

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

October 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Vice-Chairman Donald Kropp at the Freeborn County Courthouse in the Freeborn Room, with further attendance through Zoom. This meeting is being held in accordance with Section 13D.02, Subdivision 1 of MN Open Meeting Law which permits public bodies to hold meetings via interactive technology if specific conditions are met.

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the September 9, 2021 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative –Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report:

The treasurer’s balance as of September 30, 2021 was \$19,485.61 in checking and \$1,389,560.58 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented and pay bills was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative –Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Grant Actions and Information:

Cost Share Payment Requests:

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
McGill	FY19-CAP-CC-02	340-Cover Crop	\$9,000.00
A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract payment request for McGill. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried.			
Moe	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-01	412-Grassed Waterway	\$11,165.45
A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the contract payment request for Moe. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried.			
Wangen	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-02	340-Cover Crop	\$6,301.21
A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract payment request for Wangen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried.			
HansenB	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-03	340-Cover Crop	\$6,258.92
A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the contract payment request for HansenB. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried.			
HansenC	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-04	340-Cover Crop	\$6,597.24
A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract payment request for HansenC. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried.			
WangsnessC	FY16-CWF-CD8-01	412-Grassed Waterway	\$ 0.00
Zeitler discussed that no bills were received for WangsnessC as the work was completed outside of the contract period. Project meets NRCS standards.			

Grant Closures and Extension:

Lageson requested authorization to extend three expiring grants on December 31, 2021 for another year to help paydown the remaining amounts. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to authorize the extension of the grants. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

FY22 Capacity and Buffer Law Grants:

Lageson discussed the availability of the FY22 Capacity and Buffer Law Grants and presented a copy of each workplan to the Board to review. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to authorize Lageson to submit the workplans for both grants. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

NRCS Report:

Kurer discussed personnel changes, workload for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Supervisor Reports:

Kropp discussed attending the LeSueur 1W1P kick off on September 16, 2021 at St. Olaf Lake in New Richland, MN.

Manager Report:

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

- ✓ Lageson requested authorization to attend the Joint SWCD Manager & Watershed District Administrator meeting in Brainerd on November 9 and 10. A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to authorize Lageson’s attendance at the meeting and reimbursement of allowable expenses. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Staff Reports:

Staff provided a report of their activities for the past months to the Board of Supervisors via email and briefly discussed activities not included in their reports. Zeitler provided an update on the Buffer Law and Administration Penalty Orders (APO) and Correction Action Notices (CAN) being sent out to out of compliance parcel owners. Dawson discussed working with other area SWCDs about interested producers in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification program (MAWQCP).

Medical and Dental Insurance Renewal:

Lageson briefly discussed the increase in insurance rates and voiced support for the SWCD to continue to pay the premium and contribute to staff member’s HSA. A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the medical and dental insurance renewal. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Update on No-Till Drill Trade-In and Rate Increase:

Tabled until November board meeting.

Additional Informational Items:

BWSR Academy Online: October 26 – 28, 2021.

MASWCD Resolution Vote:

The board discussed each of the fourteen resolution and each member voted either for, against, or for further discussion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative –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 Wednesday, November17, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date