



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Thursday, June 8th, 2023, at 1:30 pm

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, June 8th at 1:30pm.

Attendees

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

Appoint Board Supervisor

- A motion was made by Ausen to appoint Vickie Heers to the late Paul Heers, Jr.’s position as Board Supervisor until the next general election, the motion was seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of May 11th, 2023, was made by Helland and seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer’s Report

- Balance in checking account was \$9,186.52 and savings \$1,271,797.99 as of May 31st, 2023. A motion to approve treasurer’s report and payment of bills was made by Kropp and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Grant Programs actions and/or information

New Requests

- i. Zeitler presented to the board a request for well sealing cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-03	351 Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C23-2187

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

- ii. Billat presented to the board a request for brush management cost share, 36.85 acres at \$180/ac.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
SWCD-23-01	314 Brush Management	\$6,957.00	\$6,957.00	SWCD Local Funding

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

Final Payment Requests

- i. Zeitler presented to the board a request for final payment on a well sealing cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-01	351 Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C23-2187

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

NRCS Report

- No NRCS representative present for meeting; Kurer provided written report with updates for the Team #19.

FSA Report

- Liz Ludwig, CED brought before the board information regarding the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) County Committee election that will fill area #2 committee member. She asked the board to suggest or nominate persons that would be interested in the position. She notified board that the deadline to certify is July 15th, informed the board that there are 77 expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts this year, and gave other FSA program updates.

Supervisor Reports

- Kropp, on May 19th, virtually attend a Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) meeting. Reported discussion of usual business, a switch to new bank, and lakeshore stabilization cost-share.

Manager Report

- Manager Lageson previously emailed her report to the board.
- Lageson brought before the board ideas for custom promotional items for our 75th Anniversary event. Ausen made a motion for manager to purchase items as necessary for the anniversary; Helland seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Staff Reports

- Staff reports previously emailed to board members; additional updates given by staff.
- **Zeitler:**
 - Presented the board with a written report of this year's tree sales.
 - Updated board on this year's Buffer Reviews. This is the second year of reviews and there were approximately 20-25 properties with issues. No reviews sent to county; landowners have been very cooperative/responsive with resolving issues.
 - Zeitler brought before the board proposed changes to the SWCD Cost-Share Policy to include projects that would be covered by Buffer Law dollars with the possibility of 90% cost-share for those projects. Ausen made a motion to approve the Cost-Share Policy to include Buffer Law dollar projects with an increase of cost-share of 90% for structural practices and increased rates for implementation of cover crops on parcels affected by the Buffer Law; a second was made by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED**
- **Trnka:**
 - Updated the board on the need for new truck tires on the 2012 GMC truck. New tires are approximately \$800. A motion was made by Ausen to replace the tires; second by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 - Staff would also like to trade this truck in, so he also presented the first bid info to the board, we are waiting for more bids to come in.

BWSR Report

- Copeland updated the board on the 2023 Legislative Summary. He highlighted that cost-share funds will be more flexible and now will also include habitat and energy concerns. SWCD Aid was passed for a stable funding source for SWCDs.
- Presented Chairman Dahl with a letter and plaque for our SWCD's 75th year anniversary. (May 10, 1948).

MASWCD Area 7 Resolutions Meeting: Tuesday, June 27th

- Informed the board of the upcoming resolutions meeting and discussed what supervisors would be able to attend. Helland and possibly Vickie Heers would be available to attend. Staff Lageson and Billat will also attend.

Draft 2024 Budget

- The county has requested our draft budget early this year, so Manager Lageson distributed copies of the draft 2024 budget and asked for comments or changes. After some discussion Kropp made a motion to approve the draft 2024 budget and forward to the County Commissioners and acting Administrator; a second was made by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Additional Items

- Presented the board with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Local Working Group (LWG) questionnaire regarding resource concerns in our area/county. Supervisors completed questionnaire and returned to NRCS.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Kropp and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, July 13th at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date