



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Thursday, December 8th, 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 Vice-Chairman Donald Kropp at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, December 8th at 1:30 PM.

Attendees

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

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on Nov. 10th, 2022, was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer Report

- Balance in checking account was \$49,632.87 and savings \$1,251,223.50 as of November 30th, 2022. A motion to approve treasurer's report and pay bills was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Wittmer. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- A motion to approve Lageson to make year-end payments, budget adjustments, sign agreements, and sign financial reports for BWSR grants was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Grant Program

- A discussion was had regarding the status of the CD68 grant and how the grant cannot move forward for various reasons. Because there is not a path to move forward with this grant a motion was made to give Lageson authorization to send funds back to BWSR by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NRCS Report

- Kurer gave an update on personnel changes. EQIP, CSP, CSP Classic, status reviews for CRP renewals, General CRP, and NRCS team leads attending the annual MASWCD convention for NRCS Team 19.

Manager Report

- Lageson discussed renewing the MAWQCP agreement with the Wabasha SWCD and the CREP agreement with the Steele SWCD. These agreements will help fund a portion of District Technician and the Private Land Biologists positions. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Wittmer to approve these agreements and authorize Lageson to sign them when available. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Lageson asked what the board would like to do with old unused equipment. Discussion will take place at another meeting next year.

Staff Reports

- Zeitler gave a review of the HWY-14 tour and asked the board if they were okay with having the Freeborn SWCD be the financial agent/advisor for getting the speakers paid for the tour, then invoice and be reimbursed by other stops of the tour for expenses. A motion was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Wittmer to be the financial agent/advisor for the HWY-14 tour speakers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Other Reports

- BWSR report – Copeland absent, no report available.

Additional Items

- After discussion in a closed meeting, all Freeborn County SWCD staff will be moved to the next step on the SWCD wage scale effective January 1, 2023, a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment

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

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date