



**FREEBORN COUNTY**  
**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Thursday, May 11th, 2023, at 7:30 am

## Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was called to order by Chairman Christopher Dahl at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am.

## Attendees

- In attendance:** Christopher Dahl (Chairman), Donald Kropp (Vice-Chairman), David Ausen (Treasurer), Curt Helland (Supervisor), Brenda Lageson (District Manager), Lindsey Zeitler (Resource Conservationist), Chad Billat (Private Lands Biologist), Mark Trnka (Conservation Technician), Senja Viktora (District Technician), and Dave Copeland (BWSR Board Conservationist). Gary Kurer (NRCS Team 19) gave his report virtually toward the end of the meeting.

## Appoint a Board Secretary

- Paul Heers, Jr. passed away on May 4th, 2023. A motion was made by Ausen to appoint Helland to assume Heers, Jr.'s position as Board Secretary, and represent the SWCD for all the other committees Heers, Jr. was on, motion seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of April 13th, 2023, was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## Treasurer's Report

- Balance in checking account was \$2,862.89 and savings \$1,327,344.39 as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A motion to approve treasurer's report and payment of bills was made by Kropp and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## Grant Programs actions and/or information

### New Requests

- Billat presented to the board with a request for prairie strips cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-21-13	327 Prairie Strips	\$1,705.00	\$1,705.00	WBIF#C20-2412

A motion was made by Helland to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Zeitler presented to the board with a request for well sealing cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-21-15	351 Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C20-2412

A motion was made by Kropp to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Zeitler presented to the board with a request for well sealing cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-01	351 Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C23-2187

A motion was made by Kropp to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Zeitler presented to the board with a request for well sealing cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-02	351 Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C23-2187

A motion was made by Helland to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Billat's request for brush management cost share is tabled until June's board meeting.

### Final Payment Requests

- Zeitler presented to the board with a request for final payment on a well sealing cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-21-10	351 Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$935	WBIF#C20-2412

A motion was made by Kropp to approve this contract for final payment, motion seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## NRCS Report

- Kurer gave condolences on the passing of supervisor Heers, Jr.
- Update on staffing; Pathway position was not filled due to lack of qualified candidates. Soil Conservationist position has list of candidates.
- Gave Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) update.

## Supervisor Reports

- Kropp reported on an April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Le Sueur One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting. Plan was approved to send to Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and other state agencies for the 90-day comment period.

## Manager Report

- Manager previously emailed her report to the board.
- Lageson also brought to the board a training request from Trnka to attend a Soil Health Training in St. Cloud on June 12-15<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Ausen to authorizing Trnka to attend the training and reimburse any allowable expenses incurred, the motion was seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## Staff Reports

- Staff reports previously emailed to board members; additional updates given by staff.
- **Billat:** Reported that two (2) Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) applications were approved. Two (2) Conservation Reserved Enhancement Program (CREP) applications submitted. BWSR may have an extra CREP sign-up with remaining funds this summer.
- **Zeitler:** Reported tree program went well; next board meeting will include more information since there are remaining trees for sale. She will also have more detailed reports on Buffer Law and possible Cost Share policy changes.
- **Trnka:** Waiting to hear back from Mark's Tractor on the delivery date of the no-till drill.
- **Viktora:** Updated the board on the SWCD's 75-year anniversary celebration. Date is set for September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Venue has been secured. Waiting for confirmation from the food vendor. Staff has begun to think of possible tour routes in the county.

## BWSR Report

- Copeland gave condolences on the passing of supervisor Heers, Jr.
- Reported on attended meeting with Freeborn SWCD staff, Freeborn County staff and other BWSR staff regarding buffer compliance and other aspects of the Buffer Law.
- Informed board on internal discussions BWSR has had regarding re-granting unused Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF).
- Shout out to Billat for his efforts in working with local landowner on a difficult project.
- Updated board on the process of obtaining a new board member.

## City of Alden Wellhead Protection Plan

- Board reviewed notification of Nonvulnerable Wellhead Protection Plan for the City of Alden; no comments made.

## Additional Items

- A handful of names of residents in District 3 were discussed as possible replacements to serve as supervisor until the next general election. Chairman Dahl will reach out to a few people to see if interested.

## Adjournment

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ausen and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date