

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

December 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairman Christopher Dahl at the Freeborn County Courthouse in the Freeborn 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.

Those present were as follows: Christopher Dahl, Chairman, Donald Kropp, Vice-Chairman, 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, Mark Trnka, Conservation Technician, Dave Copeland, BWSR, and Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19. **Absent:** None.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the October 14, 2021 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, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** November meeting was cancelled because of a lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's balance as of November 30, 2021 was \$31,431.07 in checking and \$1,313,242.29 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.**

A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to authorize Lageson to make year end payments, budget adjustments, and sign final financial reports for BWSR Grants. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Grant Actions and Information:

2022 CREP Outreach Grant request was signed and submitted.
CD68 Grant Agreement and the 2019 SWCD Buffer Law Implementation Agreement extensions were signed and approved.
2022 Capacity and 2022 Buffer Law Agreements were signed and approved.

Cost Share Contract Requests:

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ThompsonS	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-05	351-Well Decommissioning	\$1,000.00

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

Minnesota Buffer Law Update:

Zeitler provided documentation to the board regarding the Minnesota Buffer Law Statute, the Resolution with Freeborn County, and the County Ordinance, and the SWCD Buffer Compliance Tracking. Zeitler also discussed those parcels with landowners who were working with the SWCD and have not been handed off to the County, those that received Corrective Action Notices (CAN), those receiving an Administrative Penalty Order (APO) reminder, and those that received an APO with penalties due. It was discussed that one of the landowners who received the APO reached out to the SWCD and Zeitler is working with them to insure they were complying with the Buffer Law.

NRCS Report:

Kurer discussed personnel changes throughout the Team 19 Area, applications submitted for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and determining ranking questions, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts requiring certification, and the completion of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) renewal site visits.

BWSR Report:

Copeland discussed personal changes for previously vacant positions, the potential for additional funds for TSA 7 for feedlots, information regarding the comprehensive water management plans and further meetings regarding this topic, the status for the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) for the Shell Rock and Winnebago and the potential that implementation funds may be available by early summer, and that the 2022 Capacity Funds and Buffer Law funds were executed on December 1, 2021.

Manager Report:

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

- ✓ Lageson requested the renewal of the CREP Agreement with the Steele County SWCD which allows Billat to help with CREP projects in Steele County. A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr to renew the CREP Agreement. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

- ✓ Lageson requested the renewal of the MAWQCP Agreement with Wabasha County SWCD for a portion of Dawson’s position. A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr to renew the MAWQCP Agreement with Wabasha County SWCD. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**
 - Lageson also discussed the availability of \$2,500 for promotional and technical assistance through MAWQCP. A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Kropp to request those funds. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**
 - Lageson requested authorization to sign the documentation once it is received. A motion was made Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to authorize Lageson to sign the documentation. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried**
- ✓ Lageson requested a resolution for an extension for the adoption of the Freeborn County Water Plan as the SWCD’s Comprehensive Water Plan. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the request to adopt the extension. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**
- ✓ Lageson requested authorization to request information from the IRS pertaining to the letter of origin assigning the SWCD it’s Tax ID Number. A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr to authorize Lageson to request the necessary information from the IRS. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried**

Supervisor Reports:

Heers Jr. reported on his attendance at the Personnel Committee meeting for the TSA 7/Joint Powers Board.

Kropp reported on his and Lageson’s attendance at a joint Policy/Tech. GBERBA meeting on November 19 in Mountain Lake, Minnesota in which traditional business was conducted and a 12% increase in dues was approved. The second half of the meeting was a presentation on well sealing in Blue Earth County. Kropp also discussed his attendance at the 1W1P meeting for the Le Sueur.

Staff Reports:

Staff provided a report of their activities for the past months to the Board of Supervisors via email and briefly discussed activities not included in their reports. Zeitler provided an update the tree shortages happening at the nurseries and this resulting in a limited stock and the addition of plant packs to the tree order form. Billat discussed the productive year for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the number of sites completed. Dawson discussed completed work that occurred after submitting her board report regarding the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification program (MAWQCP). Trnka provided an update on the trade in for the no-till drill.

Membership to the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition:

Zeitler discussed correspondence with the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to join the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried**

Soil Management Summit:

Zeitler informed the board that the Soil Management Summit is being held on December 14 and 15 in Mankato, MN. Still time to sign up if interested.

Personnel Committee Recommendations:

The Personnel Committee met and gave a recommendation that all staff members be moved to the next step on the wage scale starting January 1, 2022. See attached wage scale for more information. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to approve the increase of wages. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. 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, Heers Jr, 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 on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,