



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of January 14, 2025

Supervisors Present: Chairman: John Rollings, Vice Chairman: Jacob Quade, Treasurer: John Shanahan, PR&I: Bernie Paulson

Supervisors Absent: Secretary: Carol Krosch

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

Guests: NRCS District Conservationist: Jessica Beske, Steve & Aaron Trio, Blue Earth County Landowners

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Rollings at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Rollings lead Supervisor Shanahan and newly elected Supervisor Paulson in the Oath of Office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Rollings called for nominations for the Officer designations. Shanahan moved to nominate Rollings for Chairman, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.** Quade nominates himself for Vice-Chair, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Rollings nominates Krosch for Secretary, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Paulson nominates himself for PR&I, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Quade nominates Shanahan for Treasurer, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Rollings called for nominations for the SWCD Committee assignments. Paulson volunteered to take the vacancy on the Education & Promotion committee left by Hughes. Quade volunteered to take Rollings place on the SWCD Policies committee. Quade moved to accept the changes made to the SWCD Committees, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Rollings moved to nominate Paulson to take the place of Hughes on the Supervisor Assignments and Appointments, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

2025 SWCD BOARD MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Rollings called for the discussion or changes to the Board Meeting and Holiday schedule. Shanahan moved to approve the 2025 SWCD Board Meeting and Holiday Schedule as presented, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

2025 PER DIEM/MILEAGE RATE:

Rollings called for discussion or changes to the per diem and mileage reimbursement rates. Paulson moved to change the per diem rate to \$125 per meeting, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.** Quade moved to approve changing the lunch per diem to \$19 and the supper per diem to \$33, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Shanahan moved to approve changing the mileage rate to \$0.70/mile, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.** Shanahan moved to keep the

Maple River Messenger as the official newspaper, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.** Quade moved to keep U.S. Bank as the official bank, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

HOUSEKEEPING

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed, Quade moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Quade moved to approve the December 7, 2023, minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 744,613.07
Receipts	\$ 583,298.20
Disbursements	<u>\$ 430,626.13</u>
Total	\$ 897,285.14

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

District Conservationist: Beske presented the District Conservationist report. NRCS has hired a new administrative staff for the Mankato office as well as a soil conservation technician for the Blue Earth office. They've received 67 EQIP applications for the 3-county area, 31 of which are from Blue Earth County. There are also 63 CSP applications and work will begin on ranking and approving them for funding. There currently is no active signup for CRP.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2025 MASWCD Dues:

Kuduk presented the invoice for the 2025 MASWCD dues and requested approval of payment. Shanahan moved to approve the payment in the amount of \$7,431.37 for the 2025 MASWCD dues, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

2025 Area VI Dues:

Kuduk presented the invoice for the 2025 Area VI dues and requested approval of payment. Shanahan moved to approve the payment in the amount of \$400.00 for the 2025 Area VI dues, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

Campaign Finance Disclosure:

Kuduk reminded the board of their duty to complete their Campaign Finance Disclosure. Board members have until the end of the month to file their statement of economic interest.

AgBMP Authorized Representative:

Kuduk requested for the board to change the Authorized Representative who can approve amendments to Blue Earth SWCD’s contract with MDA for the AgBMP program from John Rollings to District Manager. Shanahan moved to approve the change of the AgBMP Authorized Representative from John Rollings to District Manager, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Conservation Easement Alteration Request:

Bach reviewed the conservation easement alteration request that the staff received. The board members directed their questions regarding the request to the Trio’s. Due to the request needing more information and further review by the staff and board members, there was no board action taken at today's meeting. Rollings moved to table this topic until the next board meeting, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

Lake Monitoring & Restoration Program:

Bach gave an overview of a potential lake monitoring and restoration program that has been proposed. Rollings moved to table this topic until the next board meeting and requested a presentation by WaterQuality3D at the February meeting, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – No report.

Shanahan – Spoke on the board changes for GBERBA and that the next meeting was moved to January 24th and it will be in-person at the USDA Service Center – Mankato conference room.

Quade – Spoke about the recent updates from the Minnesota River-Mankato 1W1P group.

Paulson – Thanked everyone for their warm welcome to the board and looking forward to serving the people of Blue Earth County.

Adjourn: There being no further business Shanahan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

- Meeting adjourned 6:10 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held February 6, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____