



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of December 11, 2025

Supervisors Present: Chairman: John Rollings, Vice Chairman: Jacob Quade, Treasurer: John Shanahan, Secretary: Carol Krosch, PR&I: Bernie Paulson

Supervisors Absent:

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

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

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. Krosch moved to approve November 6, 2025, minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: *(see attached)*

Balance on hand	\$ 1,813,570.59
Receipts	\$ 147,198.07
Disbursements	<u>\$ 415,893.30</u>
Total	\$ 1,544,875.36

Kuduk presented the November Treasurer's Report and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems, which were read for each Supervisor. Paulson moved to file the November 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 truth and taxation meeting was held last week and the board felt it had a good turnout. The proposed 8.5% levy will be voted on by the board at their upcoming meeting. There was a delay with the new highway shop construction but they are still hoping to move in before the end of the year. A public hearing on the County 9 bridge is scheduled for January.

NRCS District Conservation Berndt presented the NRCS report. EQIP and CSP deadlines were changed to January 15th. Payment rates are still being worked out due to the delay from the government shutdown. A regenerative ag pilot plan has been announced but details are unknown.

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

COST SHARE:

CWF-SH-22-07-02:

Fritz presented the payment request that will be proposed to GBERBA for approval through the soil health implementation grant. The contract provides cost-share funding of \$16,116.30 for the implementation of cover crops on 114.3 acres over the next 3 years.

CWF-SH-22-07-03:

Fritz presented the payment request that will be proposed to GBERBA for approval through the soil health implementation grant. The contract provides cost-share funding of \$7,128.00 for the implementation of cover crops on 52.8 acres over the next 3 years.

LS-24-07-27:

Fritz presented the request that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for payment approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. The contract provides cost-share funding of \$20,473.74 for the construction of a grass waterway.

LS-24-07-28:

Fritz presented the request that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for payment approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. The contract provides cost-share funding of \$13,065.00.00 for the construction of 4 alternative side inlets and 3 ASIRO in CD 25.

1FY24:

Fritz is requesting to amend the contract expiration date from 12/31/2025 to 4/15/2026 to allow additional time to complete the 1FY24 project. Shanahan moved to approve the amendment of the contract install day for 1FY24 to 4/15/2026, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

MASWCD Convention Recap:

Kuduk opened the discussion to the Supervisors to give their perspectives on the annual convention that was attended last week. Krosch, Shanahan and Rollings shared their experiences and answered questions.

Resolution 2025R-02:

Bach presented the Resolution 2025R-02 which gives Blue Earth's approval to submit, adopt and implement the Blue Earth River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Krosch moved to approve Resolution 2025R-02, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

FY26 Soil Health Delivery Request for Interest:

Bach presented the FY26 Soil Health Delivery request for interest. Blue Earth Soil & Water can submit the RFI for an additional \$50,000 in Soil Health Delivery funding that can be used for education and outreach events, staff time, supplies and equipment, etc. Paulson moved to make Bach the authorized representative, on behalf of the board, to apply for \$50,000 in FY26 Soil Health Delivery grant funding and if approved, accept and sign the grant agreement, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

2026 Budget:

Kuduk presented the FY25 year to date expenditures and the proposed FY26 Budget. Commissioners Bruender and Paap informed the board that the allocation Blue Earth County provides to the District each year was cut by 10% for FY2026. Rollings moved to approve covering the \$12,000 shortfall using reserves and to approve the budget as amended, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Employee Reviews:

The Personnel Committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the annual review for the District Manager; Bach completed the annual reviews for the staff. The Personnel Committee presented the 2026 proposed wage recommendations. After some discussion, Paulson made a motion to approve the proposed wage schedule as presented, second by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Quade – The Middle Minnesota River-Mankato 1W1P will be holding their public hearing and policy meeting next week and he’ll give an update in January.

Shanahan – Commented on his experience at the MASWCD convention.

Paulson – Reported on the Le Sueur 1W1P meetings he attended the past couple of months.

Krosch – Praised the staff for the good work they’ve done this past year.

Rollings – No report.

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

- Meeting adjourned 6:00 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held January 8, 2026
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____