

FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
July 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Vice-Chairman Donald Kropp via a Zoom call due to the worldwide pandemic Coronavirus (COVID 19). 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 telephone or other electronic means if specific conditions are met.

Those present were as follows: Donald Kropp, Vice-Chair, 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, Brett Arne, BWSR PRAP Coordinator, and Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19. **Absent:** Christopher Dahl, Chairman and Colin Wittmer, Supervisor.

BWSR Performance Review and Assessment Program (PRAP) Coordinator Presentation:

Brett Arne briefly conversed this is a Level II routine review completed once every 10 years. A Level II review evaluates progress on water plan implementation, operational effectiveness, and partner relationships.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the June 10, 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 May 31, 2021 was \$22,246.93 in checking and \$1,338,196.05 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.**

After review of the completed 2020 Audit Report from Peterson Company, LTD a motion to approve the report was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Grant Actions and Information:

No new requests or information.

NRCS Report:

Kurer provided an update on NRCS personnel, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) preapprovals, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation plan status.

Supervisor Reports:

Heers Jr. and Kropp reported on their attendance at the Area 7 Resolution meeting held on June 22 and noted that all three of the resolutions were approved. Kropp also attended the LeSueur 1W1P Policy meeting held on June 25 regular business, MSU Water Resources proposal for the kick-off meeting, and a ISG contracting update.

Manager Report:

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

- ✓ Lageson discussed meetings attended and preparation for Trnka's start date to her workload for the month.
- ✓ Lageson also requested authorization to purchase necessary office equipment, supplies, etc. for Trnka. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. to approve the purchase of necessary items. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and 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 them and any activities not included in their reports. Zeitler discussed projects she is working with landowners on. Billat discussed updates for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and pre-construction meetings. Dawson had no other information to add to her emailed report.

Freeborn Area Soil Health Team Sponsorship:

Zeitler briefly explained the importance of sponsorships for the Freeborn Area Soil Health Team and what those dollars go toward. A motion was made by Heers Jr. to approve a sponsorship of \$1,000.00 and was seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

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. **The motion carried.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on August 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date