



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of September 8, 2016

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

Staff Present: Assistant Manager: John Billings, Conservation Specialist: Tina Warta, District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis, County Commissioner Kip Bruender, Bernie Paulson, Jim and Mary Krahlung

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

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Housekeeping:

Agenda: Liddell requested to have his report moved up in the agenda from Open Communications because he needed to leave early. Rollings requested to discuss his topic before the Commissioners would have to leave. Gardner moved to approve the agenda with changes, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.

Open Communications:

District Conservationist: Liddell reported their huge workload of 80 CRP offers that had been made in the last couple weeks. Liddell said CSP payments would be made in the next couple weeks. Liddell estimated that 70%-80% of new CRP contracts are buffers.

Housekeeping Continued:

Guests: Javens recognized Purvis and Bruender.

Minutes: Rollings moved to approve the August 4, 2016 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 713,299.09
Receipts	\$ 47,747.47
Disbursements	<u>\$ 57,686.92</u>
Total	\$ 703,359.64

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

Open Communications Continued:

Guest: Bruender announced the hire of Michael McLaughlin as the new Veterans Services Director. Bruender reported the road construction projects had been rolling along despite rain delays. Bruender mentioned the proposed Comprehensive Water Plan is online for review now. Kip said the budget is probably going to require at least an 8% levee increase. Purvis said the County worked with Bach to address the match questions with BWSR. Bruender reported that the County was awarded an upgrade in its investment grade from AA to AA+. Shanahan asked about

details with CD 28. Purvis said the system has failed, and a lot of circumstances have halted construction progress leaving the area under water. Purvis said the contractor had a year to finish the project, and they are looking for solutions to the issues.

New Business:

Rollings Ditch Issue: Rollings presented a summary of a request from a landowner on County Ditch 34 to be called to testify about just compensation as a farm real estate appraiser (See Attached). Rollings reviewed the summary and asked if the Commissioners and Supervisors had an issue with him accepting the task. Purvis said he didn't have an issue with Rollings testifying and would welcome an expert's opinion. The Supervisors consensus after a discussion of the facts was to suggest Rollings stay out of the issue due to the potential perceived relationship with the SWCD Board.

Open Communications Continued:

District Manager: Billings explained that Bach could not be in attendance. Billings reported an Accelerated Implementation Grant was submitted for Clean Water Funds. Billings said staff have been working with landowners with cost-share projects and buffer questions. Javens asked if the Board would be involved with decisions concerning alternative practices for buffers. Billings said the Board would be involved in discussions.

Cost-share:

FR14-1FY16, Blue Earth Co Drainage Authority Water and Sediment Control Basin Repair: Warta requested to encumber \$20,000.00 for a Grade Stabilization Repair project with a total project cost of \$20,000.00. Rollings moved to encumber of \$20,000.00 for the Blue Earth Co Drainage Authority Water and Sediment Control Basin Repair project, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

New Business Continued:

2014 Flood Relief Grant Phase 3B: Billings explained the funding Flood Relief Grant and why the SWCD would be getting additional funds. Billings requested the Board approve to accept the funds and have Bach sign the grant agreement. Rollings moved to accept the \$62,500.00 for the 2014 Flood Relief Grant Phase 3B and have Bach sign the grant agreement, seconded by Shanahan. Krosch abstained. Motion adopted.

2016 Tillage Transect Survey: Billings explained the partnership with the University of Minnesota to conduct the 2016 Tillage Transect Survey in order to compare data with satellite imagery that the UofM was using to digitally assess the fields. Billings reviewed the results sheets with the supervisors (See Attached).

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Rollings reported he had nothing add. **Krosch** reported she had enjoyed the NACD tour and presentations. **Javens** said she had been a part of the Resolutions Committee meetings for MASWCD that lasted 2 days. Javens said the biggest discussion was on funding sources through taxes and legislative changes. **Shanahan** reported he was able handle amur maples with garlon, and said it worked great. **Gardner** reported MPI would be conducting a ditch cleanup next week. Gardner also said MPI would be partnering on a CPL grant with \$10,000.00.

Awards:

Warta introduced Bernie Paulson and gave a summary of his accomplishments in order to become an Ag Water Quality Certainty Program Certified producer. Warta then introduced Jim and Mary Krahlung and reviewed their conservation practices that they implement in order to become Ag Water Quality Certainty Program Certified producers. Warta also explained how the Krahling's efforts put them the perfect choice for the Blue Earth SWCD Conservationists of the Year. The Krahling's discussed their operation and the conservation practices that they are currently implementing and how they planning for the future. Paulson explained that he likes to practice what he promotes through his crop management company.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:50 pm
- * Next meeting will be held October 6, 2016

* Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____