



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Thursday, January 12th, 2023, 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, January 12th, 2023, at 1:30 PM.

Attendees

- **In attendance:** 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), and Senja Viktora (District Technician)
- **Absent:** Christopher Dahl (Chairman) and Gary Kurer (NRCS-Team Lead 19)

Election of Officers

- A motion to keep officers the same as previous year was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr. **MOTION CARRIED**

Board Officer Positions are as follows:	Committee Assignments are as follows:
District Chairman: Christopher Dahl	Budget: Ausen, Dahl, Heers Jr., Kropp, and Helland
District Vice-Chairman: Donald Kropp	Legislative: Ausen and Dahl
District Treasurer: David Ausen	Education: Kropp
District Board Secretary: Paul Heers Jr.	Personnel Committee: Dahl and Helland
District Supervisor: Curt Helland	State Cost Share Policy: Ausen, Dahl, Heers Jr., Kropp, and Helland
	SE Joint Powers Board: Heers Jr.
	Soil Health: Heers Jr.
	GBERBA Policy Board: Kropp
	Cedar River/Wapsi Watershed Policy Board: Heers Jr., Alt. Dahl
	Shell Rock-Winnebago 1W1P Policy Board: Ausen, Alt. Heers Jr.
	Le Sueur 1W1P Policy Board: Kropp, Alt. Ausen

Consent Agenda

- A motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Heers Jr. and Seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED**
 - Official Bank Depository as Security Bank Minnesota and signatories (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Manager)
 - 2023 Budget as presented to County Board
 - Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) insurance for 2023 (\$7,940.00)
 - Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) dues for 2023 (\$6,244.30)
 - National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) dues for 2023 (\$775.00)
 - Area 7 Technical Service area (TSA)/ Joint Powers Board (JPB) dues for 2023 (\$3,000)
 - Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE) State Employee Dues for 2023 (\$125) and Area 7 South East Employee Dues for 2023 (\$50)
 - Envirothon donation for 2023 (\$175)
 - Authorize Chairman, Vice Chairman, or Manager to sign grant agreements or other time sensitive documents as needed
 - Authorize Manager to sign eLINK interim and final financial reports
 - Authorize Manager to make electronic payments as needed
 - Authorize IRS mileage rate for 2023 (\$.655), and Supervisor per diem rates (\$125)
 - Authorize ads for tree sales 2023

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer Report

- Balance in checking account was \$26,831.00 and savings \$1,525,068.42 as of December 31st, 2022. A motion to approve treasurer's report and pay bills was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Grant Program

- A motion was made to give Lageson authorization to send state grand funds for CD68 back by the end of January 2023 to the Board of Water and Soil Resource (BWSR) by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- A request from was brought forward by Zeitler to make an amendment to contract #FY19-CAP-CC-01 to extend from 11/1/2023 to 11/1/2024 due to a misunderstanding of contract length. A motion to extend the contract to ensure landowner complies was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NRCS Report

- Kurer was absent for meeting but provided written report on updates from last month. They included personnel changes to CST Team #19, specifically new hires. EQIP FY 2022, CSP, and CRP updates.

Supervisor Reports

- Kropp attended a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) for the Le Sueur River Watershed reported that an organizational plan was agreed upon and is now out for public review December 15th, 2022.
- Kropp, Heers Jr., Ausen, and all staff attended the MASWCD Annual Convention in Bloomington, MN on December 12-14th, 2022.
- Heers Jr. attended the Area 7 TSA/JPB meeting, reported there was discussion on health insurance and payment approval for a milk house drainage project on December 22nd, 2022.

Manager Report

- Lageson reported she attended a Zoom Managers meeting January 12 to discuss applying for a Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) grant to study TSA7 workload with all the new watershed-based implementation plans that are needing engineering assistance, the group agreed to bring the request to the JPB later this month.
- Lageson brought up the topic of our SWCD's 75th anniversary tour and when to host it. Discussion was had whether to avoid the dates of the Shell Rock Watershed District (WD) 20th anniversary tour or reach out and see if they would like to partner. Lageson will reach out to their District Administrator.
- Lageson reported she had been contacted by Wehner from Freeborn County Environmental Services regarding the upcoming Blue Earth One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) planning grant. Wehner inquired if our SWCD would be interested in being part of the planning work group, because Freeborn County has such a small percent (less than 10% of the jurisdictional boundary) in the Blue Earth watershed, we can opt out while still being a part of the advisory committee and adopting the final plan. Discussion was had on the positives of being part of the planning process.

Staff Reports

- Zeitler presented the flyer for the Winter Workshop-HWY 14 Soil Health Tour on February 21st in Owatonna, Minnesota. She also presented the I-90 & HWY 14 Tour flyer with the scheduled stops.
- Zeitler presented the board with the 2023 tree sale form and informed them on shortages, and that the online store is available to order through.
- Viktora reported to the board that there will be a Minnesota Department of Ag (MDA) grant available in early 2023 for Soil Health Equipment.
- Billat presented a possible project that is in its early stages of planning for wetland storage in Geneva Township.
- Trnka inquired whether the board had any recommendations on companies that sell no-till drills to trade in or replace our current drill.

Additional Items

- Lageson informed the board that the Legislative Day at the Capitol is set for March 7th & 8th, no details have been sent out yet.
- There will be a Joint Powers Board – Technical Service Area 7 (JPB-TSA7) meeting in Rochester on January 25th, 2023.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date