



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of September 5, 2024

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

Supervisor Absent: Secretary: Jacob Quade

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

Guests: County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, District Conservationist: Brandon Berndt

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, Rollings moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Krosch.

Motion adopted.

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

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 857,383.67
Receipts	\$ 3,084.52
Disbursements	<u>\$ 32,288.81</u>
Total	\$ 828,179.38

Kuduk presented the Treasurer's Report for August and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems, which were read for each Supervisor. Krosch moved to file the August treasurer's report subject to audit and pay Supervisor per diems as read, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Bruender presented the County Commissioner report. Blue Earth County is still working through their budget session and are continuing to look at a 6% levy increase. Due to the budget, they've put a pause on further hiring but things are still moving forward with the new highway shop. The board has decided to remove the dam, restore the river channel and replace the County 9 bridge. Blue Earth County will receive emergency disaster funding from FEMA but it will be a long process that could take several years.

District Conservationist: Berndt provided the District Conservationist update. They've hired a new intern, who started last week, as well as an Area Resource Conservationist, who will be handling their JAA and training needs. The EQIP application deadline is tomorrow. For 2024 in the 3 county of Blue Earth, Waseca and Faribault, NRCS funded 37 EQIP applications for 23,000 acres for a total cost share in the amount of \$4 million. They also funded 15 CSP applications for 8,900 acres for a total cost share in the amount of \$1.7 million.

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

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

CRP-24-07-01 (CRP Incentive)

Johnson presented the request for an incentive payment in the amount of \$14,947.13 for the enrollment of 6.58 acres into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Rollings moved to encumber \$14,947.13 to be paid by the GBERBA CRP State Incentives Pilot grant for contract CRP-24-07-01, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

CRP-24-07-02 (CRP Incentive)

Johnson presented the request for an incentive payment in the amount of \$144.40 for the enrollment of .18 acres into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Rollings moved to encumber \$144.40 to be paid by the GBERBA CRP State Incentives Pilot grant for contract CRP-24-07-02, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

2FY23 (Grassed Waterway)

Fritz requested to encumber \$9,176.00 for the construction of a grassed waterway, with an estimated total cost of \$12,235.00. Krosch moved to encumber \$9,176.00 from the FY23 State Cost Share grant, for the 2FY23 contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

1FY24 (ASIRO)

Fritz requested to encumber \$7,120.00 for the construction of an alternative side inlet with riprap overflow, with an estimated total cost of \$9,494.00. Rollings moved to encumber \$7,120.00 from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant, for the 1FY24 contract, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

CWF-SH-22-07-01 (Cover Crops)

Fritz requested to encumber \$47,304.00 for a three year cover crop contract. Rollings moved to encumber \$47,304.00 from the GBERBA soil health implementation grant, for the CWF-SH-22-07-01 contract, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

UMN 2025 Soil Management Summit:

Bach gave a quick recap of the \$100,000 phase 2 soil health grant that our office is working on putting a budget together for. The UMN Extension office is holding the Soil Management Summit in Mankato this year and would fit with our education and outreach efforts. The MN Ag Expo will be a week before and could also fall within this soil health budget. The board discussed how involved they'd like to see the SWCD in these events and if they want to set a budget. Rollings moved to approve that the SWCD is a silver exhibitor at the 2025 Soil Management Summit, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.** Rollings moved to approve paying the full registration fee for Blue Earth County farmers without a set limit, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.** Hughes moved to approve a \$30,000 budget over the next 3 years for public events as part of the phase 2 soil health funding, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.** Rollings moved to approve a budget of \$15,000 for promotional items, handouts and videos over the next 3 years as part of the phase 2 soil health funding, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

2024 MASWCD Convention:

Kuduk gave an update on the upcoming 2024 MASWCD Annual Convention that will take place on December 2-4, 2024, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. She'll send out an email to board members when registration opens on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

December Board Meeting Date Change:

Bach opened the discussion of changing the Blue Earth SWCD board meeting on December 5, 2024, due to the MASWCD annual convention being the same week and staff needing more time to prepare for the board meeting. **Krosch** moved to change the Blue Earth SWCD December board meeting to Thursday, December 12, 2024, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Discussed Blue Earth’s County decision on the Rapidan Dam and inquired about the upcoming Le Sueur 1W1P policy meeting.

Krosch – Spoke about a story she saw regarding the Duncanson Farm as well as inquired about the progression of the Peer-to-Peer Mentor program. She’ll also be attending a MASWCD resolutions meeting on September 20th.

Shanahan – No report.

Hughes – Informed the board about an election candidate forum held by the Land Stewardship project and provided a handout of the information.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held October 10, 2024
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____