



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

1160 South Victory Drive, Suite #3
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-4744
(507) 345-6036

Approved Minutes of August 10, 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 Specialist: Jake Conservation Technician: Holly Kalbus, NRCS District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

Guests: County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist: Gary Watson, 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 Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Guests: Javens welcomed Watson, Bruender, and Potts.

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

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 916,499.79
Receipts	22,528.57
Disbursements	<u>\$ 72,287.84</u>
Total	\$ 866,740.52

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

Open Communications

Guests:

County Commissioner: Bruender reported the meetings concerning intersections and roundabout issues. Bruender said there have been good discussions about the new county building construction plans. Javens asked if the County had discussed plans for the buffer funds that they will be receiving. Bruender said they have started meetings to develop a policy. Bach said Environmental Services and the Ditch Authority are still working out details. Krosch asked about the progress of the Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Bruender reported that Julie Conrad presented the final draft to the Board, and the Board approved the plan. Rollings asked whether the "Other Waters" were included in the plan, and Javens said the "Other Waters" were incorporated in the final plan.

District Conservationist: Liddell introduced Watson. Liddell reported there were 185 CRP offers made last year.

Liddell listed the number of contracts currently for CSP, WRP, and EQIP. **Watson** announced NRCS will be reducing its regional areas from 6 to 4. Watson gave details about the reduction in the NRCS budget and the continued hiring freeze. Watson said that in Minnesota only 61% of the 340 NRCS positions are currently filled.

District Manager: Bach reported that he had given a presentation at the GBERBA meeting about Lake Crystal. Bach said he has been contacted by many partnering agencies after giving the presentation. Bach noted the Crystal Lake water quality is looking a lot better this year, cause is due to many projects and not any one specific thing. Bach reported the meeting of Area VI managers to collaborate as a team to help everyone work through a lot of the recent changes in staff and funding. Bach said the TSA is going through changes after Bartsch and Braun left for new positions. Bach reported that the SWCD had been working closely with NRCS and FSA to complete CRP eligibility checks for CP21 practices. Bach said Liddell has helped partner with the SWCD better than past staff. Bach reported the new SWCD staff have been excelling. Bach noted that Kalbus had been with the office for just over a month and had been working out very well. Bach reported Denisen took on a lot of responsibility as an intern and was a great worker. Bach said Jake was heading up some programs already after only 5 months.

Cost-Share:

James Vonderharr – W-04-16: Billings requested to encumber \$4,687.50 for the establishment of a native seed propagation site with an estimated cost estimate of \$6,250.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$4,687.50 for the James Vonderharr seed propagation establishment site, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

John and Constance Rollings – FR14-7FY15: Billings requested to encumber \$31,500.00 for the replacement of a Grade Stabilization Structure with an estimated cost estimate of \$31,500.00. **Gardner moved to encumber \$31,500.00 for the John and Constance Rollings Grade Stabilization Structure Repair, seconded by Krosch. Rollings abstained. Motion adopted.**

Luke and Matt Lantz – CL-CC-1FY16: Kalbus requested to encumber \$21,516.75 for the planting of a Cover Crops for 3 years with an estimated cost estimate of \$26,893.20. **Rollings moved to encumber \$21,516.75 for the Luke and Matt Lantz Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Steve Campbell – CL-CC-2FY16: Kalbus requested to encumber \$17,331.30 for the planting of a Cover Crops for 3 years with an estimated cost estimate of \$21,661.92. **Krosch moved to encumber \$17,331.30 for the Steve Campbell Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Ralph Campbell – CL-CC-3FY16: Kalbus requested to encumber \$2,358.00 for the planting of a Cover Crops for 3 years with an estimated cost estimate of \$2,947.20. **Rollings moved to encumber \$2,358.00 for the Ralph Campbell Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Ken Oldenburg – CL-CC-4FY16: Kalbus requested to encumber \$16,034.40 for the planting of a Cover Crops for 3 years with an estimated cost estimate of \$20,040.96. **Gardner moved to encumber \$16,034.40 for the Ken Oldenburg Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Lucas Bunde – 319-TMDL-07-01: Kalbus requested to encumber of \$2,250.00 for the planting of a Cover Crops for 1 year with an estimated cost estimate of \$3,000. **Krosch moved to encumber \$2,250.00 for the Lucas Bunde Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Renee Rollings – FR14-5FY15A: Billings requested to amend the encumbered amount and total estimated costs of the Grade Stabilization Repair. The encumbered amount would change from \$22,500.00 to \$34,300.00 and the total cost would change from \$22,500.00 to \$34,300.00. **Krosch moved to amend the encumber amount from \$22,500.00 to \$31,300.00 and the total cost from \$22,500.00 to \$34,300.00 for the Renee Rollings Grade Stabilization Structure Repair, seconded by Gardner. Rollings abstained. Motion adopted.**

New Business:

Farmbill Biologist: Potts presented report (See Attached)

FY16 Buffer Law Closeout: Bach reviewed the FY16 Buffer Law Grant Closeout report and requested the Board's approval. **Rollings moved to approve the FY16 Buffer Law Grant Closeout, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

FY16 Easement Delivery Closeout: Bach reviewed the FY16 Easement Delivery Grant Closeout report and requested the Board's approval. **Shanahan moved to approve the FY16 Easement Delivery Grant Closeout, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Middle Minnesota Watershed: Bach explained the watershed boundary change proposed by Le Sueur County with the attached map. Bach explained the proposed Middle Minnesota area for a future One Watershed One Plan. Bach said the changes to the boundaries make sense. Bach mentioned BWSR said the boundary changes are possible as long as the LGU's are in agreement. Bach said this process is ongoing and he just wanted to make the Board aware.

FY18 Buffer Cost-Share: Fritz reviewed the possible Grant Agreement for \$60,000 and FY18 Buffer Cost-Share Policy. Fritz said the funds would follow the FY18 Buffer Cost-Share Policy if approved. Krosch said the timing of these funds seems behind. Fritz agreed, but said that seeding waivers are being approved, and those individuals would qualify. **Rollings moved to approve entering into the FY18 Buffer Cost-Share agreement, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted. Rollings moved to approve the FY2018 Buffer Cost-Share policy, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

BWSR Academy: Bach announced 2017 BWSR academy would be November 1-3. Bach estimated the cost to be \$400 per staff member. **Shanahan moved to approve the attendance of the BWSR Academy by all staff, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Clothing Allowance Policy: Bach explained that clothing allowance were brought up at the last Area VI Managers Meeting. Bach created a policy based off the neighboring counties. Bach explained the policy details the use of allowance on particular logoed clothing items. The Board thought it was a good idea and should consider a policy for Supervisors in the future. **Rollings moved the approval of the Staff Clothing Allowance Policy with a \$200.00 per calendar year limit, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Conservationist of the year: Bach reviewed the past winners and suggested the Trio family for this year's award. Bach noted that the Trio's were selected as the Extension's Farm Family for the year too. **Rollings moved to award the Trio Family as the 2017 Conservationists of the Year, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

SWCD Governance Conference: Billings reviewed the pamphlet for the SWCD Governance Conference and asked which Supervisors would like to attend. Shanahan said he would like to go. Everyone else wanted an email reminder before the registration deadline. **Gardner moved to allow any Supervisor or Staff to attend the SWCD Governance Conference, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Conservation Corps Apprentice: Bach explained Denisen had been with the Conservation Corps Apprentice for 3 months, and at this point it would be hard to let him go because he has done such a good job. Bach said there would be current grant funds that would fund him for a year. Bach said if the Board would approve the SWCD would transition Denisen to a Conservation Technician. **Rollings moved to offer Denisen the position of Conservation Technician with a wage of \$16.00 per hour, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Javens discussed some up coming meetings including a few Joint AMC and BWSR meetings. Javens asked about attendance at the 25 by 25 meeting in Mankato. **Rollings moved to allow everyone to attend the 25 by 25 meeting, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.** Javens commented on how well Krosch spoke at Farmfest. **Rollings** had nothing further to report, and said that he would have to leave early. **Krosch** reported the NACD meeting in Iowa was good. She attended one of the tours at the NACD meeting and there was good discussion on aesthetics of urban projects. She said the speakers were very good. Krosch reported she was at Farmfest and spoke on the importance of good staff. She said she enjoyed the other speakers and representatives. **Javens** explained that she was a part of the MASWCD resolution committee, and they had reviewed all the resolutions up for vote. Javens

said she attended the Water Plan meeting. Javens reported that the NACD meeting was great and they had 400 to 500 in attendance. **Shanahan** said Mike Roll gave a good presentation at the GBERBA meeting. **Gardner** said MPI is already making good progress for next year's banquet. Gardner reported there was a good turnout for the youth outdoor day.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held September 7, 2017
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____