

**FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

June 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairman Christopher Dahl in our district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN.

Those present were as follows: Christopher Dahl, Chairman, Donald Kropp, Vice-Chairman, David Ausen, Treasurer, Paul Heers Jr., Board Secretary, Brenda Lageson, District Manager, Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, Brittany Dawson, District Technician, Mark Trnka, Conservation Technician, and Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19. **Guests:** David Copeland, BWSR. **Absent:** Colin Wittmer, Supervisor.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the April 14, 2022, regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** (May 12, 2022, regular meeting was cancelled for a lack of a quorum).

Treasurer’s Report:

The treasurer’s balance as of May 31, 2022, was \$1,086.74 in checking and \$1,402,832.16 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented and pay bills was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Kropp. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Grant Actions and Information:

Contract amendment presented by Zeitler. Johnsons are asking for this amendment due to the much higher costs related to the project after receiving the contractor bid.

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>
Johnson-Hickory Lake	SWCD 21-01	412 waterway	\$39,275.00	\$19,637.50*

A motion was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Ausen to wave the \$15,000.00 cap on this project and the request to increase funds by \$8,759.50 not to exceed 50% of the total project cost. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Lageson presented the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for adoption by our SWCD. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp to adopt the plan. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** Resolution #2022-01

Lageson presented the 2023 CREP Grant Agreement to the Board and requested authorization to enter a workplan for the grant and sign the grant agreement due to the short turn around. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to approve entering a workplan and signing the grant agreement. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Reported Soil Loss Complaints:

Zeitler presented two separate complaints that came into our office because of wind erosion concerns during the Memorial Day Holiday weekend. She discussed the process and requested staff be authorized to be able to assist with these concerns. A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Kropp to authorize staff to send out letters to the landowners to determine a plan to resolve the problem. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

NRCS Report:

Kurer discussed personnel changes, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts obligated, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) workload and funding, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans to be completed for re-enrollments and site visits for 2023 expiring plans, and the Local Work Group to take place on June 14 in Blooming Prairie.

Supervisor Reports:

Kropp reported on his attendance at the Le Sueur One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting held in Waseca and the discussions occurring around governance and the potential to create a Joint Powers Board or be a collaborative effort between counties in the watershed with the possibility of Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) assisting with day to day and fiscal agent when it comes to distributing funds.

Heers, Jr. reported on his attendance at the Joint Powers Executive Board (TSA 7) meeting and a storage project that is being completed for an area dairy.

Manager Report:

Lageson provided a report to the Board of Supervisors via email which included meetings attended and workload.

- ✓ Lageson discussed the unfunded cooperative agreement with NRCS for four computer seats, phones, and IT assistance in exchange for 250 hours of SWCD staff time associated with Farm Bill Programs, which includes CRP. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. for Chairman Dahl to sign this agreement. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**
- ✓ Dawson’s letter of resignation was emailed to the board and a copy was presented to them to review. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to accept Dawson’s resignation. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** Lageson discussed the desire to fill Dawson’s position and showed the board a copy of the job posting that could be utilized to fill the position and briefly discussed the roles and responsibilities for the position.
- ✓ The 2023 Budget was briefly discussed and Lageson hopes to have a draft for review at the July board meeting.
- ✓ Lageson provided the board with information regarding the Leadership Institute for SWCDs and requested authorization for Zeitler to attend. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp to authorize Zeitler’s attendance. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Staff Reports:

Staff provided a report of their activities for the past month to the Board of Supervisors via email. Zeitler provided a report on the totals for the annual tree sale, projects, and soil health events. Billat disused utilizing the drone at projects and completed CREP projects/sign ups. Trnka discussed an issue with the native seeds clutch on the drill and the functionality after resolving the problem. Dawson had nothing to add.

Team 19 Local Workgroup Meeting:

Local Workgroup Meeting to be held on June 14 from 9 to 12 at the Blooming Prairie City Hall or via Zoom.

SE Area Resolution Meeting:

The SE Area Resolution Meeting is to be held on June 28 from 9 to 3 at the Rice County Fairgrounds in Faribault, Minnesota.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date