



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of October 9, 2025

Supervisors Present: Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, Secretary: Carol Krosch

Supervisors Absent: Vice Chairman: Jacob Quade, PR&I: Bernie Paulson

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

Guests: County Commissioner: 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. Krosch moved to approve September 4, 2025, minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: *(see attached)*

Balance on hand	\$ 1,302,609.45
Receipts	\$ 189,901.98
Disbursements	<u>\$ 46,806.61</u>
Total	\$ 1,445,704.82

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers:

County Commissioner Bruender presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. The County Board is exploring additional options for the Rapidan Dam to help reduce replacement and removal costs. The Minnesota DNR will contribute \$10 million toward the dam removal process. With updated estimates, FEMA emergency funding is expected to cover a larger portion of costs, resulting in less out-of-pocket expense for Blue Earth County residents. The preliminary tax levy of 8.5% was approved. Bach and Bruender discussed the possibility of involving the SWCD in determining the future use of the old highway building.

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

COST SHARE:

LS-24-07-01:

Fritz presented a contract to be proposed to Waseca SWCD for payment approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. The contract provides cost-share funding of \$25,550.00 for the construction of ten alternative side inlets in CD 1.

LS-24-07-02:

Fritz presented a contract to be proposed to Waseca SWCD for payment approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. The contract provides cost-share funding of \$45,753.00 for the construction of seven rock riffles in CD 1.

LS-24-07-30:

Fritz presented a contract to be proposed to Waseca SWCD for cancellation through the Le Sueur WBIF grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

RIM Easement Alteration – CD28 Petition:

Scott reviewed the RIM Easement Alteration – CD28 Petition, detailing a request to abandon a branch of CD28 to complete proposed wetland restoration work within the easement. **Krosch** moved that the Board support the RIM Easement Alteration - CD28 Petition, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

2025 MASWCD Resolutions:

Kuduk presented the MASWCD resolution packet for this year's upcoming December convention. She informed the Board of ballot submission deadlines and will send a follow-up email tomorrow morning.

2026 MN Ag Expo:

Kuduk opened discussion regarding the SWCD's participation at the MN Ag Expo in January 2026. **Rollings** moved to approve that the SWCD participate in the 2026 MN Ag Expo, with a \$2,000 budget, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

MN Paid Leave:

Bach reviewed the new Minnesota Paid Leave program requirements, effective January 1, 2026. The board discussed the option of using a private plan through ShelterPoint to meet the statutory requirement. **Krosch** moved to approve Blue Earth SWCD entering a private plan through ShelterPoint, and the District covering 100% of the premium, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

FY26 Soil Health Practices Grant:

Bach presented the 2026 Soil Health Practices Grant Agreement, the second allocation to Blue Earth SWCD, totaling \$120,000.00. **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 **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

FY26 Buffer Law Grant – Request for Interest:

Bach presented the FY26 Buffer Law Grant request for interest. BWSR now requires SWCDs to apply for Buffer Law funding instead of receiving it as an automatic base grant. Shanahan moved to make Bach the authorized representative, on behalf of the board, to apply for \$25,000 in FY26 Buffer Law grant funding and if approved, accept and sign the grant agreement, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Shanahan – Commented on the cost share project taking place on his family’s farm.

Krosch – Commented on the Blue Earth County meeting and the Governance 101 Summit she attended.

Rollings – No report.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held November 6, 2025
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____