



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Thursday, July 11th, 2024, at 8:30 am

1. Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was called to order by Vice-Chairman Donald Kropp at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, July 11th, 2024, at 8:30 am.

Attendees

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

2. Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 13th, 2024, was made by Heers and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Treasurer’s Report

- Balance in checking account was \$9,765.66, savings \$986,679.45 and CD (10 month) \$260,971.08 as of June 30th, 2024. A motion to approve treasurer’s report and payment of bills was made by Helland and seconded by Heers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Cost Share & Grant Items

- a. Lageson brought before the board amendments to the Shell Rock/Winnebago WBIF 2024 Grant Sub-Agreement. A motion was made by Ausen to approve the amended Shell Rock/Winnebago WBIF 2024 Grant Sub-Agreement, seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. New Cost Share

- i. Billat presented to the board a request for cost share for a 327- Conservation Cover-SAFE: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Incentives.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-07	327-Conservation Cover; SAFE	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	WBIF#C24-0197

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

- ii. Billat presented to the board a request for cost share for a 327- Conservation Cover-SAFE: CRP Incentives.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-08	327-Conservation Cover; SAFE	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	WBIF#C24-0197

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

- iii. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for cover crops.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-17	COVER CROPS	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00	WBIF#C23-2187

A motion was made by Ausen to approve this contract for funding and authorize Lageson to sign contract when ready, motion seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- iv. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for cover crops.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-18	COVER CROPS	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	WBIF#23-2187

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

- v. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a cover crops.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-05	COVER CROPS	\$3,180.00	\$3,180.00	WBIF#C24-0197

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

- vi. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a cover crops.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-06	COVER CROPS	\$1,264.50	\$1,264.50	WBIF#C24-0197

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

- vii. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a High Capacity Well Sealing.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-02	High Capacity Well Sealing	\$10,000.00	\$10,000	WBIF#C24-0197

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

- viii. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a Well Sealing.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-03	WELL SEALING	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	WBIF#C24-0197

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

- ix. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a Well Sealing.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-04	WELL SEALING	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	WBIF#C24-0197

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

c. Partial/Final Payments

- i. Zeitler presented to the board a request for a partial payment on a Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Partial Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-22-08	WASCOB	\$ 55,833.52	\$28,977.37	WBIF#C22-5721

A motion was made by Ausen to approve a partial payment, motion seconded by Heers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. NRCS Report

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

6. Supervisor Reports

- Helland- reported attending the Blue Earth One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Policy Meeting on June 17th, 2024.
- Heers- reported attending the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Southeast Area 7 Supervisors meeting on June 17th, 2024.
- Ausen- reported attending a Shell Rock/Winnebago 1W1P Policy meeting on June 27th.

7. Manager Report

- Manager report was emailed prior to meeting.

8. Staff Reports

- Staff reports were emailed prior to meeting.
- Zeiter presented to the board the final numbers from our 2024 Tree Sale.

9. 2024 Outstanding Conservationist Nominations

- Nominations were brought before the board for the 2024 Outstanding Conservationist. Each were discussed. A motion was made by Ausen to award Norman & Ben Bangert of Bangert Family Farms as the Freeborn County’s 2024 Outstanding Conservationists, seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Adjournment

- There being no further business, adjournment was called by Vice-Chairman Kropp

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

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date