

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

**August 12, 2021**

**The meeting was called to order** at 1:30 PM by Chairman Christopher Dahl via Zoom, everyone else was at the Freeborn County Courthouse in the Freeborn Room. This meeting is being held in accordance with Section 13D.021, 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:** Christopher Dahl, Chairman, Paul Heers Jr., Board Secretary, David Ausen, Treasurer, Brenda Lageson, District Manager, Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, Brittany Dawson, District Technician, Mark Trnka, Conservation Technician, Dave Copeland, BWSR, Joel Alicia-Hernandez, NRCS-Soil Conservationist, and Justin Hanson, Mower County SWCD/Cedar River Watershed District. **Absent:** Donald Kropp, Vice-Chairman and Colin Wittmer, Supervisor.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the July 8, 2021 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's balance as of July 31, 2021 was \$34,932.01 in checking and \$1,396,158.34 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 – Dahl, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**Grant Actions and Information:**

**Cost Share Requests:**

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fjermestad	CWF-MDM-CD68-19-01	Easement	\$281,250.00

A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract request for Fjermestad. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Johnson-Hickory Lake	SWCD-21-01	342-Critical Area Planting	\$10,878.00
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract request for Johnson. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Wayne	FY20-02	638-Water & Sediment Control Basins	\$3,038.00
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract request for Wayne. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Moe	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-01	412-Grassed Waterway	\$13,099.00
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract request for Moe. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Wangen	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-02	340-Cover Crop	\$18,903.63
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A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the contact request for Wangen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**Cost Share Payment Requests:**

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Anderson	DRAP3-17-03	412-Grassed Waterway	\$930.00

A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the payment request for Anderson. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** Final Payment from FY20 State C/S

Sorg	FY19-CAP-CC-01	340-Cover Crop	\$9,000.00
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A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the payment request for Sorg. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** Cost Share Payment Recommendation to Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA):

Contract Holder	Contract Number	Practice	Amount
Sorg	319-TDML-16-24-04	340-Cover Crop	\$1,542.50

A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the payment recommendation to GBERBA for Sorg. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

#### Supervisor Per Diems:

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to approve the per diem increase to \$125.00 and to make it retroactive to August 1, 2021. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none.

**The motion carried.**

#### NRCS Report:

Alicia-Hernandez provided an update on NRCS personnel, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications obligated to contracts, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) obligations and deferrals, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation planning status for renewals and new contracts.

#### BWSR Report:

Copeland provided an update on the COVID policy changes that have occurred because of an increase in transmission and discussed the requirement for staff to show proof of vaccination status or be tested weekly to work in person which starts on September 8. Copeland also gave information about 2021 BWSR Academy, and the BWSR Board Tour being held in Freeborn and Mower counties on August 25 and 26. Tour will highlight projects by our SWCD, Mower SWCD/Cedar River Watershed District, and the Shell Rock River Watershed District

#### Supervisor Reports:

Heers Jr. reported on his attendance at a Zoom meeting for the Joint Powers Board in which regular business was conducted and dues were set at \$3000.00. Heers Jr. also attended the Cedar 1W1P meeting at the Hormel Nature Center where potential projects were discussed.

#### Manager Report:

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

- ✓ Lageson discussed receiving correspondence from MTIC regarding dividends to be received
- ✓ Lageson also discussed the changes to the masking policy at the office.

#### 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 discussed the upcoming Soil Health events on August 31 and September 2. Billat discussed updates for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), construction projects, and passing his drone test. Dawson discussed the completion of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation plans. Trnka had nothing to add to his report however Billat noted that Trnka will start on Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) inspections and posting CREP easements.

#### Training Requests:

Discussion for BWSR Academy was tabled until the September 9 meeting due to evolving COVID transmission and for further information from BWSR.

#### 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 –Dahl, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on September 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date