



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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

Unapproved Minutes of October 10, 2024

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

Supervisor Absent: Secretary: Jacob Quade

Staff Present: Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, Conservation Technician: Haley Johnson

Staff Absent: District Manager: Jerad Bach

Guests: County Commissioner: Kip Bruender

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, Krosch moved to approve the September 5, 2024, minutes, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 828,179.38
Receipts	\$ 299,888.46
Disbursements	<u>\$ 35,170.64</u>
Total	\$ 1,092,897.20

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Bruender presented the County Commissioner report. The Board approved a bid to remove the County 9 bridge, and they will be able to receive funding from the Federal Government for that work. They are working with FEMA to fund removal of the dam. Hauser Worldwide will be the contractor for the bridge removal and work is expected to start in November. The replacement bridge will take a couple of years as they work on removing the dam and restoring the river. Elections are coming up and voters are encouraged to register early. The Board approved a 6% preliminary levy at their last meeting. Ground breaking will take place on October 29th at 1:30 pm for the new Highway Department.

District Manager: Bach was absent from the meeting but provided a District Manager report (see attached).

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

Reassign - 2FY23 (Grassed Waterway)

Fritz presented the request to reassign the 2FY23 contract to 1FY24 and change the funding source to FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. **Krosch** moved to approve reassigning the 2FY23 contract to 1FY24 contract and change the funding source to FY24 Conservation Contracts, seconded by **Rollings**. **Motion adopted.**

Reassign - 1FY24 (ASIRO)

Fritz presented the request to reassign the 1FY24 contract to 2FY23 and change the funding source to FY23 State Cost Share grant. **Rollings** moved to approve reassigning the 1FY24 contract to 2FY23 contract and change the funding source to FY23 State Cost Share, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Amend - 2FY23 (ASIRO)

Fritz presented the request to amend the encumbered amount of the newly reassigned 2FY23 contract to add \$2,450 to the cost share amount. Total project cost is now \$12,760.00 with a total cost share amount of \$9,570. This will use the remaining FY23 State Cost Share grant funding and bridge over into FY24 Conservation Contracts. **Krosch** moved to approve amending the cost share amount to total \$9,570.00 with a total project cost of \$12,760.00 to be funded from the FY23 State Cost Share grant and the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Le Sueur River 1W1P Contracts:

- Le Sueur WBIF Contract 1 (Cover Crops) – **Fritz** presented the proposed cover crop contract to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share for cover crops on 63.3 acres for a total of \$12,34.50 over three years.
- Le Sueur WBIF Contract 2 (Cover Crops) - **Fritz** presented the proposed cover crop contract to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share for cover crops on 217 acres for a total of \$42,315.00 over three years.
- Le Sueur WBIF Contract 3 (Cover Crops) - **Fritz** presented the proposed cover crop contract to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share for cover crops on 154.7 acres for a total of \$30,166.50 over three years.
- Le Sueur WBIF Contract 4 (Cover Crops) - **Fritz** presented the proposed cover crop contract to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share for cover crops on 286.1 acres for a total of \$55,789.50 over three years.

Payment – CRP-24-07-01

Johnson presented the incentive payment request in the amount of \$14,947.13 for CRP-24-07-01, to be paid by the Watonwan WBIF grant. **Rollings** moved to approve the \$14,947.13 incentive payment for CRP-24-07-01, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Payment – CRP-24-07-02

Johnson presented the incentive payment request in the amount of \$144.40 for CRP-24-07-02, to be paid by the Watonwan WBIF grant. **Krosch** moved to approve the \$144.40 incentive payment for CRP-24-07-02, seconded by **Rollings**. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

FY25 Buffer Law Grant Agreement:

Kuduk presented the FY25 Buffer Law grant agreement. **Rollings** moved to approve the FY25 Buffer Law grant agreement and authorize **Bach** to sign the agreement electronically on behalf of the board, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

Phase 2 Soil Health Grant Budget:

Kuduk gave a quick overview of the three phases of soil health funding we've been discussing the last few months. She presented the proposed breakdown for phase 2 funding which includes what the board approved at last month's meeting. The Board discussed the proposal and asked questions regarding future event plans. **Krosch** moved to approve a \$30,000 budget over the next 3 years for staff time and a \$25,000 budget over the next 3 years for cost share funding, seconded by **Rollings**. **Motion adopted.**

MN Ag Expo:

Kuduk opened the discussion of whether the SWCD should participate with a booth at the upcoming MN Ag Expo in January 2025. The board discussed how involved they'd like to see the SWCD for this event and how much of their soil health budget they want to spend. **Shanahan** moved to approve that the SWCD participating in the 2025 MN Ag Expo, with the staff choosing the level of sponsorship within budget, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

Disbursal Agreement – GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant:

Kuduk presented the disbursal agreement from GBERBA for the Soil Health Implementation grant. GBERBA is requesting to have these agreements on file for all members when requesting funds from grants executed between GBERBA and BWSR. **Rollings** moved to accept the disbursal agreement from GBERBA for the Soil Health Implementation grant, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

2024 MASWCD Resolutions:

Kuduk presented the MASWCD resolution packets for this year's upcoming convention in December. She informed the board of when their ballots need to be submitted to her and will send a follow up email tomorrow morning.

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 as well as reminded the board of their upcoming clothing order. **Fritz** informed the board that our 2024 Outstanding Conservation Mark & Randy Depuydt were chosen for the Area VI Outstanding Conservationist Award and **Collin Nienhaus** was chosen as the MASWCD 2024 Teacher of the Year award recipient.

Resolution No. 2024R-03

Kuduk reviewed Resolution No. 2024R-03, which allows Blue Earth County SWCD to adopt and implement the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota watershed management plan. Krosch moved to adopt Resolution 2024R-03, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

Resolution No. 2024R-04

Kuduk reviewed Resolution No. 2024R-04, which allows Blue Earth County SWCD to adopt and implement the Cannon River watershed management plan. Rollings moved to adopt Resolution 2024R-04, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – No report.

Krosch – Appreciated the staff updating the website to include candidate information for the upcoming election and to make sure you get your resolution ballot turned in because voting on these resolutions is important. She has enjoyed being on the resolution committee this past year.

Shanahan – Reported on the Le Sueur River 1W1P meeting he attended.

Hughes – Reported on current happenings of the Prairie Enthusiasts group he’s active in.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held November 7, 2024
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____