



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of May 4, 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, and NRCS District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis, 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. **Krosch moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Guests: Javens recognized Purvis and Potts.

Minutes: Rollings moved to approve the April 6, 2017 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$1,050,137.68
Receipts	\$ 658.28
Disbursements	\$ 19,533.74
Total	\$1,031,262.22

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

Open Communications

Guests:

County Commissioner: Purvis announced they had reviewed a number of resumes to replace the Extension Ag Educator Diane Dewitte. Purvis reported the County Ditch 28 improvement was nearly complete. He said the Tri-County Transit name had been chosen as True Transit. Purvis explained the County is looking to manage the Ponderosa Landfill internally instead of outsourcing. He said the County Parks were open and road projects were underway. Purvis explained the meetings have continued on the new Land Use Plan. Rollings commented that he and Purvis had been reviewing possible grants and funding for replacement of lights in rural areas with LED lights. Rollings explained the funding would work similar to cities that have been able to utilize funding sources to replace their inefficient lights with LEDs. Krosch asked what input the County was looking for the Land Use Plan. Purvis said the plan had not been updated in 20 years, so anything to do with land use that you feel has changed in the past 20 years. Purvis explained that subdivision rules and privately run campgrounds are currently examples of

suggestions brought to the meetings. Javens noted that Bluff Management Zone rules might a good idea to bring to the new Land Use Plan.

District Conservationist: Liddell reviewed a scenario from a recent potential Emergency Watershed Protection project on the LeSueur River. Liddell said the EQIP and CSP contract numbers are slowing increasing.

Farmbill Biologist: Potts presented report (See Attached)

District Manager: Bach updated the board about meetings he attended noting a presentation to Mankato Area Lifelong learners on April 11th, Meeting with DNR & Crystal Waters Project on April 21st, and the Lake Ballantyne group on April 28th. He gave an update on 9 current projects under construction or about to start construction. He discussed easement work that had been done for 5 different RIM easements. He also talked about how the SWCD is working with NRCS and FSA to help complete CRP contract paperwork and field visits with the focus on CP21 Bufferstrip contracts. Due to the Buffer Law there is a long waiting list of people looking to sign up for programs. The SWCD has been working with many landowners discussing buffer law requirements and marking boundaries out in the field.

Cost-Share:

Gary Borgmeier – FR14-6FY15: Bach requested to encumber \$15,530.00 for the installation of a Grade Stabilization Structure Repair with an estimated cost estimate of \$15,530.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$15,530.00 for the Gary Borgmeier Grade Stabilization Structure Repair, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Michael Krosch – FR14-1FY17: Bach requested to encumber \$42,000.00 for the installation of a Grade Stabilization Structure Repair with an estimated cost estimate of \$42,000.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$42,000.00 for the Michael Krosch Grade Stabilization Structure Repair, seconded by Shanahan. Krosch abstained. Motion adopted.**

Blue Earth County Drainage Authority – CWF-MDM-17-7-01: Bach requested to encumber \$32,625.00 of GBERBA funding for 10 Water and Sediment Control Structures and 5 side inlet structures on County Ditch 56 with an estimated cost of \$43,500.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$32,625.00 for the Blue Earth County Drainage Authority Water project on County Ditch 56, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Dennis Thompson – 3FY17: Bach requested to encumber \$317.00 for a well sealing with an estimated cost of \$635.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$317.00 for the Dennis Thompson well sealing, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

New Business:

Sprayer Purchase: Bach reviewed the quote for the Sprayer from Ag Spray Supply. Bach explained the need for a sprayer for the seeding program. Bach also presented the option of the GPS guidance to increase the efficiency and reduction of spray overlap while driving in the grass plantings. Shanahan suggested the possibility of using a centrifugal pump instead of a roller pump. **Rollings moved to approve the purchase of the sprayer and GPS unit as quoted on the attached quote sheet with the 2016 Local Capacity Grant with the ability to increase the total cost by 10% if a centrifugal pump is preferred, seconded by Gardner. Motion Adopted.**

FY18 FarmBill Assistance Grant: Bach explained the FarmBill Assistance funds are administered by BWSR and help fund Potts' position in our office. Bach said District is only able apply for one year of funding at a time to continue the position. **Rollings moved to re-apply for the funds and authorize Bach to sign the agreements, Krosch seconded. Motion adopted.**

Lake Crystal Parade: Bach explained the Lake Crystal Parade would be held on June 16th, and would cost 50.00 to enter. **Rollings moved to enter the SWCD into the Lake Crystal Parade, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Other Waters Designation: Bach reviewed the map of 50 and 16.5 foot buffers, and he explained the reason behind the designation of other waters at the SWCD Level. Javens explained a few ideas to approaching the Other Waters that she had seen in other Districts. Bach said that the staff will continue to research over the next month, and asked Supervisors to offer comments as well. Bach said the information and resolution will be prepared for the next Board meeting.

June Area VI Meeting: **Billings** announced the Blue Earth SWCD would be hosting the Area VI meeting on June 28th. **Bach** asked for suggestions for a location. A number of the area wineries were discussed. **Gardner** said he would check into some locations and contact staff with the information.

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: **Rollings** asked everyone to let him know if they hear if the MPCA reaches a decision in the Volks Wagon settlement. **Rollings** asked **Javens** if she knew the plant that was used in Lake Shaokatan to combat the algae. **Rollings** encouraged everyone to attend the County Land Use Planning meetings. **Rollings** handed out an article concerning a Pheasants Forever member criticizing the Minnesota Legislature. **Krosch** wanted to make sure that the venue picked for the Area VI meeting has a good sound system, so everyone can hear. **Javens** met with **Pott's** boss to discuss a software program that Pheasants Forever is trying to make available for landowners to determine losses from putting land into a conservation program. **Shanahan** said the GBERBA Executive meeting had raised issues with ISG projects in Cottonwood and Freeborn Counties. **Shanahan** also raised concerns that the Blue Earth County Commissioner assigned to the GBERBA Executive committee has not been present at the meetings lately. **Gardner** reported the banquet brought in \$48,000 plus the \$23,000 from Mankato Motors sales commitment. **Gardner** said MPI has been looking into the process of replacement of the Wildlife Management Area signs at the hunting accesses, but is finding out it is a bit harder than expected to get the signs replaced.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held June 8, 2017
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ **Carol Krosch, Secretary** _____

Approved Date: _____ **Emily Javens, Chairman** _____