



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of December 7, 2017

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

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, and Assistant Manager: John Billings

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis, NRCS District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Emily Javens at 4:05 p.m.

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Housekeeping:

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed. **Gardner moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Guests: Javens welcomed Purvis.

Minutes: **Rollings moved to approve the November 9, 2017 minutes, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Rollings moved to approve the November 16, 2017 minutes, seconded by Javens. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 791,438.39
Receipts	1,712.39
Disbursements	<u>\$ 59,417.57</u>
Total	\$ 733,733.21

Billings presented the Treasurer's Report for November. **Rollings moved to file the November 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 ordinance for the Buffer Law had been approved. Purvis gave an update on the construction projects on highways 14, 83, and 12. Purvis announced that Blue Earth County was awarded County of the Year and received another award for the Yellow Line Project at the AMC conference. He said the projected levee will be 7.99%. Purvis also said he finished up his 3-year term as chair of the Public Safety Committee.

District Conservationist: Liddell reviewed CRP contract offer numbers. He thanked the SWCD staff for helping out a lot. Liddell said the plan is to have all CRP business done by December 15. Liddell gave an update about the recent shooting of the NRCS employee door. He said the Office of Inspector General found witnesses that put the shooting at 6:15 a.m. on November 27. No other information has been found. Bach reported that he had given information to the investigator. The supervisors discussed the possibility of active shooter training with the Sheriff's

Department.

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).

Cost-Share:

Ziegler-FR14-3FY15: Billings explained the timeline of the funding extension and requested to reencumber \$12,650.00 for the Grade Stabilization repair. **Rollings moved to encumber \$12,650.00 for the Elnora Ziegler Grade Stabilization repair contract, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Borgmeier-FR14-6FY15A: Billings explained the timeline of the funding extension and requested to amend the install date to December 31, 2018. **Shanahan moved to amend the install date to December 31, 2018 for the Gary Borgmeier Grade Stabilization repair contract, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Rollings-FR14-7FY15: Billings explained the timeline of the funding extension and requested to reencumber \$31,500.00 for the Grade Control Structure repair. **Krosch moved to encumber \$31,500.00 for the John and Constance Rollings Grade Control Structure repair contract, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted with Rollings abstaining.**

New Business:

Le Sueur River WRAPS round 2: Bach explained the map and the original WRAPS summary. Bach explained there will not be as much assessment this time around. He said the Blue Earth SWCD would be the administrator of the Surface Water Assessment Grant. Javens commented that the Yellow Medicine Watershed told MPCA not to do any civic engagement in their WRAPS because the local conservation staff are more suited for that task.

MN Conservation Corps Apprentice Application: Bach reviewed the application process and deadline for the MN Conservation Corps Apprentice. Bach said the Apprentice would be with the District from May 15th – August 10th. **Rollings moved to have Bach apply for the MN Conservation Corps Apprentice Application, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

2018 Budget: Bach presented the proposed 2018 Budget. Bach said not much had changed from 2017 except for the addition of Denisen's position. **Rollings moved to approved the 2018 Budget, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Employee Reviews: Javens reported that the Personnel Committee found Bach to be exceeding expectations. Bach had reviewed the employees. He explained how well the office is working, and all were recommended for raises. Bach also recommended the probation periods end for Kalbus and Denisen. Javens and Gardner agreed with Bach's recommendations. **Rollings moved to end Kalbus' probation period, seconded by Krosch. Motion Adopted. Shanahan moved to end Denisen's probation period, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted. Rollings moved to increase Bach's wage to \$31.50, Billings' wage to \$25.75, Fritz's wage to \$20.00, Kalbus' wage to \$17.75, and Denisen's wage to \$17.25 the first pay period of January 2018, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.** Shanahan added that we have one fine, cracking good staff. Krosch and Javens agreed.

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Rollings reported he had health problems and was in the hospital, so he couldn't attend the convention. **Krosch** said she enjoyed the convention, and she thought Tom Giles gave a great presentation on the Buffer Law. Krosch was very glad she went. **Javens** gave a report for the NACD resolutions. Javens said the convention was good. She announced the District Capacity Workgroup meetings with AMC were complete, and AMC had agreed now to not oppose any legislation proposed for SWCD taxing. Javens said she would not be able to attend the January meeting on the 4th and asked if we would like to change the date. **Rollings moved to change schedule the January Board meeting on January 11th, at 4:00 pm, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Shanahan reported that GBERBA will not be affected by the fraud issues that happened with Cottonwood SWCD. Shanahan said the Area VI meeting was very informative and had good debate. He also said the Convention was good. **Gardner** said he didn't make the MPI meeting last month, and he was sorry he couldn't make the Convention.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held January 11, 2018
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____