



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of January 8, 2026

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

Supervisors Absent: PR&I: Jacob Quade

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Conservation Technician: Haley Scott

Guests: County Commissioner: 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Rollings called for nominations for Officer designations. Paulson moved to nominate Rollings for Chairman, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.** Paulson nominates himself for Vice-Chair, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Krosch nominates Shanahan for Treasurer, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.** Krosch nominates Quade for PR&I, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.** Rollings nominates Krosch for Secretary, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Rollings called for nominations for the SWCD Committee assignments. The following changes were made to the SWCD Committees: Paulson was assigned to replace Quade on the SWCD Policies Committee, and Krosch was assigned to replace Quade on the County Ditch Law/Administration Committee. Paulson moved to accept the changes made to the SWCD Committees, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Rollings called for nominations for the Supervisor Assignments and Appointments. Paulson moved to keep the same supervisor assignments/appointments as the previous year, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2026 SWCD BOARD MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Rollings called for the discussion or changes to the Board Meeting and Holiday schedule. Krosch moved to approve the 2026 SWCD Board Meeting and Holiday Schedule as presented, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2026 PER DIEM/MILEAGE RATE:

Rollings called for discussion or changes to the per diem and mileage reimbursement rates. Krosch moved to keep the per diem rate at \$125 per meeting, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.** Krosch moved to keep all meal reimbursement rates the same as 2025, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Paulson moved to approve changing the mileage rate to \$.725/mile, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Krosch moved to keep the Maple River Messenger as the official newspaper, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.** Paulson moved to keep U.S. Bank as the official bank, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

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 December 11, 2025, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,544,875.36
Receipts	\$ 468,346.82
Disbursements	<u>\$ 64,222.31</u>
Total	\$ 1,948,999.87

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers:

County Commissioner Bruender presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. The proposed 8.5% levy was approved in the final budget. A public hearing on the County 9 bridge occurred recently. The flood relief money came through and plan to bid for construction in June or July. Organizational meeting was held for county assignments.

District Conservationist: Berndt presented the District Conservationist report. Next week is last day for CSP and Equip signups. Regenerative Agriculture Program is still within CSP and EQUIP rules for practices, but it is a 5-yr program. The State office is working on cost-share rates for 2026.

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

COST SHARE:

WQSP-1FY25:

Scott presented the WQSP-1FY25 contract. This contract is for the construction of approx. 7-acre storage and treatment retention structure. The estimated total project cost to construct the storage and treatment retention structure is \$446,032.00 and will be funded from the FY25 Water Quality and Storage Program grant. Krosch moved to encumber contract WQSP-1FY25, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2026 MASWCD Dues:

Bach presented the invoice for the 2026 MASWCD dues and requested approval of payment. Krosch moved to approve the payment in the amount of \$7,654.59 for the 2026 MASWCD dues, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2026 Area VI Dues:

Bach presented the invoice for the 2026 Area VI dues and requested approval of payment. **Krosch** moved to approve the payment in the amount of \$400.00 for the 2026 Area VI dues, seconded by **Paulson**. **Motion adopted.**

Resolution 2026R-01:

Bach presented the Resolution 2026R-01 which gives Blue Earth SWCD’s approval to submit, adopt and implement the Minnesota River-Mankato Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Paulson** moved to approve Resolution 2026R-01, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

FY24 Audit:

Bach presented the FY24 audit to the board and provided each board member with a copy of the completed audit.

Know & Understand Your Election Options:

Bach presented the information that was sent out by MASWCD regarding the board’s options towards elections. If the board chooses to change its local election process, they will need to adopt a local board resolution and forward it to BWSR by March 1st. **Paulson** moved to keep the local election process the same, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Campaign Finance Disclosure:

Bach reminded the board of their duty to complete their Campaign Finance Disclosure. Board members have until the end of January to file their statement of economic interest.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Spoke on the BWSR news release about Todd County closing manure pits. He believes we will start seeing this more in other counties as well as abandoned pits are detrimental to water quality.

Shanahan – No report.

Krosch – Spoke about vacation to Florida. Also has been seeing more ads for Ducks Unlimited.

Paulson – Announced his retirement from McPherson Crop Management.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held February 5, 2026
- Minutes submitted by Haley Scott, Conservation Technician

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____