



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of November 9, 2017

Supervisors Present: 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 Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz

Guests: County Commissioner: Kip Bruender and Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman John Rollings at 4:03 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: Rollings welcomed Bruender.

Minutes: **Shanahan moved to approve the October 5, 2017 minutes, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 862,256.38
Receipts	43,359.40
Disbursements	<u>\$ 114,177.39</u>
Total	\$ 791,438.39

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

Open Communications

Guests:

County Commissioner: Bruender reported some road projects fell behind this fall and County Highway 14 will be gravel over the winter. Bruender said the current levee projection is at 7.9%. He said how much he appreciates the SWCD's work. Rollings asked there was any violence threatened over buffers. Bruender, Bach, and Fritz all said yes, but that nothing was extreme. Rollings said he would support any training for employees that would help deal with potential hostile situations. Bruender added that any threats should at a minimum be written down and documented.

Conservation Specialist: Fritz reviewed the Buffer Law Compliance Chart with the Board. Fritz reported that he continues to work closely with a number of landowners and everything has gone pretty smooth. Fritz said the State is reporting buffer compliance in number of parcels instead of how we have reported in acres compliant. Fritz then

explained the compliance enforcement timeline.

Farmbill Biologist: Potts presented his report. (See Attached) Shanahan asked if the 108 CRP contracts this year all reenrolls. Potts said it was a mix of new contracts and reenrollments. Krosch asked if the CRP rental rates had dropped significantly. Potts said some had changed quite a bit, but not all of the rates dropped.

District Manager: Bach presented report (see attached). Bach reviewed the instructions for Supervisors to follow in order to purchase SWCD clothing. Bach mentioned the possible idea of having a booth at the Ag Expo. Bach said there was funds left in the budget booth, and the registration is under his approval cap. **Shanahan moved to have the SWCD register for a booth at the Minnesota Ag Expo, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Cost-Share:

Lantz – CL-NM-1FY16: Bach presented the letter from Lantz requesting to cancel his nutrient management contract due to nitrogen restrictions that would not work with his operation. Bach said Lantz might try some test strips this year, but didn't want to continue with the contract. **Krosch moved to cancel the Lantz Nutrient Management contract (Number CL-NM1FY16), seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

New Business:

2014 Flood Grant Extension: Billings reviewed the progress of the projects involved with the 2014 Minnesota Flood Relief – Phase 1 and 2 grants. Billings presented the grant expiration date amendment requests for both grants. He said the grant end dates would be extended to December 31, 2018. **Krosch moved to approved the request for amendment expiration date to December 31, 2018 for the 2014 Minnesota Flood Relief – Phase 1, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted with Rollings abstaining. Gardner moved to approved the request for amendment expiration date to December 31, 2018 for the 2014 Minnesota Flood Relief – Phase 2, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted with Rollings abstaining.**

Area VI Meeting - Waseca: Bach reviewed the dated of the Area VI Meeting which will be held in Waseca. Bach asked everyone to reply to Billings by November 17th if they plan to attend.

MASWCD Annual Convention: Billings reviewed the dates and asked who would like to attend. Billings said he would be sending out a reminder for final plans and hotel reservation requests. Krosch volunteered to purchase the silent auction item. **Shanahan moved to donate an item of \$50.00 value to the MASWCD Silent Auctions, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Outstanding Conservationist: Bach reported the incident with the illegal removal of memorial trees on State Highway 22 by Steve Trio. Bach asked what the Board would like to do with the incident. Bach relayed what Trio had said to him. The Board discussed options and a possible special meeting. **Rollings moved to schedule a special meeting Thursday November 16, 2017 to review the official reports and make a decision involving the Outstanding Conservationist Award, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Minnesota CREP Outreach and Implementation Program Grant Agreement: Bach explained the funding grant for implementing the CREP program. Bach said that BWSR will fund the grant at 90% and the SWCD will be responsible for matching 10%. **Rollings moved to make enter into the Minnesota CREP Outreach and Implementation Program Grant, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Krosch commented that it was nice the County had gone with the minimal penalty for the Buffer Compliance Enforcement. **Shanahan** reported he had a quiet month. Shanahan reported there was a situation with GBERBA that was being handled. He reported there was an interesting discussion on drainage in Faribault County at the last GBERBA meeting. **Gardner** had a few questions involving human waste disposal in fields. He reported that MPI had a BBQ and Clay shoot. Gardner announced the ongoing purchase agreement for a 416 acre parcel outside of Madelia. Gardner said there were a couple other parcels that might be purchased too.

Adjourn: There being no further business **Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm
- * Special Board meeting will be held on November 16, 2017
- * Next regular meeting will be held December 7, 2017
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____