



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Thursday, March 14th, 2024, at 1:30 pm

1. Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was called to order by Treasurer David Ausen at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, March 14th, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

Attendees

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

2. Soil Loss Complaint

- SWCD staff received a complaint of wind erosion west of the City of Freeborn, MN. This field has had wind erosion during strong wind events for the past four years, causing adverse conditions for neighboring property. Operator of land has been made aware of the issue without resolution. Affected persons is looking for assistance from the board to mitigate the issue. Board discussed available actions to take which is to approve staff to send a letter to the landowner where erosion is occurring, state the current problem and list alternative management practices to reduce erosion. A motion was made by Heers for staff to draft a letter to the landowner stating the soil loss complaint and solutions, seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on February 8th, 2024, was made by Helland and seconded by Heers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Treasurer’s Report

- Balance in checking account was \$27,284.74, savings \$1,194,302.51, and CD (10 month) \$250,000.00 as of February 29th, 2024. A motion to approve treasurer’s report and payment of bills was made by Heers and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Cost Share & Grant Items

a. NEW COST SHARE

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

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-09	WELL SEALING	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C23-2187

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

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

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-10	WELL SEALING	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	WBIF#C23-2187

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

- iii. Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for Water & Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB).

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-22-08	WASCOB	\$55,833.52	\$55,833.52	WBIF#C22-5721

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

- iv. Billat presented to the board a request for prairie strip cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY-24-SW-CRP-02	PRAIRIE STRIP	\$2,452.50	\$2,452.50	P24-0021

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

- v. Billat presented to the board a request for cover crop cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY23-SH-02	COVER CROPS	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	P23-5773

Helland abstained from voting on this item. A motion was made by Heers to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Partial/Final Payments

- 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-CW-FREE-22-05	WELL SEALING	\$1,500.00	\$1,037.50	WBIF#22-5721

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

6. NRCS Report

- Kurer provided a written report for the board, highlighted current staffing changes/news, and the status of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), & Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

7. BWSR Report

- No BWSR representative present at meeting.

8. Supervisor Reports

- Helland reported attending the Blue Earth River Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting in Blue Earth on February 26th. Main conversation consisted of getting started with the 1W1P process, discussed a ‘kick off’ meeting in May.
- Heers reported attending the Soil Health Winter Workshop in Owatonna on February 22nd. Topics of discussion were small grains, oat mill, carbon intensity score and a manure panel.
- Ausen reported attending the Shellrock / Winnebago 1W1P Policy meeting on March 5th. Discussed well sealing price increased and supplemental funds. Also attended the Day at the Capital on March 12-13th.

9. Manager Report

- No report currently.

10. Staff Reports

- Staff reports previously emailed to board members.
 - Viktora- Presented to the board a report on the Day at the Capital on March 12-13th.

11. Board Meeting Time

- A brief discussion was held regarding the time of the monthly board meetings and an 8:30 am time was brought for consideration. A motion was made by Helland to change the monthly board meeting time from 1:30pm to 8:30am, seconded by Heers. Time change will take effect in April. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. Annual SE MACDE Spring Meeting

- Informed the board of the Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees meeting on April 2nd in Byron. A request was made for staff to attend. Heers made a motion to approve staff attendance at the SE MACDE Spring meeting on April 2nd, a second was made by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

13. Adjournment

- There being no further business, adjournment was made by Helland and seconded by Heers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on April 11th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date