



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of March 6, 2025

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

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

**Guests:** NRCS: Brandon Berndt, County Commissioner: Kevin Paap, George and Joanne Klug

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

**Pledge:** All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## HOUSEKEEPING

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

**Motion adopted.**

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed. Krosch moved to approve the February 6, 2025, minutes, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

**Treasurer's Report:** (see attached)

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Balance on hand | \$ 1,151,379.24        |
| Receipts        | \$ 194,268.97          |
| Disbursements   | \$ 37,259.97           |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$ 1,308,410.60</b> |

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

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**Guest Speakers: County Commissioner; Paap** just returned from a busy week of traveling to Washington DC and the Minnesota state capitol. No update yet on the removal of the Rapidan Dam but the County Road 90 bridge is in the process of being removed.

**District Conservationist: Berndt** presented the District Conservationist report. Due to staff cuts, NRCS did lose two staff members consisting of the Admin Assistant from the Mankato office and the Soil Con Technician in Blue Earth. Funding under the Inflation Reduction Act is currently frozen. CSP ranking deadline is February 21.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Lake Monitoring & Restoration Program Presentation:**

**Bach** reviewed the lake monitoring and restoration program that was first presented to the board at the January board meeting. Klug took over the conversation and presented his restoration program to the board. Rollings moved to approve the staff to look further into being able to accept donations for a possible lake monitoring and restoration program, seconded by Krosch.

**Motion adopted.**

### **CD56 Petition:**

**Johnson** presented the petition for the CD56 water storage project with the board. Krosch moved to approve the CD56 petition, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

### **DNR Well Monitoring:**

**Bach** presented the DNR well monitoring proposal to the board. Shanahan moved to approve the DNR well monitoring proposal, seconded by Quade.

### **FY23 Audit**

**Bach** presented the FY23 audit to the board and provided each board member with a copy of the completed audit.

### **Paid Leaves of Absence Policy Update:**

**Bach** presented the updates to the paid leaves of absence policy which includes the changes to the Minnesota Earned Sick and Safe Time statute. Krosch approved the changes to the sick leave policy as presented, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

### **Leave Schedule:**

**Bach** presented the proposed changes to the leave schedule which includes a new annual leave schedule as well as updating the sick leave payout. Rollings moved to approve the proposed annual leave schedule, increase the sick leave payout to 25% after 5 years and 50% after 10 years, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

## **SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Rollings** – Inquired about an update on the Soil Health Coordinator position. Gave an update on the Legislative Briefing he attended this week.

**Krosch** – No report.

**Quade** – No report.

**Shanahan** – No report.

**Paulson** – No report.

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

- Meeting adjourned 6:16 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held April 10, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_