



# *Blue Earth County*

## *Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Approved Minutes of September 7, 2017

**Supervisors Present:** Chairman: Emily Javens, Vice-Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, and Secretary: Carol Krosch

**Staff Present:** District Manager: Jerad Bach, Assistant Manager: John Billings, 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. **Rollings moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

**Guests:** Javens welcomed Purvis.

**Minutes:** **Shanahan moved to approve the August 10, 2017 minutes, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

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

Balance on hand	\$ 866,740.52
Receipts	74,322.54
Disbursements	\$ 33,790.14
Total	\$ 907,272.92

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

### **Open Communications**

#### **Guests:**

**County Commissioner: Purvis** reported the County is working on the buffer legislation requirements. Purvis said most of the road construction will finish on time this year. Purvis noted the CD56 project is going well. He announced the Government Center Expansion will start with the parking lot next year. Purvis reported the budget will show a 6.6% net increase in the tax base which will help offset any need for tax increases. He said Pheasants Forever would be meeting with the County about a recent purchase of land in Lincoln Township. Purvis said Bray Park is now in need of a new well. Rollings asked if Rapidan Park was used very much. Purvis said the park gets a good amount of use. Krosch asked where the County was at with buffer ordinance. Purvis said Environmental Services was working on it to ensure everything complies with the State. Javens announce there would be an upcoming meeting between AMC and MASWCD to discuss taxing authority of SWCDs. Purvis said he thought it was a good idea. Bach commented that the money we receive currently from the County is great, but we could

increase conservation practice implementation locally, with local priorities, and with local sourced funds.

**District Conservationist: Liddell** reviewed the number of EQIP and CSP contracts that he had been working with the past month. Liddell reported that the CRP deadlines were met, and the site assessment requirements were met because of all the work put in by the SWCD. Liddell thanked the SWCD staff for their help. Liddell announced Keith Feliciano-Cortes would be leaving for another NRCS position in Minnesota.

**District Manager: Bach** presented report (see attached).

**Cost-Share:**

**Luke and Matt Lantz – CL-NM-1FY16: Bach** requested to encumber \$17,892.30 for the following a nutrient management plan for three years. **Rollings moved to encumber \$17,892.30 for the Luke and Matt Lantz three-year Nutrient Management contract, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

**New Business:**

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

**FY18&19 Base Grant Agreement: Bach** explained the condensed agreement. Bach reviewed the years and amounts. **Rollings moved to approve the FY18&19 Base Grant Agreement and appoint Bach as the Financial Signing Authority, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

**Conservation Specialist – Probation Period Ending: Bach** explained he had reviewed Fritz and found him in good standing. Bach said the new staff are not acting like new staff. He said the staff are performing like experienced staff. Bach said Fritz has been leading the CRP and Buffer Law programs for the District. He expressed Fritz has been a great asset. Bach suggested ending probation and a wage increase. **Krosch moved to end Fritz's probation and increase his pay to \$19.00 for the next pay period, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

**Clothing Allowance - Supervisors: Javens** said she wanted this item added to agenda because she wants to make sure supervisors have SWCD clothing when they are representing the District at events. Javens suggested a \$100.00 a year limit for Supervisors. Krosch explained she would prefer a name badge in most cases. All the Supervisors continued offering suggestions on clothing items. **Shanahan moved to approve the purchase of one shirt and one name badge for all Supervisors, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

**MASWCD Resolution Packet: Billings** reviewed the resolution packet. Billings noted the ballot is due November 1, and he will send out reminders to submit votes.

**Supervisors and Chairman:**

**Supervisors: Rollings** reported Iowa is doing some interesting things with changes to hog odor with diet and water. Rollings wanted everyone to think of ideas for the Volkswagen settlement. He said he was going to be helping with an application to Volkswagen settlement for energy efficient light replacement in rural communities. Rollings explained that Vernon Center would like to get on the rain gauge monitoring network. Rollings wants to get the proper rain gauges to Vernon Center, so the rain data will be accepted by the Climatology Office. Rollings expressed that the historical numbers might show drier area around Vernon Center that isn't being considered as a different climate. **Krosch** reported there is still an influx of solar energy projects being approved at the County Board. Krosch reported the removal of acres from CD12. Krosch noted the post about the fish barrier on the Ditch Blog. **Javens** said Land o Lakes is getting into sustainably raised agricultural products. Javens said they are looking to have at least 50% of all land used for Land o Lakes products be from sustainable practices because of market driven pressures. Javens noted that the SWCD had two of our Conservationists of the year present at the 25 By 25 meeting. Javens said there were a lot of legislators, agency staff and public in attendance at the 25 By 25 meeting. **Shanahan** said the 25 By 25 meeting impressed him from the variety of people concerned about water quality in attendance. Shanahan reported he learned at the GBERBA Executive meeting that there is a lot of grant funding left to implement.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held October 5, 2017
- \* Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

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

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