Keep It Clean b) TAC Updates Katie Disrud, coordinator, provided a report summarizing recent trainings and meetings she has attended. She discussed the <i>Keep It Clean</i> grant, noting that while the application was submitted, the project was not awarded funding. Katie met with BWSR staff to review the application, and she said that the discussion was very helpful. Feedback from BWSR staff was positive, indicating the application was only a few points away from being funded. Disrud also shared with the group a draft of the <i>Watershed Wins</i> flyer, which highlights the City of Glenwood project funded through the watershed-based implementation grant. More flyers like this will be created as projects wrap up. Coordinator report included an update from the TAC. The TAC will be discussing policy at the next upcoming meeting. Currently the TAC feels we are not ready for a 2026 watershed wide tour, so this event will be put on hold. Disrud mentioned there is planning efforts being made towards other watershed wide events, but more details need to be brought together. Several other 2026 education and outreach events are being planned within the partnership.</p>

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Financial Report

- a) Fiscal Agent Report
- b) Treasurers Report

Holly Kovarik, fiscal agent shared that October and November statements are provided. December's statements will have a lot more activity on it due to end of quarter, and a lot of projects wrapping up. She states that we are waiting on one more invoice for CRP, then the CRP grant will be ready for closing out.

A motion to approve the treasurers' report was made by Paul Gerde. Seconded by Randy Mitteness. Motion passed.

MCIT 2026 insurance invoice and coverage was recently received. **A motion to approve the \$4,844 invoice and coverage was made by Mark Weimerskirch. Seconded by Robert Lahman. Motion Passed.**

Next Meeting Topics:

-Policy Revisions

Open Discussion/Agency Updates-Discussion of both MASWCD and MCA conventions were had, sharing topics and conversations that members participated in.

-It was requested that the JPB members get copied to the TAC meeting invite, and provided an agenda so they can attend if they choose. Coordinator will get them copied to the 2026 TAC meeting schedule.

-MPCA Chippewa River WRAPS report is open for public comments.

-AMC Drainage conference January 27, 28th at Arrowood.

-Buffer update will be discussed at next BWSR board meeting in January. Each county must update their buffer ordinance. The biggest change is that now BWSR can take major authority from county, or watershed districts if there is reason to do so.

Closing

Meeting adjourned 10:00 AM



Signature of approval



Signature of approval

A Look Ahead:

January:

- 01/08 TAC Meeting
- 01/16 JPB Meeting

February:

- 02/12 TAC Meeting
- 02/20 JPB Meeting

March:

- 03/12 TAC Meeting
- 03/20 JPB Meeting