

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

**March 11, 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, Brenda Lageson, District Manager, Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, Brittany Dawson, District Technician, Dave Copeland, BWSR, Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19, and Dean Thomas, Soil Health Technician Area 7 from Fillmore SWCD **Absent:** Colin Wittmer, Supervisor

**Grazing Plans and Importance of Funding Beyond EQIP:**

Thomas presented on the importance of funding grazing plans beyond the scope of EQIP. Other SWCDs in the area have utilized state-cost share funds to help fund fencing and other aspects of prescribed grazing plans to increase funds up to 75% piggy backing with EQIP funds.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the February 11, 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 – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer’s balance as of February 28, 2021 was \$10,848.04 in checking and \$1,437,187.49 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented and pay bills was made by Heers Jr. and seconded by Kropp. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

**Grant Actions and Information:**

An error was discovered on the approved Non-Structural Cost-Share Policy 21/22. A couple of sentences were left out and Zeitler presented the amended sections of the Policy and a request to approve as amended. A motion by Ausen and seconded by Kropp approved the amendment of the Non-Structural Cost-Share Policy. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

Pre-Construction Cover in the regular State Cost-Share Policy was also omitted. Zeitler explained the purpose of Pre-Construction Cover. A motion made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr. approved the amendment of the regular state cost share policy to include Pre-Construction Cover. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

Zeitler presented a request for cost share assistance for Sorg for 60 acres of Cover Crop.

<b>Producer:</b>	<b>Conservation Practice:</b>	<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>Approved Amount:</b>
Sorg, Richard	340 – Cover Crop	FY19-CAP-CC-01	\$9,000.00

A motion to approve the Cost-Share assistance was made by Heers Jr 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. **The motion carried.**

Another cost share request from Sorg for GBERBA cost share assistance for 80 acres of Cover Crop was also presented by Zeitler.

<b>Producer:</b>	<b>Conservation Practice:</b>	<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>Approved Amount:</b>
Sorg, Richard	340 – Cover Crop	319-TMDL-16-24-04	\$2,000.00

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

**MASWCD Legislative Briefing:**

The 2021 MASWCD Legislative Briefing is being held on March 18 from 10 to 12 pm. Lageson requested approval for Heers Jr, Lageson, and Dawson to attend the virtual briefing. A motion to approve attendance of the Legislative Briefing was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. The motion carried. **The motion carried.**

**NRCS Agency Report:**

Kurer provided a report for the NRCS Customer Service Team 19 discussing EQIP and CSP screening and ranking updates, the continuation of direct hiring. A discussion on when to hold the Local Working Group occurred and a decision to hold it on April 8, 2021 after the regular board meeting was made.

**Manager Report:**

Lageson provided a report to the Board of Supervisors via email and briefly discussed her workload for the past month.

**COVID Policy:**

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to extend the COVID policy until the April 8 Board Meeting.

**Approval of Annual Plan and Report:**

Dawson presented the Annual Plan and Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the Annual Plan and Annual Report. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. 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 their reports.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Kropp attended the 1W1P policy meeting for the Le Sueur Watershed where officers were elected, by laws were presented, and other initial planning stages were completed.

**Tree Drawing:**

Names were randomly selected using the wheel of names to select the winners of the 3 free one-gallon conifer trees.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn 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. **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