

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

**Date:** February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am  
**Location:** Pope County Courthouse  
**Note Taker:** Katie Disrud

**Attendance:**

Katie Disrud (Coordinator), Holly Kovarik (Fiscal Agent), Ron Staples (Stevens County), Larry Mahoney (Swift County), Paul Gerde (Pope County), Dale Anderson (Kandiyohi County), Ken Johnson (Grant County), Matt Gilbertson (Chippewa County), Mark Weimerskirch (Swift SWCD), Rod Wenstrom (West Ottertail SWCD), Steve Friedlein (Kandiyohi SWCD), Brent Gulbrandson (Grant SWCD)

**Agenda Item**

Meeting was called to order by chair at 9:00 AM

Approval of Agenda

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Paul Gerde, seconded by Rod Wenstrom. Motion passed.**

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- a) December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**A motion to approve Decembers Meeting Minutes was made by Jeff Way, seconded by Randy Mitteness. Motion passed.**

Election of Officers – occurs in odd ending years (bylaws)

New Business

- a) Contact Information – updates?
- b) Newspaper publications for annual information
- c) Bank of use
- d) Policy Revisions
- e) Sub Agreements

2026 contact information was shared with the group, any member that saw changes needed made note. Once all updates are made the 2026 contacts document will be shared with the group.

**A motion to declare the Pope County Tribune as the official newspaper, and to use partner newspapers as needed, was made by Larry Mahoney and seconded by Paul Gerde. The motion passed.**

The group discussed the official bank of use for the association. It was discussed to try to negotiate interest rates as we know we have more funds from grants coming.

**A motion to declare both Glenwood State Bank and Eagle Bank was made by Randy Mitteness and seconded by Jeff Way. The motion passed.**

A drafted version of the policy changes was presented to the group. Discussion focused on the cost-share portion of the policy, and the group determined that only minor edits were needed.

**A motion to approve the drafted policy with the discussed revisions was made by Mark Weimerskirch and seconded by Paul Gerde. The motion passed. This policy will supersede and replace the existing policy.**

Coordinators Report

- a) Meeting Cancelation Notice

The Coordinator shared the public dashboard and MS4 maps showing progress across the watershed. This information will be compiled and used to create the annual report. Disrud noted that the report is expected to be ready for release in early summer. She is willing to attend board meetings upon request to present the Chippewa River Watershed Annual Report.

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Additional items in the Coordinator's report included grant reporting, TAC updates, and ADA compliance webinars she has been attending. Disrud also shared an Education and Outreach planning roadmap she is developing to help guide future events that support CRWA work plan goals.

Katie discussed meeting cancellation procedures. If a meeting must be canceled last-minute due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, she will text each member no later than 7:30 AM on the day of the meeting. Members who are unable to attend a scheduled meeting should communicate directly with the Coordinator. This helps ensure quorum can be confirmed and supports respectful scheduling.

**Financial Report**

- a) FY-26 Workplan Application Submitted - 1/2/2026
- b) FY-24 WBIF Progress Report Submitted
- c) FY-25 CRP Incentive Grant

Updates on the grants were discussed in detail. The FY26 work plan was submitted and approved. We are currently waiting for BWSR to sign the grant agreement, after which the fiscal agent and Coordinator will begin work on the Work Plan. The FY24 WBIF progress report has been submitted. The FY25 CRP Incentive Grant report was also submitted, and BWSR has approved the grant for closure. All funds from the FY25 CRP grant have been fully expended.

Holly Kovarik presented the Treasurer's Reports for December 2025 and January 2026. She noted that we will soon reach 50% spent of the FY24 WBIF grant. Spending and reimbursements may be limited until the next 40% of grant funds are received.

**A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jeff Way and seconded by Rod Westrom. The motion passed.**

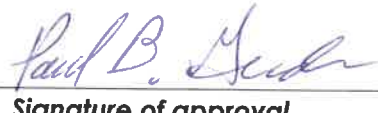
**Open Discussion/Agency Updates**

Discussion was held on Legislative Days and recent changes to the Buffer Law. An update from a BWSR meeting was shared with the group. It was noted that if a county or watershed district is not properly enforcing the Buffer Law, BWSR may assume authority and funding from that entity and enforce the law directly. Counties will have 12 months to update their local ordinances. Official communication from BWSR will be sent.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM.



**Signature of approval**



**Signature of approval**