



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of October 5, 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: Holy Kalbus

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

Guests: Javens welcomed Bruender.

Minutes: **Krosch moved to approve the September 7, 2017 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 907,272.92
Receipts	4,700.02
Disbursements	<u>\$ 49,716.56</u>
Total	\$ 862,256.38

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

Open Communications

Guests:

County Commissioner: Bruender presented report. (See Attached) Javens explained how well the County Commissioner representatives are doing at the joint AMC and MASWCD meetings. Everyone at the meetings is agreeing the SWCD needs core funding. Bach said the possible levee funding could go to projects not just staff. This tax funding would allow local dollars go to local projects. Kip agreed comparing the possible SWCD leveeing to the road tax that goes to local road projects.

District Manager: Bach presented report (see attached). Shanahan commented about the additional work that Bach puts in for the South Central TSA. Krosch asked a few clarifying question about Buffer Enforcement. Bach mentioned the possible CREP Technician funding that will help fund the promotion and paperwork with the new CREP. Bach presented the new logo and explained the District will be changing all clothing and letterhead over to

the new logo.

Cost-Share:

Steve Campbell – CL-NM-2FY16: Kalbus requested to encumber \$14,411.88 for the following a nutrient management plan for three years. **Rollings moved to encumber \$14,411.88 for the Steve Campbell three-year Nutrient Management contract, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

New Business:

Job Approval Authority: Bach explained that after meeting with the NRCS Area Resource Conservationist 5 different categories of JAA were submitted for approval for Bach and Kalbus. Bach was approved for all 5 categories at level B JAA and Holly was approved for 4 categories at level B and 1 category at level C JAA. Bach explained the Board needs to approve both JAA approvals. **Rollings moved to approval authority for Bach as approved by NRCS, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted. Krosch moved to approval authority for Kalbus as approved by NRCS, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

South Central TSA Dues: Bach reviewed the cost breakdown of the Shared Services and NPEA Grants. Bach explained the cash match approved by the South Central TSA Board. Bach asked for approval for the 2017 TSA cash match of \$3,751.00. **Rollings moved to approve the 2017 South Central TSA Cash match of \$3,751.00, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Trailer Purchase for Gator: Bach reviewed the quoted trailer prices. Bach explained the need for a more efficient and user-friendly trailer for the gator. The Board members had a brief discussion on the possibility of an enclosed trailer. Gardner moved to purchase a trailer not to exceed \$3,500.00, using FY17 Buffer Law Funds, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.

2018 Farm Bill Policy Request: Javens presented the Policy Requests email. Javens explained the importance that 4 out of 5 Farm Bill policy requests came from Minnesota.

NACD Investment: Billings presented the NACD request for Investments. Billings noted that we had given \$2,000.00 the past two years. **Rollings moved to make a \$2,000.00 investment to NACD for 2018, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Rollings had nothing to report this month. **Krosch** reported that the conservation related projects have slowed down a bit at the County Board meetings. Krosch commended everyone for doing a great job. **Javens** reported the joint AMC and MASWCD meetings are going well. Javens said the NACD is looking to have a \$10,000,000.00 grant that will help fund each state with technical representatives. **Shanahan** reported he attended the GBERBA and TSA meetings. Shanahan said they discussed the absence of the 3 TSA employees and the future of TSA staff. Shanahan commended Bach again for his hard work with the TSA. Shanahan reported he also attended the SWCD Governance and thought presentations and questions were superb. Shanahan said Jennifer Wolf made a great presentation on open meeting law and parliamentary procedure. **Gardner** reported that MPI took their annual limo ride to look at land they have managed and purchased. Gardner said a potential big purchase is in the works but the numbers are still in the flux.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held November 9, 2017
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____