



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
ST. CLOUD  
WATERSHED**

# Joint Powers Entity

## Board Meeting Minutes

Proceedings of the Mississippi River St. Cloud Watershed Entity Joint Powers Board held on June 5th, 2025. Diedrick called the meeting to order at 11:02 am

Date / Time:	June 5th, 2025 11:02 AM – 12:19 PM
Location:	Sherburne History Center – 10775 27 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Becker MN 55308 Remote option available through Microsoft Teams
Officers:	Chair: Tina Diedrick, Vice Chair: Scott Johnson
Note Taker:	Griffen Northrop
1w1p Website:	<a href="https://www.millelacsswcd.org/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed/">https://www.millelacsswcd.org/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed/</a>
Voting Representatives Present:	Beton County – Scott Johnson*, Benton SWCD – Wade Bastian Meeker County – Steve Schmitt, Bob Schiefelbein – Meeker SWCD Mille Lacs SWCD – Dan Campbell Wright County – Tina Diedrick, Chris Uecker – Wright SWCD[1] Sherburne County – Andrew Hulse, Sherburne County – Shelly Binsfeld Taryl Clark – Stearns County*, Tom Gregory – Stearns SWCD
Voting Representatives Absent:	
Alternate Representatives Present:	
Partners and Staff Present:	Emily Forbord – Benton SWCD Susan Shaw* – Mille Lacs SWCD Miranda Wagner* – Sherburne SWCD, Francine Larson* – Sherburne SWCD Stephanie Hatzenbihler – Stearns SWCD, Kyle Weimann* – Stearns SWCD, Becky Schlorf* – Stearns ESD Alicia O’Hare* – Wright SWCD,

*\*Indicates virtual attendance*

[1] Chris Uecker enters the meeting during discussion of Agenda Item #4.



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### Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

1. No discussion held.
2. Northrop recorded attendance.

### Agenda Item #2: Review and Approve Agenda

1. Discussion:
  - a. Cibulka announced to the group that Agenda Item #9 and #10 would be removed.
    - i. Agenda items #9 and #10 would be brought forth at a later meeting contingent upon attorney review as needed.
2. **Approve Meeting agenda**
  - a. **Motion by Bastian** to approve meeting agenda; **second by Gregory.**
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #3: Review and Approve 05-01-2025 meeting minutes

1. Discussion:
  - a. No discussion held.
2. **Approve Meeting Minutes**
  - a. **Motion by Campbell** to approve 05-01-2025 meeting minutes; **second by Schmitt.**
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #4: Review and approve updates to the MRSCWE Joint Powers Board Bylaws

1. Discussion:
  - a. Discussion of updates to the JPE bylaws were led by Cibulka.
    - i. Upon review by the county attorneys, consensus was reached on several minor changes.
2. **Approve MRSCWE Joint Powers Board Bylaws**
  - a. **Motion by Clark** to approve MRSCWE Joint Powers Board Bylaws; **second by Johnson.**
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #5: General Updates

1. Discussion:
  - a. Recent and Anticipated Activities discussion led by Cibulka.
    - i. Required deadlines have been met for funding requests.
    - ii. There is a series of internal workplans created.
      1. One small comment made by BWSR needs to be addressed.
    - iii. Discussion held regarding how money should be transferred from entity to SWCD's/member organizations
    - iv. Cibulka discussed that the internal workplan has been sent out to county attorneys
      1. Edits made by attorneys were not received in time to be on the agenda.
    - v. It was proposed that an intermediate meeting could be held to approve of contracts before the next formal (i.e., in-person) meeting.



- vi. Binsfeld brought up issue that projects need to be brought up by county boards before JPE board approval
  1. Uncertainty regarding which entity (SWCD boards or the JPE board) needs to approve of projects/contracts first before being approved by the other.
  2. JPE Board asked Cibulka to look into this process and who needs to approve of these templates/projects first.
- vii. Binsfeld asked about the difference between internal work plan and BWSR work plan.
  1. Cibulka discussed that BWSR work plan needs to meet certain requirements whereby internal plan doesn't have same constraints.
    - a. Overall, very similar contents within these plans.
- b. CRP Incentive Grant discussion led by Cibulka.
  - i. Cibulka discussed that there have been challenges with the competitiveness of CRP rates when compared to other programs.
  - ii. Hatzenbihler provided additional details regarding these funds.
    1. If funds were accepted, signup would likely be for 2026.
    2. It's a reimbursement grant so if all of these funds aren't used, there would be no financial penalty to the MRSCWE JPE or its participating SWCDs.
    3. A challenge brought forth was the staff time that would need to be dedicated to managing these funds.
      - a. Rebuttal was that there doesn't appear to be a financial downside with no penalties from the state.
    4. The deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup> for accepting or declining these funds.
  - iii. Discussion held about having items like this being put on as a consent agenda for speedier approval.
  - iv. Clark brought up the hope that the board does not get bogged down with discussion after these items/projects have already been looked over by staff.

### 2. Staff Review of CRP Program

- a. **Motion by Hulse** to have county staff review CRP program and come back to the MRSCWE JPE Board with recommendations and insight; **second by Bastian**.
  - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried

### Agenda Item #6: Financial Update

1. Discussion:
  - a. Update on bank and funding items led by Weimann.
  - b. Question brought up regarding how the \$1,000 was decided upon in the resolution.
    - i. Answered by Weimann.
2. **Approve Resolution 25-02**
  - a. **Motion by Gregory** to Approve Resolution 25-02 to update MRSCWE Bank signers to include new SCD Administrator John Maile and authorize SCD to make future updates for SCD staff/Supervisors as necessary; **second by Scott**.
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### 3. Authorized Fiscal Agent Duties



- a. **Motion by Johnson** to authorize the Fiscal Agent to spend such funds as necessary to complete duties of the Fiscal Agent such as checks, organization supplies for record-keeping, etc., not to exceed \$1,000 (within SCD's Fiscal Agent Administration \$50,000 WBIF allocation); **Second by Hulse**.
  - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #7: Insurance Update

1. Discussion:
  - a. Review of cost estimate from Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) led by Weimann.
    - i. Weimann added that workers compensation would not be necessary for this board.
    - ii. Discussion about needing a county sponsor for enrollment into this coverage led by Weimann.
    - iii. Weimann discussed that county board needs to pass a resolution for one county sponsor.
      1. Weimann added that there are no dedicated responsibilities beholden to this sponsor.
      2. Johnson discussed that Stearns SWCD should be MCIT sponsor since they already have coverage through the same trust.
        - a. Stearns SWCD accepted responsibility.
2. **Approve Resolution 25-03**
  - a. **Motion by Uecker** to Approve Resolution 25-03 to authorize joining MCIT risk pool and declining Workers' Compensation coverage, pending County sponsorship and MCIT Board Approval; **second by Gregory**.
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.
3. **Approve MCIT County Sponsor**
  - a. **Motion by Schmitt** to have Stearns SWCD as the MCIT Coverage Sponsor; **second by Hulse**.
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #8: Deed Restriction Policy

1. Discussion:
  - a. Review and discuss deed restriction information led by Cibulka
    - i. Cibulka went through each policy proposal brought forth by staff.
    - ii. Gregory said his SWCD had discussed it and thought "No Policy" is best.
      1. Uecker thought that "No policy" is best and thus leaving it to the discretion of individual SWCDs.
        - a. Similar sentiments were made by other board members.
        - b. Some brought up the idea that it could be case-by-case basis depending on the type of project.
    - iii. Johnson said his county was looking for a mixed approach.



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- iv. Binsfeld brought up a scenario where a deed restriction could be brought forth on a case-by-case basis.
  1. Cibulka brought up some potential challenges of this approach.
  2. Binsfeld said this puts a lot of trust and faith into the SWCD's
  3. Stephanie brought up that BWSR policies might have guidance on these scenarios.
  4. Schiefelbein brought forth difficulty that this policy could block ability to implement deed restriction later on.
  5. Clark brought forth the idea that a policy shouldn't be adopted at all to allow flexibility.
2. **Approve "No Policy" Deed Restriction Language**
  - a. **Motion by Binsfeld** to Approve the adoption of the "No Policy" Deed Restriction as outlined in the "MRSCWE JPE Agenda Packet 06.05.25." "No Policy" is defined in the packet as "The MRSCWE elects to not establish a deed restriction policy of its own. Individual member boards may adopt a local deed restriction policy if they would like"; **second by Gregory.**
    - i. **By roll call vote**, Affirmative: Johnson, Bastian, Schmitt, Schiefelbein, Campbell, Diedrick, Uecker, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Gregory. Opposed: None. Motion carried.


### Agenda Item #9: Set Next Meeting Date

1. Discussion:
  - a. Meeting dates and proposals led by Cibulka.
  - b. Discussion led by Hatzenbihler regarding 2025 MRSCWE subcontract agreement approval process timeline.
  - c. Discussion regarding remote capabilities for next meeting.
  - d. 11:00 AM, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was proposed and accepted by the JPE Board members.
    - i. A remote setting was agreed upon for this meeting.
  - e. Cibulka will send out calendar invites

### Agenda Item #10: Adjourn

Chair Diedrick adjourned the meeting at 12:19 PM.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes approved by the MRSCWE JPE Board.

 David A. White, Watershed Coordinator

Signature & Title

8-7-2025

Date

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Griffen Northrop, Sherburne SWCD District Technician on behalf of the Mississippi River St. Cloud Watershed Entity.