



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of December 12, 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

Guests: County Commissioner: Kevin Paap; District Conservationist: Brandon Berndt, NRCS

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 Shanahan.

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Krosch moved to approve the November 7, 2024, minutes, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,086,197.31
Receipts	\$ 28,642.40
Disbursements	\$ 45,573.97
Total	\$ 1,069,265.74

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Paap attended remotely. No report.

District Conservationist: Beske presented the District Conservationist report. There are 159 EQIP applications for the 3-county team area, 78 are for Blue Earth County, all of which are in the ranking process with a deadline of January 10th. The main practice is soil health practices such as cover crops, no-till, and strip-till. A new administrative staff member was hired and will be starting on Monday.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Lake Crystal Ducks Unlimited Donation:

Bach presented the donation request received from Ducks Unlimited-Lake Crystal chapter for their annual banquet in Spring 2025. 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.**

MASWCD Convention:

The board discussed their experiences at the 2024 MASWCD Convention that took place December 2-4, 2024 in Bloomington, MN.

2025 Budget:

Kuduk presented the FY24 year to date expenditures and the proposed FY25 Budget. The Supervisors discussed the details of the budget. Rollings moved to approve the FY25 budget as presented, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Employee Reviews:

The Personnel Committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the annual review for the District Manager; Bach completed the annual reviews for the staff. The Personnel Committee presented the 2025 proposed wage recommendations. After some discussion, Rollings made a motion to approve the proposed wage schedule as presented, second by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – No report.

Krosch – Passed along a few other anecdotes from the MASWCD Convention.

Shanahan – Passed along some personal notes.

Hughes – Expressed his appreciation of being on the board the last 6 years. He believes Bernie Paulson will be a great addition to the board and is looking forward to his continued work with the Prairie Enthusiasts.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held January 9, 2025
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____