

FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 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.021, 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, Brenda Lageson, District Manager, Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, Brittany Dawson, District Technician, Mark Trnka, Conservation Technician, Dave Copeland, BWSR, Brett Arne, BWSR, and Justin Hanson, Mower County SWCD/Cedar River Watershed District. **Absent:** Colin Wittmer, Supervisor.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the August 12, 2021 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion 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.**

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's balance as of August 31, 2021 was \$25,923.29 in checking and \$1,378,806.02 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:

Cost Share Cancellation Request:

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fjermestad	CWF-MDM-CD68-19-01	Easement	\$281,250.00

A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp to approve the contract cancellation request for Fjermestad. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.** (This contract had incorrect dollar figures – see new contract below).

Cost Share Requests:

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fjermestad	CWF-MDM-CD68-19-02	Easement	\$370,000.00

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

Wacholz	CWF-MDM-CD68-19-03	Easement	\$50,000.00
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp to approve the contract request for Wacholz. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

McGill	FY19-CAP-CC-02	340-Cover Crop	\$9,000.00
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contract request for McGill. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

HansenC	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-04	340-Cover Crop	\$19,791.72
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contact request for HansenC. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

HansenB	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-03	340-Cover Crop	\$18,776.76
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A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the contact request for HansenB. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

FY22/23 Conservation Delivery and Cost Share Grants

Lageson discussed the approval of the work plans and requested authorization to receive the funds. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Ausen to authorize the receipt of the funds. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Official Signature Request:

A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Ausen to authorize Kropp to sign contracts and grants for Dahl as he is unable to this month. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

NRCS Report:

No report given.

Draft PRAP Report:

Arne reviewed the PRAP process and provided an explanation of some of the highlights from each section of the report and provided recommendations.

BWSR Report:

Copeland expressed his thanks to the staff for the success of the BWSR board tour help on August 25. He also discussed open BWSR positions, monthly COVID update including moving the in-person transition to January, and that the Shell Rock/Winnebago 1W1P draft has been sent out for review.

Supervisor Reports:

Ausen reported on his attendance at the Scott Lightly's field day held on September 2. Kropp reported on his attendance at the LeSueur 1W1P meeting and discussed how it was more of an informational meeting with presentations given. Kropp discussed upcoming events/meetings that will be attended which include the LeSueur 1W1P kick off and the GBERBA policy meeting. Heers Jr reported on his attendance at the BWSR board tour and Lightly's field day.

Manager Report:

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

- ✓ Lageson briefly discussed some of the information on her report and asked for questions.
- ✓ Lageson also noted that BWSR Academy will once again be virtual.

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. Billat discussed updates for construction projects. Dawson discussed completing three more reviews and finalizing a certification for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification program (MAWQCP). Zeitler and Trnka had nothing new to add to their reports.

Microphone/Speaker Purchase:

Lageson requested authorization to purchase an OWL speaker/camera for hybrid meetings and the purchase of a portable speaker/microphone system. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the purchases. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Increase Drill Rental Rate:

The discussion of trading in the no-till drill because of all the repairs preceded the discussion of increasing the drill rental rate. It was agreed upon to continue to think about trading in the drill and staff is going to investigate other area rental rates to present to the board at the next board meeting.

SE Area 7 All Employee Meeting:

A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Kropp to approve the attendance at the SE Area All Employee Meeting at Clear Spring Farm LLC in Welch, MN on September 22, 2021. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Ausen, and Heers Jr. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Additional Informational Items:

LeSueur 1W1P Kick off meeting will be held September 16, 2021 from 6-8 pm at St. Olaf Park in New Richland.

Adjournment:

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

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on October 14, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date