



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order

- A regular meeting of the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman Christopher Dahl at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, November 10th at 1:30 PM.

Attendees

- **In attendance:** Christopher Dahl (Chairman), Donald Kropp (Vice-Chairman), David Ausen (Treasurer), Paul Heers Jr. (Board Secretary), Colin Wittmer (Supervisor), Brenda Lageson (District Manager), Mark Trnka (Conservation Technician), and Senja Viktora (District Technician)
- **Guests:** Dave Copeland (BWSR Board Conservationist and Liz Ludwig (FSA-County Executive Director)
- **Absent:** Lindsey Zeitler (Resource Conservationist), Chad Billat (Private Lands Biologist), and Gary Kurer (NRCS-Team Lead 19)

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 8th, 2022 was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer Report

- Balance in checking account was \$12,070.10 and savings \$1,336,874.37 as of October 31st, 2022. A motion to approve treasurer's report and pay bills was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Grant Program

Review of cost-share payments made by Manager in October

- Partial payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-22-01 Cover Crops-\$6766.40
 - Partial payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-22-02 Cover Crops-\$6343.50
 - Partial payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-20-02 Cover Crops-\$6301.21
 - Partial payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-20-03 Cover Crops-\$6258.92
 - Partial payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-20-04 Cover Crops-\$6597.24
 - Final payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-21-08 Structure-\$1283.00
 - Final payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-20-06 Well Sealing-\$992.50
 - Final payment request, contract # WBIF-CW-FREE-21-09 Well Sealing-\$596.25
 - Final payment request, contract # FY20-03 Cover Crops-\$9000.00 – **FY20 \$8780.47 & FY21 \$219.53**
 - Final payment request, contract # FY21-01 Cover Crops-\$9000.00
- *All contracts funding sources are identified by their respective contract numbers except FY20-03 which used two funding sources. Contracts were paid as identified by grant policies and/or not to exceed rates.**
- A request for an amendment and final payment for contract #SWCD-21-01 Hickory Lake/Dam Rehabilitation was made. A motion to approve an amendment and final payment was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 - A request for final payment of contract #WBIF-CW-FREE-21-08 Structure was made. A motion to approve final payment was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 - Soil Health Grant P23-2685 was brought before the board for approval. A motion to accept and submit work plan for Soil Health Grant P23-2685 was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED**
 - FY23 Capacity P23-2464 and FY23 Buffer Law P23-2554 grants were brought before the board for approval. A motion to accept and submit work plans for FY23 Capacity P23-2464 and FY23 Buffer Law P23-2554 was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Wittmer. **MOTION CARRIED**

NRCS Report

- Kurer was unable to attend and provided a written report for the board.

Manager Report

- Lageson brought to the board the issue of office hour signage. Board agreed to change office opening to the public from 7:30am to 8am to match FSA hours
- Updated the board on Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF CRP Incentives
- Lageson brought before the board a request for authorization of lodging and meal expenses for an extra day before MASWCD convention for manager training. A motion to approve request was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**

Staff Reports

- Viktora updated the board on updates to website and Facebook page
- Trnka presented slideshow of pictures from completed structural projects

Other Reports

- Liz Ludwig FSA- County Executive Director updated the board on the Farm Bill Sign-up, Dairy Program, Continuous CRP, retirement of Brian Paul, Small Grain Certification, County Committee Elections, Organic Certification Program and NASS Survey.
- Heers Jr. reported that he attended a special TSA 7 Executive Board meeting regarding health insurance, he also attended the Cedar/Wapsipinicon Watershed Policy board meeting that same day. Budget adjustments and an incentive policy change were reviewed.
- Copeland reported on the BWSR Academy, Cedar WBIF grant, Shell Rock/Winnebago WBIF grant and staffing positions at BWSR state office.

Additional Items

- Discussed Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) convention, board members planning to attend: Heers Jr, Kropp, Ausen. All staff will attend.
- A renewal of medical and dental plans was brought before the board. A motion to approve renewal of the medical and dental plans was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Wittmer at 3:30 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date