



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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

Approved Minutes of August 7, 2025

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

Supervisors Absent: Vice Chairman: Jacob Quade, Secretary: Carol Krosch

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, Summer Intern: Connor Cheney

Guests: NRCS: Jessica Beske, County Commissioners: Kip Bruender & Kevin Paap, BWSR: Jill Sackett-Eberhart

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. Shanahan moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Paulson.

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Shanahan moved to approve the July 10, 2025, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,157,592.56
Receipts	\$ 100,664.57
Disbursements	<u>\$ 60,405.63</u>
Total	\$ 1,197,851.50

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers:

Board Conservationist Sackett-Eberhart presented the BWSR report (see attached).

County Commissioner Bruender presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. Due to recent heavy rainfall and significant erosion, the Red Jacket Trail and trestle have been closed until further notice. Preliminary estimates to address the erosion damage range from \$1 million to \$3 million. Additionally, the County Board is currently exploring strategies to prevent the Ponderosa Landfill from reaching capacity.

NRCS Area Team Lead Beske presented the District Conservationist report. Staff transitions continue at both the federal and state levels. A hiring freeze remains in effect and is expected to continue through at least October. Funding for NRCS programs has been secured through 2030.

Summer Intern Cheney introduced himself and presented his report which gave an overview of the work he's done this summer (see attached).

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

COST SHARE:

WBIF-WW-24-07-07:

Fritz presented the payment voucher request in the amount of \$737.50 for WBIF-WW-24-07-07 contract, to be paid by the Watonwan WBIF grant. This will be sent to GBERBA for approval.

Le Sueur WBIF Contract #1:

Fritz presented the contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for funding approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share in the amount of \$44,505.00 for the construction of a grade stabilization structure.

Le Sueur WBIF Contract #2:

Fritz presented the contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for funding approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This contract will provide cost share in the amount of \$19,415.75 for the construction of a grade stabilization structure. This project will also be funded partially by the District's Conservation Contracts cost share grants.

2FY24:

Fritz presented the 2FY24 contract that will provide cost share in the amount of \$22,588.00 for the construction of a grade stabilization structure and to be funded by the FY24 and FY25 Conservation Contracts grants. This project will also be partially funded through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. Shanahan moved to approve the 2FY24 contract and encumber \$22,588.00 from the FY24 and FY25 Conservation Contracts grants, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2025 Outstanding Conservationist:

Fritz opened the discussion of who the board would like to nominate for the 2025 Outstanding Conservationist Award. The board was presented with a list of possible candidates by the SWCD staff and the work they have done. Paulson moved to select Madison Lake Watershed and Lake Association as Blue Earth Soil & Water's 2025 SWCD Outstanding Conservationist, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2025 BWSR Academy Registration

Bach reviewed the estimated costs to send staff to the 2025 BWSR Academy on October 20 – 23. Bach requested to send all 4 staff to this year's BWSR Academy and close the office during that time. Rollings approved 4 staff to attend the 2025 BWSR Academy and to close the SWCD office on October 20-23, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Computer Upgrade:

Bach presented the request for a computer upgrade to include the replacement of two desktop computers for the SWCD office. The cost range for this request is \$7,175.52 - \$7,475.52, based off the quote received from Mankato Computer Technology. Paulson approved the request for

the computer upgrades based on the estimate presented, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Agreement:

Bach presented the 2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Agreement. Rollings moved to approve the 2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Agreement and authorize Bach to sign the agreement electronically on behalf of the board, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

JD36 Wetland Restoration Grant Agreement:

Bach presented the JD36 Wetland Restoration Grant Agreement. Shanahan moved to approve the JD36 Wetland Restoration Grant Agreement and authorize Bach to sign the agreement electronically on behalf of the board, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Shanahan – Reported on the GBERBA policy meeting he attended last month.

Paulson – Will be attending the Le Sueur 1W1P policy meeting tomorrow to approve the work plan and presented a couple of handouts regarding the soil health equipment grants and carbon intensity programs.

Rollings – Discussed a couple of items from his personal affairs.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:38 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held September 4, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____