



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Thursday, January 4th, 2024, at 1:30 pm

1. Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was called to order by Chairman Chris Dahl at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, January 4th, 2024 at 1:30 pm.

Attendees

- In attendance: Chris Dahl (Chairman), Donald Kropp (Vice-Chairman)-Virtual, David Ausen (Treasurer), Curt Helland (Board Secretary), Vickie Heers (Supervisor), Brenda Lageson (District Manager)-Virtual, Chad Billat (Private Lands Biologist), Lindsey Zeitler (Resource Conservationist), Mark Trnka (Conservation Technician) Senja Viktora (District Technician).

2. Election of Officers

- A brief discussion was had regarding current board officers and committee members. A motion was made to keep current board officers and committee members the same in 2024 by Ausen, motion seconded by Heers. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Board Officer Positions are as follows:	Committee Assignments are as follows:
District Chairman: Christopher Dahl	Budget: Ausen, Dahl, Heers, Kropp, and Helland
District Vice-Chairman: Donald Kropp	Legislative: Ausen and Dahl
District Treasurer: David Ausen	Education: Kropp
District Board Secretary: Curt Helland	Personnel Committee: Dahl and Helland
District Supervisor: Vickie Heers	State Cost Share Policy: Ausen, Dahl, Heers, Kropp, and Helland
	SE Joint Powers Board: Helland
	Soil Health: Heers
	GBERBA Policy Board: Kropp (Alt: Ausen)
	Cedar River/Wapsi Watershed Policy Board: Heers (Alt: Dahl)
	Shell Rock-Winnebago 1W1P Policy Board: Ausen (Alt: Heers)
	Le Sueur 1W1P Policy Board: Kropp (Alt: Ausen)
	Blue Earth River 1W1P Policy Board: Helland (Alt: Ausen)

3. Consent Agenda

- A discussion was had regarding the Consent Agenda. Kropp made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, motion seconded by Helland. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**
 - Official Bank Depository as Security Bank Minnesota and signatories (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Manager)
 - 2024 Budget as presented to County Board
 - MCIT insurance for 2024 \$7,952.00
 - MASWCD dues for 2024 \$7,077.92
 - NACD dues for 2024 \$775.00
 - Area 7 TSA/JPB dues for 2024 \$3,000.00
 - MACDE State Employee Dues for 2024 \$125.00 and Area 7 SE Employee Dues for 2024 \$50.00
 - Envirothon donation for 2024 \$175.00
 - Authorize Chairman, Vice Chairman, or Manager to sign grant agreements, cost share contracts and payments or other time sensitive documents as needed.
 - Authorize Manager to make electronic payments, training registration payments, etc. as needed.
 - Authorize Manager to purchase supplies/equipment up to \$1,000.00 per transaction.
 - Authorize IRS mileage rate for 2024 \$.67, and Supervisor per diem rates \$125.00.
 - Authorize ads for tree sales 2024.

4. Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on December 14th, 2023, was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Treasurer's Report

- Balance in checking account was \$32,807.56, savings \$1,154,721.74, and CD (10 month) \$250,000.00 as of December 31st, 2023. A motion to approve treasurer's report and payment of bills was made by Heers and seconded by Helland. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Cost Share & Grant Items

a. Partial/Final Payment Requests

- Billat brought before the board a request for final payment of a cover crop contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-06	COVER CROP	\$3,240.00	\$3,240.00	WBIF#C23-2187

A motion was made by Ausen to approve contract for partial payment, seconded by Helland. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

- Zeitler brought before the board a request for final payment for a well sealing contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-22-04	WELL SEALING	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C22-5721

A motion was made by Heers to approve contract for partial payment, seconded by Helland. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

7. NRCS Report

- Kurer provided a written report for the board, highlighted current staffing changes/news, and the status of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), & Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

8. Supervisor Reports

- Ausen reported attending the Shell Rock/Winnebago Watershed Policy Meeting on December 19th, 2023. Discussion included the budget, CRP incentives, and a supplemental funding application for WBIFs.
- Helland reported attending the Blue Earth Watershed Policy Meeting on December 18th, 2023. Discussion included the beginning planning stages. Helland also reported attending the Area 7 Technical Service Area (TSA) meeting on December 19 which includes personnel, budget, etc.

10. Staff Reports

- Staff reports previously emailed to board members.
 - Zeitler presented to the board a flyer for the 2024 Soil Health Winter Workshop: HWY 14 Tour Stop, Owatonna, MN. The topic of the event is Maximizing Profitability with Carbon, Small Grains, Manure, and More. Event is planned for February 22, 2024, from 8:30am-2:30pm at Torey's Restaurant in Owatonna, MN.

11. Day at the Capitol

- FYI: Legislative Dat at Capitol is March 12-13, 2024 in St. Paul, MN.

12. Adjournment

- There being no further business, adjournment was made by Ausen and seconded by Helland. **Results of a roll call vote: Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Helland, and Heers. ALL AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on February 8th, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date