



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of May 8, 2025

Supervisors Present: Vice Chairman: Jacob Quade, Secretary: Carol Krosch, Treasurer: John Shanahan

Supervisors Absent: Chairman: John Rollings, PR&I: Bernie Paulson

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz

Guests: NRCS: Brandon Berndt, County Commissioner: Kevin Paap, Kip Bruender

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Quade 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 April 10, 2025, minutes, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,287,557.35
Receipts	\$ 20,291.52
Disbursements	\$ <u>70,121.43</u>
Total	\$ 1,237,727.44

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers: County Commissioner Bruender presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. No further updates on the Rapidan Dam and County Road 9 bridge. The Public Works building is continuing to move forward. Blue Earth County had budgeted for an 8% levy increase to handle the increase in operating costs for FY2026 but with the budget cuts at the state level, they may need an additional 8% increase if the current legislative budget doesn't change. Paap added an update from the watershed meetings he's attended as well as the upcoming landowner meeting and hearing for the CD56 project.

District Conservationist: Berndt presented the District Conservationist report. NRCS Area teams will be shifting in south central and southeast Minnesota and he provided a map for the board. Four new EQIP contracts have been approved since last month's meeting.

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

COST SHARE:

Le Sueur WBIF Contract:

Fritz presented the 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 \$18,474.00 for the construction of 4 ASIs and 3 ASIROs with a total project cost of \$24,633.31.

WBIF-WW-24-07-08

Fritz requested to encumber \$26,862.00 for the construction of 3 grass waterways, with an estimated total cost of \$31,603.00. **Shanahan** moved to encumber \$26,862.00 for the WBIF-WW-24-07-08 contract to be paid from the Watonwan 1W1P WBIF grant, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Soil Health Cost Share Policy:

Bach presented the soil health cost share policy handout which includes a summary of the guidelines that the board set last month. **Krosch** moved to approve the soil health cost share policy as presented, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Soil Health Logo:

Kuduk presented the two final draft options for the soil health logo. **Krosch** moved to approve logo option 1, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Summer Intern:

Bach presented the information regarding a summer intern position. **Krosch** moved to approve moving forward with the summer intern based on the information presented and gave **Bach** the authority to conduct interviews and hire the best candidate, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Blue Earth County Fair:

Kuduk presented the Blue Earth County Fair's invite to have the SWCD attend the fair this July. They have allowed us to use their facilities for our tree pickup days free of charge and this would be our way of giving back. **Krosch** moved to approve the SWCD to hold a booth at the Blue Earth County Fair on Friday, July 25th and set a budget of \$150 for fair supplies, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Local Work Group Meeting:

Bach informed the board regarding the upcoming EQIP local work group meeting, which is earmarked for Monday, June 16 at 4:00 pm at the Pemberton Community Center. The board discussed past meetings and confirmed details of this year's meeting. **Krosch** moved to approve the date, time, location, meal choice and set a budget of \$325 from the Education/Outreach fund, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Governance 101:

Kuduk reviewed the Governance 101 Training information with the board. All are welcome to attend and if they plan to attend, let her know so that she can register them.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Krosch – Inquired about the next Area VI meeting as well as available funding for septic and well systems in the watershed grants.

Quade – Will be attending the Middle Minnesota River-Mankato meeting next week and will give an update to the board on what comes from that at our next June board meeting.

Shanahan – Gave an overview of the recent Blue Earth County CD5 meetings he attended.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:20 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held June 5, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____