



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of February 5, 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, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk

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 Krosch.

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the January 8, 2026, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,948,999.87
Receipts	\$ 49,298.66
Disbursements	\$ 380,475.72
Total	\$ 1,617,822.81

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers:

County Commissioner Bruender presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. Blue Earth County is in talks with FEMA on the funding they will receive to remove the Dam. The Highway Dept moved into the new shop on January 20th, and they will have an open house for the public later this month. A couple of upcoming legislative changes taking effect for 2027 could result in a substantially higher levy for the second year in a row. The Advisory Task Force on the Future of Minnesota's Water will be holding an event at MSU-Mankato on February 11.

District Conservationist: Berndt presented the District Conservationist report. NRCS has the following ranking deadlines: EQIP - March 20, EQIP RPP – April 10, CSP – April 24 and CSP RPP – May 8. Contracts selected for funding will be notified within 1 week of each program ranking deadline.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

FY25 Conservation Contracts Grant Closeout:

Kuduk reviewed the expense report for the FY25 Conservation Contracts Grant. This grant paid for staff time and a cost share contract that split funding between FY24 & FY25 Conservation Contract grants and Le Sueur River WBIF funding. Final board approval and signature on the financial report are no longer required.

eLink Report Update:

Bach presented the eLINK report update to the board. The SWCD reported on 10 grants for a total of \$1,409,941.00, which covers staff time, projects and equipment. Being the host district for the South Central TSA, the SWCD is also responsible for tracking and reporting on their 7 grants totaling \$2,598,400.00.

2025 AgBMP Report:

Kuduk reviewed the 2025 AgBMP loan report and stated they are working on the 2026 funding needs request. In 2025, a total of 14 loans were completed for a total of \$299,865.31.

SCTSA FY26 Grant Match Dues:

Kuduk presented the invoice for the SCTSA FY26 grant match dues and requested payment approval. **Krosch** moved to approve the payment of the SCTSA FY26 grant match dues in the amount of \$3,550.00, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

FY25 Audit Engagement Letter:

Kuduk requested that the board approve Peterson Company's bid of \$5,400.00 to complete the FY25 Audit. **Paulson** moved to approve Peterson Company's bid to complete the SWCD's FY25 Audit, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

2026 MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol:

Kuduk informed the board of the upcoming MASWCD Legislative Briefing Day. Registration is open and the deadline to register is March 6th. Supervisors were encouraged to contact legislators to set up meetings to discuss SWCD needs with the focus on SWCD Aid and RIM.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Krosch – Asked staff about the Ag Expo and if having a booth makes sense for the SWCD.

Shanahan – Spoke on the Ag Expo he attended last month.

Paulson – Spoke on the Le Sueur 1W1P policy meeting and the Ag Expo he attended last month.

Rollings – Spoke on the Area VI Chair's Meeting he attended earlier in the week.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:14 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held March 5, 2026
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____