

**FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
February 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairman Christopher Dahl at the Freeborn County Courthouse in the Albert Lea 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. All attendees were in person except for Kurer, NRCS.

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the January 13, 2022, regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report:

The treasurer’s balance as of January 31, 2022, was \$11,120.22 in checking and \$1,463,226.37 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented and pay bills was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Grant Actions and Information:

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>
NessB	FY20-01	638-WASCOBS (2)	\$8,073.97	\$2,449.15*

A motion was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Kropp to approve the payment request for NessB with the dollar amount mentioned above. *Note project was approved for Federal EQIP cost share the SWCD piggybacked the difference not to exceed 75% of the eligible total or whichever is less. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
VietorS	WBIF-CW-FREE-21-06	351-Well Decommissioning	\$1,000.00

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

NRCS Report:

Kurer discussed personnel changes throughout the Team 19 Area, assessment and ranking of 2022 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications, and the completion of Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments and classic CSP applications that have been submitted.

Manager Report:

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

- ✓ An audit proposal was presented to have Peterson Company LTD complete the 2021 audit for \$3,000.00. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to authorize the signature of the engagement letter to obtain Peterson Company LTD for the 2021 audit. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Hr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**
- ✓ Lageson discussed the draft Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Shell Rock – Winnebago One Watershed One Plan and asked the board to consider a motion to support the submittal of the document to BWSR. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to support the submittal of the Shell Rock – Winnebago One Watershed One Plan to BWSR. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**
- ✓ The Supervisors were given an updated TSA agreement and by-laws. Lageson stated that comments will be considered until their July 2022 meeting.

Supervisor Reports:

Kropp reported on his attendance at the GBERBA Policy meeting, and LeSueur 1W1P Policy meeting on Jan. 28, 2022, which he attended virtually and the Legislative training by MASWCD on Feb. 10, 2022, also virtual.

Heers reported on his attendance at the Cedar policy meeting on February 2 and the Winter Workshop at Wedgewood Cove held on February 9, 2022.

Ausen attended the public hearing for the Shell Rock-Winnebago One Watershed One Plan on Feb. 16, 2022.

Staff Reports:

Staff provided a report of their activities for the past month to the Board of Supervisors via email and briefly discussed activities not included in their reports. Zeitler added her attendance at the Legislative training on February 10 and her participation with the I-90 Soil Health tour/Winter Workshop held on February 9, 2022. Dawson provided an update on the completion of 2021 Reviews for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) and the start of the 2022 reviews. Billat briefly discussed dates for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up before discussing equipment purchases.

- ✓ Staff provided information for the consideration of the purchase of a Frontier Precision Geode. Billat discussed how the district staff could benefit from the Geode and how the additional software could be useful for the district beyond the use of the Geode as well. Zeitler discussed the software and quote breakdown before Billat discussed some accessories that would help assist staff with the updated technology. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to purchase the necessary equipment and accessories to be able to continue to improve the work they are doing. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Legislative Day at the Capitol is being held on March 9 and 10, 2022 in St. Paul for SWCD staff and supervisors to meet with their local representatives. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp to authorize the registration of staff and supervisors to attend the event. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, 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 – Dahl, 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 Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary Date