



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Thursday, July 13th, 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, July 13th at 1:30 pm.

Attendees

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

Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of June 8th, 2023, was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer’s Report

- Balance in checking account was \$18,212.13 and savings \$1,194,102.07 as of June 30th, 2023. A motion to approve treasurer’s report and payment of bills was made by Helland and seconded by Kropp. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 - Reviewed sample Resolution for SWCD State Aid, Kropp made a motion to adopt the resolution and post to the district’s website, seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED**
 - Discussed making changes to the savings account by putting some dollars into a certificate of deposit and move the balance into a higher percentage rate earning account, Helland made a motion to making these changes to the savings account, seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED**

Grant Programs actions and/or information

New Requests

- i. Zeitler presented to the board a request for a grassed waterway project for cost share.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY21-02	412 Grassed Waterway	\$1,377.25	\$1,377.25	P21-5286-2021

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

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

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-04	Well Sealing	\$2,000	\$1,000	C23-21-87

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

- iii. Billat presented to the board three (3) requests for cost share for cover crops.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Contract Length	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-05	Cover Crops (340)	\$11,700.00	\$11,700.00	3 years	C23-21-87
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-06	Cover Crops (340)	\$3,240.00	\$3,240.00	1 year	C23-21-87
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-07	Cover Crops (340)	\$86,400.00	\$86,400.00	3 years	C23-21-87

A motion was made by Kropp to approve all three (3) cover crop contracts pending additional paperwork and approve Manager Lageson to sign contracts once paperwork is complete, motion seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Final Payment Requests

- i. Billat presented to the board a request for final payment on three (3) prairie strip cost share contracts.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-21-11	Prairie Strip	\$4,380.00	\$4,380.00	C20-2412
WBIF-CW-FREE-21-12	Prairie Strip	\$1,065.00	\$1,065.00	C20-2412
WBIF-CW-FREE-21-13	Prairie Strip	\$1,705.00	\$1,705.00	C20-2412

A motion was made by Ausen to approve all three (3) contracts for final payment, motion seconded by Kropp.
MOTION CARRIED.

NRCS Report

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

Supervisor Reports

- Helland reported that he and Lageson attended the SE Area 7 Technical Service Area (TSA/JPB) in Rochester, MN on July 18th. Regular business held, budget, rental agreements, workload, agency reports, etc.

Manager Report

- Manager Lageson previously emailed her report to the board.

Staff Reports

- Staff reports previously emailed to board members.

BWSR Report

- Reported on staffing changes within the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and other usual business.

Additional Items

- Presented the board with shirt options for embroidery with Freeborn SWCD logo. Kropp made a motion to purchase embroidered shirts for board supervisors and staff, motion was seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Discussed ideas for the fair booth at the Freeborn County Fair. Helland made a motion to provide a daily drawing for a potted tree at our 2024 annual tree sale, motion seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ausen 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, August 10th at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date