



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of April 9, 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, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, Conservation Technician: Haley Scott

**Guests:** County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, 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 March 5, 2026, minutes, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

**Treasurer's Report:** (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 1,695,632.50
Receipts	\$ 23,696.03
Disbursements	<u>\$ 64,677.84</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,654,650.69</b>

**Kuduk** presented the Treasurer's Report for March and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems, which were read by each Supervisor. Shanahan moved to file the March 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. Deputy Administrator Josh Milo has been hired as the new Blue Earth County Administrator who will start in his new role in May. 480 people came through for the Open House at the new Public Works building. Bridge and road work projects are starting around the county as the weather turns nice. Plans for the County Rd 9 bridge are about 90% complete and the hope is to start in the fall. The Rapidan Dam planning process has been halted due to the government shutdown, which includes FEMA. Paap was appointed by the Minnesota Governor's office to serve on the BWSR board.

**District Conservationist: Berndt** presented the District Conservationist report. Preapproval work has been completed on EQIP applications. There were seven applications total for the area with two in Blue Earth County.

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

**COST SHARE:**

**Contract 7-2-2:**

**Scott** requested to cancel contract 7-2-2 due to the applicant requesting to change the name on the contract. Krosch moved to cancel contract 7-2-2, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

**Contract 7-2-2:**

**Scott** requested to re-encumber contract 7-2-2 but under a different applicant name. Paulson moved to encumber contract 7-2-2 with the change of applicant name, to be paid from the FY26 Soil Health Practices grant, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

**JD36 Contract WQSP-1FY26:**

**Scott** requested to encumber \$188,953.00 for the construction of a 12-acre wetland basin with a total project cost of \$219,036.00. Shanahan moved to encumber \$188,953.00 for contract WQSP-1FY26, to be paid from the FY26 Water Quality and Storage Program grant, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

**CD56 Contract WQSP-1FY25:**

**Scott** requested to amend contract WQSP-1FY25 from \$446,032.00 to \$460,871.00 for the construction of a storage basin and sediment trap due to contractor bids coming in higher than estimated at the time of grant writing. Shanahan moved to amend the cost share amount of contract WQSP-1FY25 to \$460,871.00, to be paid from the FY25 Water Quality and Storage Program grant, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

**1FY24:**

**Fritz** requested to amend the install date from 4/15/2026 to 5/1/2026 for contract 1FY24 due to the contractor being unable to complete the project because of unfavorable weather conditions. Shanahan moved to amend the install date to 5/1/2026 for contract 1FY24, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

**SHC-FY-24-07-03:**

**Fritz** presented the peer mentor contract for Pat Duncanson. This is part of the Soil Health Staffing grant held with the South Central TSA and will be funded from this grant. This is Duncanson's second one-year contract, and he'll be paid \$3,000 at the conclusion of his contract provided he completes a minimum of 40 hours of outreach and mentoring activities detailed within the contract. Krosch moved to approve contract SHC-FY24-07-03, seconded by Paulson. **Motion adopted.**

**Le Sueur WBIF Project Proposal #36:**

**Fritz** presented the cover crop contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for approval

through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This three-year contract will provide cost share funding in the amount of \$50,329.5 for the implementation of cover crops on 258.1 acres.

**Le Sueur WBIF Project Proposal #37:**

**Fritz** presented the cover crop contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This one-year contract will provide cost share funding in the amount of \$5,600.00 for the implementation of cover crops on 160 acres.

**Le Sueur WBIF Project Proposal #38:**

**Fritz** presented the cover crop contract that will be proposed to Waseca SWCD for approval through the Le Sueur WBIF grant. This three-year contract will provide cost share funding in the amount of \$139,249.50 for the implementation of cover crops on 714.1 acres.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CD56 Easement Payment:**

**Bach** reviewed the invoice that was received from Blue Earth County. They are requesting reimbursement in the amount of \$70,300 for the easement payment made to the landowner for the CD56 water storage project. This will be paid out of the FY25 Water Quality and Storage Program grant. Paulson moved to approve payment of the invoice presented, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

**MPI Banquet Donation Request:**

**Kuduk** reviewed with the Board what has been given in the past as a donation towards the MPI Banquet. Paulson moved to donate a gift certificate for a bundle of trees and a gift certificate for a pollinator seed mix, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**MASWCD Resolutions:**

**Kuduk** gave an overview of the resolution process and the deadline for Area resolutions to be received by MASWCD is July. The next Area VI meeting is June 25<sup>th</sup>, which gives us a couple of board meetings to approve resolutions at the local level.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Shanahan** – Spoke on the SCTSA meeting he attended last month.

**Krosch** – Gave an update from the Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol she attended last month.

**Paulson** – Asked about the contract for services position that the South Central TSA will be working on with the area co-ops.

**Rollings** – Asked about the career fair coming up next week.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.
- Next regular meeting will be held May 7, 2026
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_