

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

**June 10, 2021**

**The meeting was called to order** at 1:30 PM by Chairman Christopher Dahl 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:** Christopher Dahl, Chairman, Donald Kropp, Vice-Chair, Paul Heers Jr., Board Secretary, David Ausen, Treasurer, Colin Wittmer, 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:** None

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the May 13, 2021 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 – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed – none. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's balance as of May 31, 2021 was \$9,354.43 in checking and \$1,377,077.55 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, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

**Grant Actions and Information:**

State-Cost Share: Zeitler presented a State Cost-Share request for Ness for the construction of two Water and Sediment Control Basins that are being funded through EQIP. The State Cost-Share funds help bring the total payment up to 75% of the total project cost.

<b>Contract Number</b>	<b>Contract Holder</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Share Amount</b>
FY19-01	Ness	WASCOB	\$2,904.00

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

SWCD Local Cost-Share Pilot Program: Zeitler presented the changes that were made to the structural and non-structural policies and inquired about questions from the supervisors. After some discussion a motion to approve the implementation of the SWCD Local Cost-Share Pilot Program was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.** Upon approval of the program Zeitler walked the supervisors through a prospective project that could utilizing this funding source.

Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Grant: Lageson asked the supervisors about their interest in applying for the PRAP grant prior to or after the Level Two Review. Copeland also assisted in explaining the purpose of the grant and what those dollars could be utilized for. Kropp discussed there being no urgency in applying for the grant and the remaining supervisors agreed.

**MN DNR Groundwater Monitoring:**

A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer to submit the FY2022 Groundwater Monitoring Agreement with the MN DNR. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

**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) next steps.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Kropp reported on a Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) meeting held on May 14 and a LeSueur Watershed 1W1P Policy meeting on 6/4/21 which entailed usual business, guest presenters, and selecting ISG as the contractor.

**Manager Report:**

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

- ✓ Lageson discussed the addition of interview preparation to her workload for the month.
- ✓ Lageson then discussed the request from the county to submit a budget and asked the supervisors if there was anything they would like changed. A motion was then made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr. to submit the budget as presented to Freeborn County. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**
- ✓ Lageson also requested authorization to attend the State Managers meeting which is being held in Brainard on June 29 and 30. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to authorize Lageson’s attendance and pay allowable expenses. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **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. Billat discussed updates for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the submission of a Walk-in Access application, and information on MDM. Zeitler discussed sending out buffer letters and working with those landowners. Dawson reported on the addition of MAWQCP yearly reviews.

**SE Area Resolution Meeting**

Lageson inquired about attendance at the upcoming SE Area Resolution meeting being held on June 22 at Riverland Community College in Austin, MN. Kropp agreed to attend virtually and Heers Jr. would attend in person. Lageson also plans on attending.

**2021 Fair Booth Ideas:**

- ✓ Lageson asked the supervisors if they had any specific topics, they would like incorporated in the 2021 Fair Booth and if they would consider purchasing fair passes for the staff. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to purchase fair passes. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

**COVID-19 Policy:** After a brief discussion it was agreed to extend the COVID Policy until the July 8 board meeting.

**Chairman Dahl closed the meeting for the personnel discussion.**

**Personnel Committee Recommendations:**

The personnel committee made their recommendation to the full board regarding the open Conservation Technician position. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Dahl to offer the position to the committee’s first selection and if declined to offer the position to the next person. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr., and Wittmer Opposed – none. The motion carried. **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, Heers Jr., and Wittmer 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 July 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date