



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of July 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

**Guests:** NRCS: Brandon Berndt, County Commissioners: 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 June 5, 2025, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

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

Balance on hand	\$ 1,182,947.18
Receipts	\$ 16,521.14
Disbursements	\$ 41,875.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,157,592.56</b>

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

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**Guest Speakers: County Commissioner Bruender** presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. He noted that work continues on balancing the county budget. The new highway maintenance facility is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2026. Commissioner Bruender also reported that the Minnesota Legislature has repealed the shotgun-only hunting zone regulation in the southern portion of the state. Beginning January 1, 2026, hunters will be permitted to use rifles for deer hunting in this region. Blue Earth County has until that date to consider and implement any local restrictions regarding the use of firearms for deer hunting. Additionally, the County Board received updated cost estimates for the Rapidan Dam and is continuing its discussions on determining the most appropriate course of action regarding the dam's future as well as the CR 9 bridge.

**District Conservationist: Berndt** presented the District Conservationist report. The EQIP deadline has been moved up to August 1, 2025. Due to some rearranging of team areas, Le Sueur and Nicollet Counties will be joining the Blue Earth, Faribault and Waseca area team next week.

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

**COST SHARE:**

**SHC-FY24-07-02**

**Fritz** presented the peer mentor contract for Allen Marble, which is part of the Soil Health Staffing Grant in partnership with the South Central Technical Service Area (TSA). The contract is fully funded through this grant. This is a one-year agreement under which Mr. Marble will receive a payment of \$3,000 upon successful completion of a minimum of 40 hours of outreach and mentoring activities, as outlined in the contract. Paulson moved to approve contract SHC-FY24-07-02, seconded by Krosch. **Motion carried.**

**Le Sueur WBIF Contract:**

**Fritz** presented the cover crop contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This one-year contract will provide cost share funding in the amount of \$3,657.50 for the implementation of cover crops on 104.5 acres.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**FY25 Buffer Law Grant Closeout**

**Kuduk** reviewed the expense report for the FY25 Buffer Law Grant, which funded staff time. Final board approval and a signature on the financial report are no longer required by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

**Soil Health Priority Mapping:**

**Bach** presented a series of maps developed by staff to illustrate how the District prioritizes areas for soil health projects.

**Blue Earth County Fair Update:**

**Kuduk** provided an update on plans for the District's booth at the Blue Earth County Fair on Friday, July 25. The booth will feature the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) stream table, along with a demonstration of the rainfall simulator by new Soil Health Coordinator Rebekah Veldboom.

**SWCD Governance 101 Training:**

**Kuduk** reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Governance 101 Training. All board members are welcome to attend. Those planning to participate should inform Kuduk so she can complete their registration.

**US Bank Master Services Agreement:**

Bach reviewed the current Master Services Agreement the District holds with US Bank, which is due for updates. Krosch moved to approve the proposed updates as presented, seconded by Quade. **Motion carried.**

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Krosch** – Gave a short report from the Area VI meeting from last month.

**Quade** – Will be able to give an update on the Middle MN River 1W1P after their next meeting.

**Shanahan** – Gave a report from the local work group and Area VI meetings from last month.

**Paulson** – Shared his optimism on the mentor program with the two Blue Earth County has now approved and the continued work the District is doing to help implement soil health practices.  
**Rollings** – No report.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:48 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held August 7, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

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

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

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

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