



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of June 9, 2016

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

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Assistant Manager: John Billings, Conservation Technician: Marta Roser, NRCS District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

Guests: Commissioner: Will Purvis and NRCS Soil Conservationist: Keith Feliciano-Cortes

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Emily Javens at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Housekeeping:

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

Guests: Javens welcomed Purvis and Feliciano-Cortes.

Minutes: Krosch moved to approve the May 5, 2016 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

April

Balance on hand	\$1,151,845.13
Receipts	\$ 0.00
Disbursements	<u>\$ 106,690.52</u>
Total	\$1,045,157.00

May

Balance on hand	\$1,045,157.00
Receipts	\$ 65,096.37
Disbursements	<u>\$ 308,101.11</u>
Total	\$ 802,152.26

Billings presented the Treasurer's Report for April. Krosch moved to approved April's Treasurer's Report subject to audit, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted. Billings presented May's Treasurer's Report and Supervisor monthly Per Diem/Expenses. Rollings moved to approve the May Treasurer's Report subject to audit, and pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

Open Communications:

Conservation Technician: Roser introduced herself and gave brief history of her education and career. Roser reviewed what her current duties are with the SWCD.

Guest: Purvis presented report (See Attached). Rollings asked about the ravine dump cleanups. Purvis said Zoning is in charge of encouraging the cleanup of ravine dumps.

Soil Conservationist: Feliciano-Cortes introduced herself. She gave a summary of her education and experience. She explained she is getting use the weather in Minnesota, since she is from Puerto Rico.

District Manager: Bach presented report (See Attached). Javens asked who was hired for the new South Central TSA positions. Bach gave a summary of the two candidates chosen for the two new positions.

District Conservationist: Liddell reported there were 2 total applications completed before the RCPP deadline. Liddell announced 2017 EQIP projects must be signed up before August 19th. He said that he and Feliciano-Cortes are transitioning well into their positions in the office. Liddell said he was not happy with the fact that none of the 5 applications for CSP were accepted.

Cost-share:

LWS-14-07-01, Jim Krahlung Cover Crops: Billings requested to encumber \$17,862.00 for Cover Crops with a total project cost of \$23,816.25. Billings noted the funding is from the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance. Gardner moved to encumber of \$17,862.00 for the Jim Krahlung Cover Crop project, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.

FR14-1FY15, Holtmeier Construction Ravine Stabilization Repair: Billings requested payment of \$15,000.00 based on a total project cost of \$19,860.50. Rollings moved to make payment of \$15,000.00 for the Holtmeier Construction Ravine Stabilization repair project, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

3FY14, Madison Lake Watershed & Lake Association Stormwater Runoff Control: Billings requested to encumber \$13,059.00 for a Stormwater Runoff Control project with a total project cost of \$27,207.50. Krosch moved to encumber of \$13,059.00 for the Madison Lake Watershed & Lake Association Stormwater Runoff Control project, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.

CWM-07-16-01, James Vonderharr Critical Area Planting: Billings requested to encumber \$4,687.00 for a Critical Area Planting project with a total project cost of \$6,250.00. Billings noted the funding is from the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance. Shanahan moved to encumber of \$4,687.00 for the James Vonderharr Critical Area Planting project, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.

New Business:

Farmbill Assistance Grant 2017: Bach reported that BWSR had approved funds for the 2017 Farmbill Assistance Grants. Bach explained that the District would need to provide \$6,500 in match for the position. Krosch moved to accept the 2017 Farmbill Assistance Grant, and designate Bach to sign the grant agreement, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

Building Lease: Bach explained the transfer of ownership of the office building from Kibble to his partnering company. Bach noted there would be a slight increase in rent, but the amount is within comparable spaces that Bach had researched. Bach explained the increased space that the TSA will be taking on with the new employees. He also reported that the new owner will be planning to build warehouse space for the SWCD in the near future. Bach said we will discuss warehouse space costs when the construction of the building becomes more of a reality. Rollings moved to approve the new lease, seconded by Krosch. Motion Accepted.

Area VI Meeting: Billings asked for a final tally of Supervisors planning to attend the Area VI meeting. Javens and Shanahan indicated they would attend.

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Rollings mentioned he has been having some issues with exposed utilities due to erosion while dealing with appraisals in the field. He announced he would not be in attendance at the next SWCD Board meeting. **Krosch** noted only standard repairs were discussed at the last County Board meetings. She reported Ryan Hiniker had started in the new Drainage position working with Austinson. **Javens** reported the Water Plan Task Force is reviewing a lot of the information for the new Water Plan. Javens said Julie Conrad presented some interesting numbers about wells contaminated with arsenic and manganese. Javens reported she was selected by the regional NACD to represent the area as they develop the new 3-year plan for NACD. **Shanahan** said the GBERBA meeting was good. He reported that he had a good conversation with NRCS and SWCD staff at the Local Work-group meeting. **Gardner** reported Julie Conrad and Bach were in attendance at the last Minnesota Pheasants Inc. meeting where they discussed the Water Plan and buffers. Gardner said he hopes Bach could attend a few times a year because he does such a great job of explaining the programs and accomplishments. Gardner mention the possibility of MPI making a promotional video with Studio 12.

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

* Meeting adjourned 6:10 pm

- * Next meeting will be held July 7, 2016
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____