



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of April 10, 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 Specialist: Jake Fritz, Conservation Technician: Haley Johnson

**Guests:** NRCS: Jessica Beske, County Commissioner: Kevin Paap, Kip Bruender

**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. Shanahan moved to approve the March 6, 2025, minutes, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

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

Balance on hand	\$ 1,308,410.60
Receipts	\$ 29,186.52
Disbursements	\$ 50,039.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,287,557.35</b>

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

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**Guest Speakers: County Commissioner Bruender** presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. Progress on the Rapidan Dam is moving along though it's a slow process and cleanup on the County 9 bridge continues. The Blue Earth County Public Works facility is going ahead and construction is ongoing. Construction is expected to take about 18 months with an expected completion of Spring 2026.

**District Conservationist: Beske** presented the NRCS 2024 Annual Report (see attached).

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

## **COST SHARE:**

### **Le Sueur WBIF Contract:**

**Fritz** presented the grassed waterway contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share in the amount of \$22,523.49 for the construction of a grassed waterway with a total project cost of \$25,026.10.

### **1FY24**

**Fritz** requested to encumber \$9,176.00 for the construction of a grassed waterway, with an estimated total cost of \$12,235.00. **Quade** moved to encumber \$9,176.00 from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant, for the 1FY24 contract, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

### **CWF-SH-22-07-02**

**Fritz** requested to encumber \$22,631.40 for a three-year cover crop contract. **Shanahan** moved to encumber \$22,631.40 from the GBERBA soil health implementation grant, for the CWF-SH-22-07-02 contract, seconded by **Paulson**. **Motion adopted.**

### **CWF-SH-22-07-03**

**Fritz** requested to encumber \$9,504.00 for a three-year cover crop contract. **Paulson** moved to encumber \$9,504.00 from the GBERBA soil health implementation grant, for the CWF-SH-22-07-03 contract, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

### **SHC-FY24-07-01**

**Fritz** presented the peer mentor contract for **Pat Duncanson**. This is part of the Soil Health Staffing grant held with the South Central TSA and will be funded from this grant. This is a one-year contract and **Pat** will be paid \$3,000 at the conclusion of his contract provided he completes a minimum of 40 hours of outreach and mentoring activities detailed within the contract. **Paulson** moved to approve contract SHC-FY24-07-01, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Soil Health Cost Share Policy:**

**Bach** presented the guidelines of the soil health cost share program and gave a list of parameters for the board to discuss. The board drafted up a soil health cost share policy based on the program guidelines. Staff will write up a formal policy based on the parameters set by the board and bring it to the May meeting for final approval.

### **Soil Health Logo:**

**Kuduk** presented options for a Soil Health logo that would go along with our Soil Health Delivery grant funding and be used on promotional items such as clothing, banners, handouts, swag, etc. The board made some edits and asked for the staff to bring a final design based on their suggestions to the May meeting for final approval.

### **U.S. Bank Interest:**

**Bach** presented the information received from U.S. Bank to incorporate a Sweep Account within the District's checking account to increase the interest rate we are receiving. **Krosch** moved to approve incorporating a sweep account within the District's checking account to increase the interest rate with a target balance of \$250,000, seconded by **Quade**. **Motion adopted.**

**Thurston RIM Easement Alteration:**

**Johnson** presented the Thurston RIM easement alteration and explained that the Blue Earth County Highway Department is requesting the release of 3.5 acres of the RIM Easement due to the reconstruction of the CSAH 10 project. Krosch moved to approve the Thurston RIM Easement Alteration, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**U of M Tillage Transect Survey Contract:**

**Bach** presented the U of M tillage transect survey contract. The District would be field verifying the information from the satellite data and the U of M Extension would pay \$2,500 to the District for staff time. Quade moved to approve the District to enter into the Tillage Transect Survey Contract with the U of M Extension, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

**MASWCD Resolutions:**

**Kuduk** gave an overview of the information that was sent out by MASWCD regarding the call for resolutions. The board was reminded of the resolution process and the deadline for Area resolutions to be received by MASWCD is July 21<sup>st</sup>. The next Area VI meeting is June 24<sup>th</sup>, which gives us a couple of board meetings to approve resolutions at the local level.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Rollings** – Gave an overview of the recent Blue Earth 1W1P meeting he attended.

**Krosch** – No report.

**Quade** – No report.

**Shanahan** – Gave an overview of the recent SCTSA meeting he attended.

**Paulson** – No report.

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

- Meeting adjourned 6:15 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held May 8, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

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

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

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

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