



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of February 9, 2017

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

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

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis,

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

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Housekeeping:

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed. Javens wanted to add a topic of Personnel Committee under New Business.

Krosch moved to add Personnel Committee under New Business and approve the revised agenda, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

Guests: Javens recognized Purvis.

Minutes: Shanahan moved to approve the January 5, 2017 minutes, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 811,971.10
Receipts	\$ 32,664.03
Disbursements	<u>\$ 36,302.95</u>
Total	\$ 808,332.18

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

Open Communications

District Conservationist: Liddell reviewed the online NRCS system of the Client Gateway. Liddell explained how the Client Gateway allows producers to work with NRCS remotely. Liddell reported that his office is working on CRP and is trying to increase CSP awareness. Rollings asked if the Mankato office is fully staffed. Liddell said no the office is not fully staffed, and staff will not be added any time soon.

Guests:

County Commissioner: Purvis presented report. (See Attached) Krosch asked about any feedback received on FEMA's meetings with landowners affected by the rains from this past fall. Purvis said he didn't have a dollar figure but, he said they met with a lot of people. Rollings asked about progress on the public ditch project in Lincoln Township. Purvis reported that everything is going well on the project now. Krosch asked about Purvis' thoughts on the buffer enforcement. Purvis explained how far the county is with compliance already, and he has many questions about funding for enforcement of the buffers as well as funding for litigation involved with enforcement.

District Manager: Bach explained that end of year reporting had kept the office busy. Bach reported the Tree Sales Open House went well and we are now accepting credit cards. Bach explained the 2017 Capacity Funding workplan was submitted. Bach reported that there were 33 applications for the position posting and the interviews will happen on February 10th. Bach said he had been working on two WCA violations and attended the Wetland Plan meetings this past month. Bach noted that the Crystal Waters Project had good attendance at the fishing contest, and the CWP plans to install more boxes into the lake this year. Bach announced that CREP 3 will involve 60,000 acres in 35 counties.

Cost-Share:

MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program-Application Payment, Steve Trio: Billings requested payment approval of \$300.00 for Steve Trio's Application and Certification Completion. **Rollings moved to approve payment of \$300.00 for Steve Trio's Application and Certification Completion, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

New Business:

Master Joint Powers Agreement for RIM: Bach explained the 5 year Master Joint Powers Agreement for easement processing. The Master Joint Powers Agreement changes how easement administration funds are disbursed to the SWCD and will be an improvement over the past system. **Rollings moved to accept the Master Joint Powers Agreement for RIM and authorize the District Manager as the Authorized Representative, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

FY17 Conservation Delivery Closeout: Bach reviewed the report. (See Attached)

Le Sueur Watershed AIG: Bach reviewed the grant agreement for the Le Sueur Watershed AIG. **Rollings moved to accept the Le Sueur Watershed AIG agreement and authorize the District Manager as the Authorized Representative, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

2016 Ag BMP Loan Program Report: Bach presented the report and explained most of the applications were for septic loans. (See Attached)

eLINK Report Update: Bach reviewed the list of grant reports that were submitted to BWSR for the eLINK reporting requirements. (See Attached)

Minnesota Conservation Corps Apprentice Agreement: Bach explained the grant agreement for Minnesota Conservation Corps Apprentice grant would be coming later this month. **Krosch moved to accept the Minnesota Conservation Corps Apprentice grant agreement, have Bach sign the agreement, and authorize the District Manager as the Authorized Representative, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

MASWCD Legislative Briefing Day at the Capitol: Billings reviewed the announcement and asked which supervisors would like to attend. Shanahan said he would attend, and Rollings said he might attend one day.

Personnel Committee: Javens explained the Personnel Committee reviewed Roser's probation and would approve the probation end and increase Roser's wage to \$17.50 starting the next pay period. **Rollings moved to end Roser's probation and increase the wage to \$17.50 starting the next pay period, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Rollings would like staff to look at costs to stabilize all the sloughing areas on a small creek. Bach noted we could look into it on a certain class of stream. Rollings said he would like the estimate for Minneopa Creek from Lake Crystal to the Falls. **Krosch** said there was not much to report from the County Board meeting. **Javens** reported that Nobels County was not going to match funds for the 2017 Capacity Grant. Javens reported she was

elected Chairman at the Regional NACD meeting in St. Louis. Javens said that two resolutions passed the Regional NACD meeting. **Shanahan** the main focus of the South Central TSA meeting was the ending of probations for Saenz and Bartch. Shanahan reported GBERBA elected officers, and noted he was now a member of the Executive Board. **Gardner** announced there would be \$2,600 in memorial funds from the Larry Adermann family to go toward food plots. Gardner reported that Mike Malling from USFWS presented at the last MPI meeting. Gardner said Malling suggested that MPI help fund restorations and projects on land that the USFWS purchases, instead of trying land purchases on their own. Gardner said they are working on a new website. Gardner agreed with Bach that the CWP fishing contest was a good event, and he noted that his team won the ice golf event.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held March 9, 2017
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____