



# *Blue Earth County*

## *Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Approved Minutes of August 4, 2016

**Supervisors Present:** Chairman: Emily Javens, Vice-Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, and PR&I: William Gardner

**Staff Present:** District Manager: Jerad Bach and Assistant Manager: John Billings

**Guests:** County Commissioner: Will Purvis

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order by Chairman Emily 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:** None

**Minutes:** Rollings pointed out an error that Javens adjourned the meeting and not him, since he did not attend the meeting. Shanahan moved to approve the July 7, 2016 minutes as corrected, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**Treasurer's Report:** (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 753,959.63
Receipts	\$ 15,609.88
Disbursements	<u>\$ 56,270.42</u>
Total	\$ 713,299.09

Billings presented the Treasurer's Report for July. Rollings moved to approve the July Treasurer's Report subject to audit, and pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

### **Open Communications:**

**Guest: Purvis** reported the Board is in the middle of budgeting. Purvis said taxable land has increased significantly in the last year due to industrial and housing growth. Purvis announced the new county-wide juvenile curfew is now in place. Purvis said the County has received a few petitions for drainage improvement projects. Purvis explained the Tri County Transit System that has been in planning will be 80% funded by MNDOT. Javens started a discussion on matching County funds for increased BWSR funding. Purvis said Bach should talk with Bob Meyer. Rollings asked if there was a threat of litigation over the ditch construction collapse. Purvis said that the County has been reviewing the reports from the accident.

**District Manager: Bach** presented report (See Attached). Rollings asked about FSA CRP sign-up numbers. Bach explained changes in rules are making reenrolls harder at times.

### **Cost-share:**

**LWS-14-07-01, Jim Krahling Cover Crops:** Billings requested approval for payment of \$13,032.99 for Cover Crops with a total project cost of \$22,434.03. Billings noted the funding is from the Greater Blue Earth River Basin

Alliance. Rollings moved to make payment of \$13,032.99 for the Jim Krahling Cover Crop project, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**FR14-5FY15, Renee Rollings Grade Stabilization Repair: Billings** requested to encumber \$22,500.00 for a Grade Stabilization Repair project with a total project cost of \$22,500.00. Rollings moved to encumber of \$22,500.00 for the Renee Rollings Grade Stabilization Repair project, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**FR14-3FY15, Steve Young Grade Stabilization Repair: Billings** requested to encumber \$12,650.00 for a Grade Stabilization Repair project with a total project cost of \$12,650.00. Rollings moved to encumber \$12,650.00 for the Steve Young Grade Stabilization Repair project, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**FR14-4FY15, Brian Wallace Water and Sediment Control Basin Repair: Billings** requested to encumber \$13,800.00 for a Water and Sediment Control Basin Repair project with a total project cost of \$13,800.00. Rollings moved to encumber of \$13,800.00 for the Brian Wallace Water and Sediment Control Basin Repair project, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

#### **New Business:**

**2016 Local Capacity Grant: Bach** explained the automatic increase of \$20,000.00 from \$100,000.00 to \$120,000.00. Bach noted there was not a workplan for the additional funds yet. Javens suggested a truck as a possible use of the funds. Bach said that a vehicle purchase was possibility. Gardner moved to accept the amended \$20,000.00 increase to the 2016 Local Capacity Grant, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.

**2016 Outstanding Conservationist: Bach** explained the Outstanding Conservationist award and reviewed the history and summary of Krahling's efforts. Rollings moved to award Jim Krahling as Blue Earth SWCD's 2016 Outstanding Conservationist, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**BWSR Academy: Bach** announced the registration for BWSR Academy will be opening in August. Bach explained the location of the Academy will be at Craguns, and reviewed the estimated cost for all staff to attend. Rollings moved to approve 4 staff to attend the 2016 BWSR Academy, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**Ag Certainty Certificates: Bach** described the process of handing out the signs for individuals who have become certified. Bach asked how the Board would like to handle the presentation. The consensus was to invite Krahling and Paulson to the September SWCD Board meeting at 5:30 and then join the SWCD at Pub 500 after the meeting. Emily also asked for their information for possible NACD Soil Health Champions.

**CWF Grant Application: Bach** explained the application deadline for 2017 CWF Grants is August 8. Bach reviewed the watershed areas of Ditch 86 and Madison Lake as areas that the SWCD staff would like to target for an AIG Grant. Rollings moved to support submittal of an AIG grant with a focus of Ditch 86 and Madison Lake watersheds, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

**MASWCD President Election: Billings** reviewed the announcement for nominations for MASWCD President. Billings explained that if any of the Supervisors were interested, they would need to submit the information to MASWCD by the deadline.

#### **Supervisors and Chairman:**

**Supervisors: Rollings** reported he had nothing special to report, but he had a fun vacation. **Javens** reported the NACD Summer Tour had 38 states represented in attendance, and they were all impressed with the conservation efforts in Minnesota. Javens said she was a tour guide and gave a presentation on One Watershed One Plan to the NACD Tour. **Shanahan** reported Tom Gile gave a good presentation on the Buffer Law and Redetermination of benefits. Shanahan said he attend the Equal Rights interview with NRCS. Shanahan noted he had a good conversation with the Army Corps representative at Farm Fest. **Gardner** said he had nothing because the MPI tour was canceled and they will be rescheduling.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned 5:30 pm
- \* Next meeting will be held September 8, 2016
- \* Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

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

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