

**FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
February 11, 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, Colin Wittmer, Board Supervisor, Brenda Lageson, District Manager, Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, Brittany Dawson, District Technician, Dave Copeland, BWSR, and Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19 **Absent:** Christopher Dahl, Chairman

**Amend Agenda:**

A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to approve the amendments to the agenda. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Heers Jr., Ausen, and Wittmer Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the January 14, 2020 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Heers Jr., Ausen, and Wittmer Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's balance as of January 31, 2021 was \$20,035.35 in checking and \$1,244,780.46 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and pay bills was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Wittmer. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Heers Jr., Ausen, and Wittmer Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**Grant Actions and Information:**

2019 Capacity Grant expired on 12/31/2020 and the unspent balance was returned to BWSR at a total of \$10,535. The 2021 Capacity and Buffer Grants were received from BWSR and the WCA Grant was received from the County.

**NRCS Agency Report:**

Kurer provided a report for the NRCS Customer Service Team 19 discussing EQIP and CSP screening and ranking updates.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Kropp attended the GBERBA Executive meeting via WEBEX on Feb. 12, 2021. Discussed the election of new officers, regular business, payment and extension of grants. Kropp would also like to see the GBERBA website updated. Lageson will check into it. Heers Jr. attended the annual Joint Powers Board meeting via Zoom on Jan. 27, 2021. Election of officers, budget and ideas moving forward.

**Manager Report:**

Lageson provided a report to the Board of Supervisors via email and asked the Board for any questions. A brief discussion was had regarding LeSueur One Watershed One Plan status.

**Staff Reports:**

Staff provided a report of their activities for the past months to the Board of Supervisors via email and answered questions from the Board. Kropp inquired about MAWQCP numbers in Steele County and Dawson briefly explained the reasoning behind the low numbers. Kropp inquired about a landowner and a potential project mentioned in Zeitler's report.

**DNR Walk-in Access Program:**

Billat discussed the Walk-In Access Program and how Freeborn County is eligible to have landowners sign up for the program, however there are no current landowners signed up and to allow applications a joint powers agreement must be made between the SWCD and the DNR. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers, Jr. to enter into agreement with DNR for the WIA Program authorizing Lageson to sign. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Kropp, Heers Jr., Ausen, and Wittmer Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

**COVID Policy:**

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to extend the COVID policy until the March 11 Board Meeting.

**BWSR Report:**

Copeland provided an update on the proposal of water storage and soil health initiatives and other Legislative updates. Copeland also announced a new half day training opportunity, Spring Training will be held on March 30 and discussed the proposed dates for BWSR Academy.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Kropp and seconded by Wittmer. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr., Ausen, and Wittmer Opposed – None. **The motion carried.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date