



# *Blue Earth County*

## *Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Approved Minutes of March 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 Conservation Specialist Jake Fritz

**Guests:** County Commissioner: Will Purvis, County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts

**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. **Rollings moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Shanahan.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Guests:** Javens recognized Purvis, Bruender, and Potts.

**Minutes:** **Rollings moved to approve the February 9, 2017 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

**Conservation Insight:** Javens introduced an inspirational video she had watched recently that she wanted to share with everyone. Everyone watched the video about the Selah Bamburger Ranch where they have brought natural springs back to life through ground water recharge of an aquifer. Bamburger was able to accomplish this through conservation and vegetation plantings that kept water infiltration on the land instead of draining off.

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

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Balance on hand | \$ 808,332.18       |
| Receipts        | \$ 29,291.02        |
| Disbursements   | <u>\$ 48,197.72</u> |
| Total           | \$ 789,425.48       |

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

### **Open Communications**

#### **Guests:**

**County Commissioner: Purvis** presented report. (See Attached) Rollings asked about the progress of the County Ditch construction in Lincoln Township. Purvis said the contractor is waiting for things to dry up and they expect to resume construction by the end of March potentially. Javens asked if they County Board had thoughts on whether they would be taking on the enforcement of the Buffer Legislation. Purvis stated they are waiting to see what happens with all the recent legislation up at the State. **Bruender** reported they had their first land use planning meeting this past month, and they plan to have further regional meetings in the future.

**District Manager: Bach** presented report. (See Attached) Bach lead a discussion on One Watershed One Plan and the progress in the Watonwan River Watershed. Krosch asked what the Crystal Waters Project had been up to lately. Bach reported they are working further with the Structured Water boxes and shoreland projects.

**Conservation Specialist: Fritz** introduced himself and gave a brief history of his experience and education. He explained this is his ideal job and is excited to get started. Everyone welcomed him.

**Cost-Share:**

**Jim Krahling - 1FY16: Billings** requested to encumber \$1,875.00 for the installation of three rock tile inlets with an estimated cost estimate of \$2,500.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$1,875.00 for the Jim Krahling rock tile inlets, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

**Ken Lentz - 2FY16: Billings** requested to encumber \$19,500.00 for the installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin and Grassed Waterways with an estimated cost estimate of \$26,000.00. **Krosch moved to encumber \$19,500.00 for the Ken Lentz Water and Sediment Control Basin and Grassed Waterways, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

**New Business:**

**Minneopa Proposal: Bach** reviewed the cost estimate and how the targeted areas were derived using LiDAR subtraction. Bach explained the map and the areas on Minneopa Creek that would be the responsibility of the State in Minneopa State Park and the areas that the SWCD would target for bank stabilization. Bach explained it was a quick estimate. Rollings noted he would like the SWCD to keep their eyes open for funding such a project in the future.

**Area VI Meeting: Billings** asked which supervisors would like to attend. Shanahan said yes for sure, and Krosch said she would maybe attend. Javens, Gardner, and Rollings all had previously scheduled conflicts.

**Farmbill Biologist: Potts** presented his report. (See attached) Javens asked if Potts had heard complaints about conservation land being set aside in rural areas causing tax issues with school systems? Potts said he has heard different arguments similar to that in the past.

**Trio Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Award: Bach** introduced Steve Trio and congratulated him on becoming Ag Water Quality Certified. Trio explained how he had heard about the program at a County Ditch meeting where Bach had given a presentation. He said the process was a lot better than he had anticipated. He noted his son is starting to farm with him this year and this certification is one way to set yourself apart from other producers. Trio said everyone wants clean water, and he feels that farmers need to get out ahead of issues to prevent mandated regulation. Javens asked what Trio had to change in order to become certified. Trio said it was mainly dialing in his nutrient management. Bach explained how Trio has installed a lot of waterways, terraces, and buffers over the years. Javens said she appreciated how he is leading his son into conservation. Bach asked what Trio felt about the criticisms that the bar might be set to high for certification. Trio said he feels that we should be challenged to do better. He feels it is a lot like wrestling in that everything you do on that land rests on your shoulders. Trio thinks there are a lot of farmers becoming more water conscious. Everyone congratulated Trio.

**Supervisors and Chairman:**

**Supervisors: Rollings asked** if the issues about clay fill due to all the sandy soil on the property at the Renee Rollings site were being resolved. Bach and Roser explained that a good fill material hasn't been located yet. **Krosch** said there was a lot of discussion around CD48 at the last County Board meeting and because proposed ponding in the ditch system could impact water temperatures in the trout stream connected to CD48. **Javens** announced she would be heading to Washington D.C. With Ian Cunningham to discussion conservation at the national level. **Shanahan** shared a story about a past Legislative Days, and he said he is looking forward to attending this month. Shanahan noted he had been exchanging emails with Sheila Vanney about CREP III, and he said the final funding is far from certain. **Gardner** reported banquet planning is in full swing. He said MPI is contacting legislators to let them know that MPI is in favor of increased DNR fees. Gardner said MPI will be donating \$1,000 to the Pheasants Forever Youth Day. Gardner announced that Mankato Motors is donating \$100 for every car sold in March to MPI.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held April 6, 2017
- \* Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

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

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