



# *Blue Earth County*

## *Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Approved Minutes of April 6, 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,

**Guests:** County Commissioner: Kip Bruender

**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. **Krosch moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

**Guests:** Javens recognized Bruender.

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

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

Balance on hand	\$ 789,425.48
Receipts	\$ 286,663.43
Disbursements	<u>\$ 25,951.23</u>
Total	\$1,050,137.68

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

### **Open Communications**

#### **Guests:**

**County Commissioner: Bruender** reported that he will be going out to an erosion site on the Le Sueur River. He reviewed a few of the issues involved in the Highway 22 construction detours. Bruender announced all the County parks will be opening with the exception of Wildwood due to bridge repairs. Bruender explained the approval of a mass gathering permit for large party south of MSU. He announced Jessica Beyer will be moving on to a new position as the Waseca County Administrator. Rollings asked if people could install "No Mowing" signs in ditches adjacent to County Roads. Bruender said he would look into the details.

**District Manager: Bach** presented report. (See Attached) Emily said she would like to see a print out of the Ag Certification process if possible. Rollings asked if there was any feedback about the TSA at the meetings. Jerad said there wasn't anything thing locally specific at the meetings, but noted communication has been the one thing that the TSA is working on.

#### **Cost-Share:**

**Veldhuisen – 1FY17: Bach** requested to encumber \$517.00 for a well sealing an estimated cost of \$1,034.00.

**Rollings moved to encumber \$517.00 for the Veldhuisen well sealing, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

**Zimdahl – 2FY17: Bach** requested to encumber \$517.00 for a well sealing an estimated cost of \$1,034.00. **Krosch moved to encumber \$517.00 for the Zimdahl well sealing, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

#### **New Business:**

**U of M Tillage Contract: Bach** explained the process of tillage transect survey and how SWCD helped the UofM last year to conduct the survey and make comparisons to satellite images. Bach said they have requested help again this year and would need Board approval to participate again. **Rollings moved to approve entering a contract to help the UofM perform the tillage survey, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

**Watowan One Watershed One Plan Resolution: Bach** reviewed the Watowan One Watershed One Plan Resolution and explained the history. **Rollings moved to approved and sign the Watowan One Watershed One Plan Resolutions, seconded by Shanahan.** There was a small discussion on who would be the leader and fiscal agent. Rollings asked if GBERBA was supportive. Bach explained GBERBA was the one making the resolution, so they are very supportive. **Motion adopted.**

**2016 Accomplishments Report: Bach** reviewed the report. Everyone commented how much the SWCD accomplished. Emily said she liked the report, and offered a possible future format on a11x17 page. Rollings suggested to add Commissioner items and information about education and outreach.

**Equipment Purchases: Billings** explained the need for a trailer to haul the tractor for the seed program to make travel more efficient. Billings reviewed the cost breakdown of the trailer. (See Attached) **Rollings moved to approve the purchase of the trailer and hitch installation as quoted on the attached quote sheet with the 2016 Local Capacity Grant, seconded by Gardner. Motion Adopted.**

Bach reviewed other possible upcoming purchases that would be under his spending limit of \$1,500.00. Bach said he just wanted the Board to be aware prior to the purchases being made.

**MASWCD Resolution: Billings** announced the request for resolutions for the 2017 MASWCD business meeting. Billings said to contact the office if you want to create a resolution to be ready to approve at the June Area VI meeting.

**Conservation Technician Replacement: Bach** announced the resignation of Roser. Bach requested approval to advertised and hire a replacement with a pay range of \$15.00 – \$17.00. **Rollings moved to approve Bach to advertise and hire for the Conservation Technician replacement, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

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

**Supervisors: Rollings** wanted to stress the importance of not mowing of certain ditches because the mowing can greatly affect the pollinators. **Krosch** reported the Area VI meeting was good, and Wayne Cords gave a good presentation. **Javens** gave details on her trip to Washington DC with NACD. Javens reported they met with 5 Representatives and had a good story involving Collin Peterson. She Ian Cunningham presented information about removing farmers from the SAM DUNS legislation. Javens reported that Kathy Pullman, Doug Thomas, and Nathan Hylla all were there to discuss conservation issues. **Shanahan** said the Area VI meeting was good and he also like Wayne Cords presentation on erosion. Shanahan said the MASWCD Legislative days dragged out a bit this year, but he did have good conversations with Cornish, Torkelson, and Rosen. Shanahan said it is very important to make ourselves visible at the capitol. **Gardner** reported MPI is busy with banquet planning, and are expecting a good crowd. Gardner was curious as to who polices overweight vehicles on the roads.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held March 4, 2017

\* Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

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

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