



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

1160 S. VICTORY DRIVE, STE #5
MANKATO, MN 56001
PHONE 507.345.4744
FAX 507.345.6036

Approved Minutes of March 7, 2024

Supervisors Present: Chairman: Chris Hughes, Vice Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, PR&I: Carol Krosch

Supervisors Absent: Secretary: Jacob Quade

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz

Guests: NRCS: Jessica Beske & Brandon Berndt, County Commissioner: Kevin Paap

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Hughes at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed and Bach requested to add MPI's request for a banquet donation. Krosch moved to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Shanahan moved to approve the February 8, 2024, minutes, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 841,909.55
Receipts	\$ 16,195.55
Disbursements	<u>\$ 37,608.18</u>
Total	\$ 820,496.92

Kuduk presented the Treasurer's Report for February and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems. Krosch moved to file the February Treasurer's Report subject to audit and pay Supervisor per diems as read, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers: County Commissioner Paap gave an update of Blue Earth County road projects, Rapidan Dam and the Public Works building.

District Conservationist: Beske introduced Berndt as the new District Conservationist for the Mankato NRCS field office. Beske will continue to be the Area District Conservationist for Blue Earth, Waseca and Faribault counties. Beske gave an overview of current NRCS programming including EQIP, CSP and CRP. There will be some interns starting this summer and they are still looking to fill their admin vacancy.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report (see attached).

4:39pm - Rollings joined the meeting

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

WBIF-WW-21-07-07 (Grassed Waterways)

Fritz requested to encumber \$26,862.00 for the construction of three grassed waterways, with an estimated total cost of \$31,603.00. **Shanahan** moved to encumber \$26,862.00 from the Watonwan 1W1P watershed-based implementation funding, for the WBIF-WW-21-07-07 contract, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

EQIP Local Work Group Meeting:

Bach updated the board on the planning process for this year's EQIP Local Work Group meeting. **Beshke** is the NRCS Area DC for Blue Earth County, Faribault County and Waseca County. **Beshke** and the three SWCD Managers in those counties have agreed to streamline these annual meetings and have one meeting to cover all three counties. It's been decided to hold the meeting in the city of Minnesota Lake on March 19th. The board was given the questionnaire they can fill out and return to **Beske** or **Bach** with their input.

CRP Status Review Agreement:

Bach reviewed the CRP status review work the District has done in the past and the request from NRCS to continue the partnership for 42 status reviews in 2024. The District will be compensated for our effort through an agreement MASWCD and NRCS. **Rollings** moved to approve the District entering into the MASWCD CRP agreement to complete 42 CRP status reviews, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

Blue Earth County Fair:

Kuduk presented the Blue Earth County Fair's invite to have the SWCD attend the Fair this July. They have allowed us to use their facilities for our tree pickup days free of charge and this would be our way of giving back. **Rollings** moved to approve the SWCD to hold a booth at the Blue Earth County Fair on Friday, July 26th and set a budget of \$150 for fair supplies, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

DU-Lake Crystal Banquet Donation:

Bach presented the donation request received from Ducks Unlimited-Lake Crystal chapter for their annual banquet on March 22, 2024. **Rollings** moved to donate a gift certificate for 2 bundles of trees or three potted trees and a gift certificate for a pollinator seed mix, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

Minnesota Pheasants Inc Banquet Donation:

Bach presented the donation request received from Minnesota Pheasants Inc. for their annual banquet on April 5, 2024. **Rollings** moved to donate a gift certificate for 2 bundles of trees or three potted trees and a gift certificate for a pollinator seed mix, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

Minnesota River – Mankato 1W1P MOA:

Bach reviewed with the board, the changes that were made to the Minnesota River-Mankato 1W1P MOA. **Rollings** moved to accept the changes made to the Minnesota River-Mankato 1W1P MOA as presented, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Gave an update on the wood duck house building class held by Maple River and the Blue Earth River 1W1P meeting he attended last month.

Krosch – Stated she will not be present for April’s board meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Shanahan – No report.

Hughes – Invited the board to the Prairie Enthusiasts meeting tomorrow evening at 5:30pm at Jake’s Pizza.

Adjourn: There being no further business Hughes adjourned the meeting.

- Meeting adjourned 5:26 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held April 4, 2024
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____