

**BUFFER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 10 AM**

Present: President Linda Vavra, Board Managers Allen Wold, Scott Gillespie (by phone), John Kappahn. Also present: Board Manager Doug Dahlen, Attorney Lukas Croaker, Administrator Jamie Beyer, Technician Troy Fridgen, Wilkin SWCD Supervisor Kyle Gowin, Wilkin SWCD Technician Kimberly Melton, Grant SWCD Technician Jared House, Traverse SWCD Technicians Taylor Hufford and Bruce Johnson, Landowner Tom Zych, and Landowner Jim Zych.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current parcel non-compliance statuses, alternative practices implemented in each county by the SWCD Board Supervisors, and enforcement of the Buffer Rule by the respective parties.

**Wilkin SWCD**

- One non-compliant parcel.
- SWCD staff have telephoned landowners, met with them in the fields, and implemented alternative practices.

**Grant SWCD**

- Fifty nine potentially non-compliant parcels.
- SWCD reviewed 2017 pictometry. No contact from Grant SWCD has been made with these potential non compliant landowners.
- Grant SWCD Board has decided that alternative practices will only be offered where a negative slope exists.
- Grant SWCD stated that a design for an alternative practice takes staff up to one week, and includes an on-site survey and follow-up visits to verify the alternative practice was installed and maintained.

**Traverse SWCD**

- Eleven non-compliant parcels.
- SWCD reviewed 2019 pictometry.
- SWCD will only offer land management alternative practices for 50' buffers.
- Met landowners on-site.

Board Manager Wold introduced 5 alternative practices based on the Field Office Technical Guide. Wilkin SWCD offered to provide support looking further at the alternative practices. Grant SWCD recommended that the information be submitted to SWCD board supervisors; President Vavra requested that a letter be written by the District to the Grant SWCD board supervisors to consider adopting the alternative practices. The potential non-compliant list of Grant County parcels has not been compared with current land conditions; Technician Fridgen offered to compare the parcel list to his 2019 and 2020 ditch inspections, and remove parcels that have installed buffers. Grant SWCD recommended that a ditch meeting be held to notify affected landowners of buffer requirements and alternative practice options under negative slope conditions.