



## FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thursday, February 9th, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

### Call to Order

- A 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, February 9th, 2023, at 1:30 PM.

### Attendees

- **In attendance:** Chris Dahl (Chairman), Donald Kropp (Vice-Chairman), David Ausen (Treasurer), Paul Heers Jr. (Board Secretary), Curt Helland (Supervisor), Brenda Lageson (District Manager), Mark Trnka (Conservation Technician), Lindsey Zeitler (Resource Conservationist), Chad Billat (Private Lands Biologist), Senja Viktora (District Technician), Gary Kurer (NRCS-Team Lead 19), and Dave Copeland (BWSR Board Conservationist)
- **Absent:** None

### Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Treasurer Report

- Balance in checking account was \$24,292.30 and savings \$1,342,814.03 as of January 31st, 2023. A motion to approve treasurer's report and pay bills was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Grant Program

- Billat stated he hopes to have several Prairie Strip applications ready for next month's meeting.

### NRCS Report

- Kurer informed the board of personnel changes, EQIP and CRP updates.

### BWSR Report

- Notified the board that they are planning a New Supervisor Orientation, to take place sometime at the end of March, reported that the Soil Health Workshop in Stewartville, MN was a good turnout of landowners/farmers, and Legislature is currently in session. If they pass budget there will be an increase in funding aimed at climate, soil health and water storage.

### Manager Report

- Managers report was emailed to supervisors prior to the meeting, she also reported that at next month's regular meeting she will bring a sub-agreement for approval to enter with the Shell Rock River Watershed District for Shell Rock/Winnebago 1W1P for cost-share opportunities as they are the holder of the watershed-based implementation funds (WBIF). She also reached out to Andy Henschel of the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) on the possibility of coordinating an anniversary celebration. Currently the SRRWD partnering with Cedar River Watershed District, and the Turtle Creek Watershed District to plan a state celebration event in June. We can contact them later with a date in mind and maybe they would be open to a joint event in the summer or fall.

### Supervisor Reports

- Heers Jr.
  - Attended a Joint Powers Board/Technical Service Area 7 (JPB-TSA7) meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Heers Jr. was elected chair of the board. Goodhue SWCD's request for a Performance Review Assessment Program (PRAP) was approved.
  - Attended a Cedar River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Future projects near Geneva Lake and other Freeborn Co locations were discussed.

- Kropp
  - Attended a Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) meeting in Mankato, MN on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Reported general business and updates on grants were discussed. A new Freeborn County Commissioner will be representative for Freeborn County
  - Attended a Le Sueur 1W1P meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. They reviewed and discussed the draft Joint Powers Agreement; it was decided to bring to county attorneys for comments. Upcoming on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5 pm in Pemberton there is a public meeting planned for comments on the Le Sueur One Watershed One Plan content.

### Staff Reports

- Staff reports were emailed to supervisors prior to the meeting. Staff gave additional information:
- Viktora presented the board with a printed copy of the annual newsletter
- Zeitler presented the flyer for the Winter Workshop-HWY 14 Soil Health Tour on February 21<sup>st</sup> in Owatonna, Minnesota and asked if any board members would like to RSVP for the event.
- Trnka presented the board with two estimates for no-till drill to purchase. Discussion was had on the difference and benefits of each drill. The board discussed what to do with the old drill: trade in or sell. No action was taken on the discussion. A staff member and supervisor will look at the models for next month's meeting.

### Legislative Day

- Lageson asked which board members and staff would like to attend the legislative day at the capital on March 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Ausen, Helland, Lageson and one other staff member plan to attend. Lageson made a request to the board to approve travel and lodging expenses. A motion to approve travel and lodging expenses was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Adjournment

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

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 9th at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date