



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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

Approved Minutes of February 6, 2025

Supervisors Present: Chairman: John Rollings, Secretary: Carol Krosch, Treasurer: John Shanahan, PR&I: Bernie Paulson

Supervisors Absent: Vice Chairman: Jacob Quade

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

Guests: FSA: Bradley Flatin, NRCS: Brandon Berndt, Blue Earth County Landowners: Steve and Aaron Trio

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

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OFFICE

Rollings lead Supervisor Krosch in the Oath of Office.

HOUSEKEEPING

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed. Krosch moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Paulson.

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Shanahan moved to approve the January 14, 2025, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,155,283.86
Receipts	\$ 357,687.06
Disbursements	\$ 361,591.68
Total	\$ 1,151,379.24

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers: FSA-Flatin presented the Farm Service Agency report. They are working through some funding issues due to the change over with the new administration. They have not received an update yet on when CRP may open.

District Conservationist: Berndt presented the District Conservationist report. A newly hired Soil Con Technician will be staffed at the Blue Earth office. There were 20 EQIP applications pre-approved for the team, 12 in Blue Earth County, and 6 were soil health related. The ranking deadline for CSP is March 12th. No updates on changing of office spaces.

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

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

WBIF-WW-24-07-07 (Well Decommissioning)

Kuduk presented the request for a \$1,000 payment for a well decommissioning in Garden City township. Shanahan moved to encumber \$1,000 to be paid by the Watonwan 1W1P WBIF grant, seconded by Paulson. **Krosch abstained from voting. Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Trio Easement Alteration Request:

Johnson reviewed the easement alteration request that was brought to the board last month. The board discussed the easement alteration policy and asked questions of both the Trio's as well as staff. Rollings moved to deny the easement alteration request as submitted, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

FY23 State Cost Share Grant Closeout:

Kuduk reviewed the expense report for the FY23 State Cost Share Grant. This grant paid for staff time and two cost share contracts. Final board approval and signature on the financial report are no longer required.

FY25 Conservation Delivery Grant Closeout:

Kuduk reviewed the expense report for the FY25 Conservation Delivery Grant. This grant paid for staff time. Final board approval and signature on the financial report are no longer required.

eLink Report Update:

Bach presented the eLINK report update to the board. The SWCD reported on 13 grants for a total of \$1,025,979.00, which covers staff time, projects and equipment. Being the host district for the South Central TSA, the SWCD is also responsible for tracking and reporting on their 8 grants totaling \$2,725,900.00.

2024 AgBMP Report:

Kuduk reviewed the 2024 AgBMP loan report and stated the 2025 funding needs request was submitted last week. In 2024, a total of 14 loans were completed for a total of \$226,569.81.

FY25 Soil Health Practices Grant – Request for Interest:

Bach presented the request for interest for the FY25 Soil Health Practices grant. This is phase three of the soil health funding that has been rolling out over the last year and a half. This money is in partnership with NRCS and their RCPP funding. Krosch moved to authorize Bach to apply for the Soil Health Practices Grant in the amount of \$180,000, seconded by Paulson . **Motion adopted.**

JD36 Project – Grant Proposal:

Johnson presented the JD36 project which is similar to the CD56 project the SWCD is currently working on. Johnson asked for board approval to submit the grant application for the JD36 water storage project grant application. Krosch moved to approve the submission of the JD36 water storage project grant application, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

SCTSA FY24 Grant Match Dues:

Kuduk presented the invoice for the SCTSA FY25 grant match dues and requested payment approval. **Krosch** moved to approve the payment of the annual SCTSA dues in the amount of \$3,550.00, seconded by **Paulson**. **Motion adopted.**

FY24 Audit Engagement Letter:

Kuduk requested that the board approve Peterson Company’s bid of \$5,600.00 to complete the FY24 Audit. **Rollings** moved to approve Peterson Company’s bid to complete the SWCD’s FY24 Audit, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

2025 MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol:

Kuduk informed the board of the upcoming MASWCD Legislative Briefing Day. Registration is open and the deadline to register is February 21st. Supervisors were encouraged to contact legislators to set up meetings to discuss SWCD needs with the focus on SWCD Aid.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Gave an update on the Soil Health Summit he attended last month.

Krosch – Spoke on the request from MASWCD to fill vacant committee spots and thanked the staff for their work on the easement alteration request.

Shanahan – Gave an update on the recent GBERBA Policy meeting he attended last month.

Paulson – Gave an update on the recent Le Sueur 1W1P policy meeting he attended.

Adjourn: There being no further business **Rollings** adjourned the meeting.

- Meeting adjourned 6:29 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held March 6, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____