



## *Blue Earth County*

### *Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Approved Minutes of April 7, 2016

**Supervisors Present:** Chairman: Emily Javens, Vice Chair: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, and PR&I: William Gardner. (Secretary: Carol Krosch absent)

**Staff Present:** District Manager: Jerad Bach, Assistant Manager: John Billings, District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

**Guest:** Commissioner: Kip Bruender, Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts, LeSueur River Coordinator: Tina Warta

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order by Chairman: Javens, at 4:05 p.m.

**Pledge:** All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Housekeeping:**

**Agenda:** Rollings moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**Guests:** Javens thanked Bruender, Potts, and Warta for attending.

**Minutes:** Rollings moved to approve the March 10, 2016 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

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

Balance on hand	\$ 724,967.42
Receipts	\$ 446,748.54
Disbursements	\$ 19,870.83
Total	\$1,151,845.13

This record notes total dollar activity held by Blue Earth County SWCD.

Disbursements and receipts were reviewed and Supervisor monthly Per Diem/Expenses read. Gardner moved to pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, and accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.

#### **Open Communications:**

**Guest: Bruender** Announced that the new County highway road tax had started. Gave an update about recent sex offender issues in the County. Talked about the Monks and Stadium road project that will be starting this spring. Bruender explained how County Road 1 – old highway 66 project would be broken into phases and starting this spring. Bruender said the County is working out the details of a park purchase with the City of Mankato. Announced that the 8<sup>th</sup> Citizen Academy had started. Bruender gave an update on the water plan task force meetings and thanked the SWCD for being a part of that process. Bruender said the County has started the budget planning process for next year. Rollings asked what the plan was for the intersection of Hwy 22 and 90. Bruender said there was \$750,000 secured to do a round a bout in 2017 or 2018. Shanahan asked what the status was of the Taylor RIM contract and County road 159. Bruender, Potts, BWSR engineer and Shanahan had met out onsite to discuss the issues. Shanahan expressed that there should be some vegetation removed to allow water to run through that area. There was discussion about the Sibley County lawsuit issue with a ditch clean out project. Javens asked that maybe the SWCD should be added into the Citizen Academy tour. Bruender will suggest to have the SWCD be included with the Environmental Services Department stop.

**District Manager: Bach** presented report. (See Attached)

**New Business:**

**Tillage Transect Contract:** **Bach** explained that the University of Minnesota has developed a program to detect the residue left on cropland. They would like to demonstrate this tool in a few areas around the state and then compare to actual in field measurements to calibrate the program. The SWCD would help with the program field verifications. The SWCD would be compensated up to \$5,000 for staff time. Rollings moved to enter into a contract with the University of Minnesota to collect tillage transect data, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**Biennial Budget Request FY18&19:** **Bach** reviewed what the BBR is and what we need to submit. The BBR is due April 15. Bach asked if the board had any ideas they wanted to see added to the wish list. Rollings brought up that he would like to see something done to study the effectiveness of buffers on water quality.

**2015 Monitoring Report:** **Bach** reviewed the attached document

**District Conservationist:** **Liddell** joined the meeting

**MASWCD Call for Resolutions:** **Javens** discussed some issues that had been noted about the thresholds of CSP scores when land that is rented is lost during a contract and some producers were being kicked out due to lost land lowering their score. Liddell explained how the CSP process works. Javens noted that maybe a possible resolution could help address the issue.

**District Conservationist:** **Liddell** introduced himself. He plans to work closely with the SWCD and would like to have the help of the SWCD. Announced his new Soil Conservationist Keith, pronounced “Kate”. He added that NRCS will likely be getting a Soil Con Tech in the Mankato field office. His first official start date would be May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Farmbill Biologist:** **Potts** presented report. (See Attached). Rollings asked about other birds mentioned in his report that are not found in this area. Potts explained that some of the information in the report is from the Pheasants Forever organization that covers the whole Midwest.

**Supervisors and Chairman:**

**Supervisors:** **Gardner** updated the Board about the MPI banquet. Approximately 475 people had attended and they netted about \$30,000 - \$40,000. The banquet went smooth and the numbers were up from last year. They are already taking notes on changes for next year and starting the planning process. **Rollings** talked about a video he had heard a rumor about that was going around showing data on buffers. He asked the staff to look into the existence of this video and let him know. **Shanahan** said he attended the Legislative Days and that it wasn’t as well put together as in years past. It was more rushed due to the short session. He met with Rosen, Cornish and Considine. **Javens** updated the Board about the Water Plan task force meetings she had been attending and explained what had been discussed in the process so far.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:55 pm
- Next meeting will be held May 5, 2016
- Minutes submitted by Jerad Bach, District Manager

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Krosch, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Emily Javens, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_