

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

**August 18, 2022**

**The meeting was called to order** at 2:00 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, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, and Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19-joined on the phone for his report. **Absent:** Colin Wittmer, Supervisor, Mark Trnka, Conservation Technician.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the July 14, 2022, regular meeting was approved as presented on a motion made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's balance as of July 31, 2022, was \$17,280.82 in checking and \$1,457,639.84 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and pay bills was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers, Jr. **Motion carried.**

Manager Lageson reported that we have received our FY23 Conservation Delivery, Easement Delivery, and State Cost Share funds.

Lageson then distributed copies of the draft FY22 audit report as prepared by Peterson, LTD for approval. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to approve the draft audit report to be submitted to the state auditor. **Motion carried.**

**Grant Actions and Information:**

Lageson presented a sub-agreement with Mower SWCD to the supervisors for approval. This agreement will allow us to access the Watershed Based Implementation funds for projects in the Cedar & Wapsipinicon watersheds. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Kropp to approve the sub-agreement. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **Motion carried.**

Zeitler presented the following for contracts approval:

- WBIF-CW-FREE-21-09 - \$1,000.00 for well sealing. A motion to approve by Ausen and seconded by Kropp. **Motion carried.**
- WBIF-CW-FREE-22-01 - \$20,299.20 for cover crops. A motion to approve by Ausen and seconded by Heers, Jr. **Motion carried.**
- WBIF-CW-FREE-22-02 - \$19030.50 for cover crops. A motion to approve by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen. **Motion carried.**
- FY20-03 - \$9,000.00 for cover crops. A motion to approve by Ausen and seconded by Heers, Jr. **Motion carried.**
- FY21-01 - \$9,000.00 for cover crops. A motion to approve by Ausen and seconded by Heers, Jr. **Motion carried.**

**NRCS Report:**

Kurer discussed personnel changes, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

**Supervisor Reports:**

- Heers, Jr. reported on his Zoom Executive meeting with the TSA 7/JPB meeting on 8/17 to revise budget for equipment purchase.
- Kropp reported on his attendance at the LeSueur One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting held in Mankato on 7/25. Still discussing governance and whether to form an entity or work as a collaboration. Lightly touched on the implementation table. More discussion next month
- Ausen reported on the budget presentation to the county board he attended with staff on 8/9. Presented our budget and answered a few questions.

**Manager Report:**

- Lageson is recommending making a part-time offer for our current open position to Viktora. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen to offer the position at the probationary period rate on the district wage scale to start. **Motion carried.**
- Lageson presented for review cost share policy and non-structural policy for board approval. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen to keep the policies the same as last year. **Motion carried.** (See attached).
- Lageson then presented for approval the newly updated TSA7//JPB memorandum of agreement. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen to approve the update. **Motion carried.**
- Lageson presented a list of outstanding conservationist candidates as prepared by staff for approval. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Kropp to select Scott Lightly and family. **Motion carried.**

**Staff Reports:**

- Staff provided a report of their activities for the past month to the Board of Supervisors via email.
  - Billat presented drone footage of some of our projects. Billat gave more details regarding future CREP and RIM sign-ups, Zeitler gave more details regarding soil health events being held in our area.
  - Zeitler advised that she had sent out letters and there has been no further contact from the landowners with the soil loss complaints. Supervisors request she follow-up with a phone call.
  - Zeitler also discussed the soil health sponsorships and how our district could sponsor events in the future. Instead of providing a lump sum, we would try paying bills as they come in to be more in line as to what other partners are doing.

**Training request:**

- Lageson is recommending all staff to attend this year’s BWSR Academy on October 25 – 27<sup>th</sup> at Cragun’s in Brainerd. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers, Jr. authorizing all staff to attend as their schedules allow. **Motion carried.**

**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, August 18, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date