



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of March 5, 2026

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

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

Guests: County Commissioner: Kevin Paap, 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, Krosch moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Shanahan.

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the February 5, 2026, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,617,822.81
Receipts	\$ 122,346.74
Disbursements	\$ 44,537.05
Total	\$ 1,695,632.50

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Guest Speakers:

County Commissioner Paap presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner report. There will be an open house on Tuesday, March 10 from 4pm – 6pm at the new Public Works building.

District Conservationist: Berndt presented the District Conservationist report. There is limited amount of funding available from the last contract to pay Districts to complete CRP inspections again this year for NRCS. There are 42 inspections to be completed in Blue Earth County and the District wishes to contract for those if funding is available. Berndt reviewed the Annual Civil Rights checklist that the District signs as a partner of NRCS and it was signed by the board members. NRCS is continuing to work on EQIP applications with the ranking deadline coming up in a couple of weeks.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report (see attached). Blue Earth 1W1P plan was approved at the Southern Region BWSR meeting last month and will go to the State BWSR board at the end of March. Minnesota River-Mankato 1W1P is working on the joint powers collaboration agreement.

COST SHARE:

Contract 7-1-6:

Fritz requested to encumber \$19,096.00 for contract 7-1-6, where strip-till will be implemented on 272.8 acres for the next two years. Shanahan moved to encumber \$19,096.00 for contract 7-1-6, to be paid from the FY26 Soil Health Practices grant, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Contract 7-2-1:

Fritz requested to encumber \$47,173.00 for contract 7-2-1, where strip-till will be implemented on 673.9 acres for the next two years. Quade moved to encumber \$47,173.00 for contract 7-2-1, to be paid from the FY26 Soil Health Practices grant, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Contract 7-2-2:

Fritz requested to encumber \$12,915.00 for contract 7-2-2, where no-till will be implemented on 184.5 acres for the next two years. Krosch moved to encumber \$12,915.00 for contract 7-2-2, to be paid from the FY26 Soil Health Practices grant, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

Contract 7-2-3:

Fritz requested to encumber \$5,981.50 for contract 7-2-3, where strip-till will be implemented on 170.9 acres for one year. Shanahan moved to encumber \$5,981.50 for contract 7-2-3, to be paid from the FY26 Soil Health Practices grant, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

Contract 7-2-4:

Fritz requested to encumber \$12,476.00 for contract 7-2-4, where cover crops will be planted on 311.9 acres for one year. Paulson moved to encumber \$12,476.00 for contract 7-2-4, to be paid from the FY26 Soil Health Practices grant, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Bach asked for the board's approval to request a third allocation for soil health implementation funding now that we've met BWSR's requirement of encumbering 80% of our current funding. Krosch moved to approve for Bach to request a third allocation in the amount of \$120,000, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

MAWQCP Assessment Incentive 07-06-15:

Kuduk presented the request for a \$100 payment to Roelofs Ag Resources as an incentive for completing the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Assessment. Paulson moved to encumber \$100 to be paid by the GBERBA MAWQCP grant for the 07-06-15 MAWQCP contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

MAWQCP Assessment Incentive 07-06-16:

Kuduk presented the request for a \$100 payment to Triple R Pork as an incentive for completing the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Assessment. Krosch moved to encumber \$100

to be paid by the GBERBA MAWQCP grant for the 07-06-16 MAWQCP contract, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Rental Lease Renewal:

Bach reviewed the new rental lease agreement. The board discussed pros and cons of renewing the lease and staying in the current location versus looking to move to other building/office spaces. Paulson moved to approve the rental agreement as presented, seconded by Quade.

Motion adopted.

2026 Blue Earth County Fair:

Kuduk presented the Blue Earth County Fair’s invite to have the SWCD attend the fair this July. They have allowed us to use their facilities for our tree pickup days, free of charge, and this would be our way of giving back. Krosch moved to approve the SWCD to hold a booth at the Blue Earth County Fair on Friday, July 24th and set a budget of \$150 for fair supplies, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

AgBMP 2026 Funding Request:

Kuduk reviewed the AgBMP 2026 funding request that was submitted to MDA.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Quade – No report.

Shanahan – No report.

Krosch – Will be attending the Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol so if there are any key points the board or staff would like her to take to her meetings, reach out to her.

Paulson – Spoke on the MN River Task Force meeting at MSU he attended last month.

Rollings – Spoke on conservation work he’s been seeing on the ground around the area.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:23 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held April 9, 2026
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____