



**FREEBORN COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 Chairman Christopher Dahl at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:30 am.

**Attendees**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was made by Helland and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

Balance in checking account was \$15,162.15, savings \$769,277.98, CD (10 month) \$250,000.00, and CD (10 Month) \$235,000.00 as of September 30, 2024. A motion to approve treasurer’s report and payment of bills was made by Heers and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Cost Share & Grant Items**

**a. Contract Cancellation**

A request to cancel contract WBIF-CW-FREE-22-11 was brought before the board by Billat. A motion to cancel contract WBIF-CW-FREE-22-11 was made by Ausen and seconded by Helland.

**b. New Cost Share**

i. Cornell presented to the board a new request for a three-year cover crop cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY22-BUFF-01	Cover Crops	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	P22-6193

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

ii. Cornell presented to the board a new request for a three-year cover crop cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY22-BUFF-02	Cover Crops	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	P22-6193

A motion was made by Helland to authorize Lageson to approve this contract after applicant signatures are received, motion seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

iii. Trnka presented to the board a new request for a well sealing cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-24-12	Well Sealing	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	C24-0197

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

iv. Trnka presented to the board two (2) new requests for reduced tillage cost share contracts.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY24-CC-01	Strip Till	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	P24-0243
FY24-CC-02	Strip Till	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	P24-0243

A motion was made by Heers to approve two (2) contracts for funding, motion seconded by Helland. Ausen abstained **MOTION CARRIED.**

v. Billat presented to the board a new request for a prairie strip cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-24-02	Prairie Strip	\$13,128.00	\$13,128.00	C24-0179

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

## 5. NRCS Report

- No NRCS report was available at the time of the meeting.

## 6. Supervisor Reports

- Helland reported attending the Blue Earth River One Watershed One Plan meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, where they approved a working draft.

## 7. Manager Report

- a. Lageson reported no meetings or training attended in the past month.
- b. Updated board on hiring an Administrative Assistant; will use a service to help recruit candidates, currently updating job description, hoping to hold interviews in November with anticipated start date in January 2025.
- c. Anticipated interviews for Manager position would be held in November.

## 8. Staff Reports

- a. Viktora notified the board of working on 2025 Tree sales and buffer filing system.
- b. Other staff previously emailed their board reports.

## 9. Resolutions

- a. Board was presented with resolutions for the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention. The board reviewed eight (8) resolutions and voted individually on each. A member of staff will record votes online for the board.

## 12. Adjournment

- There being no further business, adjournment was called by Ausen, seconded by Heers.

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on November 14th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Curtis Helland, Board Secretary

Date