



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of March 8, 2018

Supervisors Present: Chairman: Emily Javens, Vice-Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, and Secretary: Carol Krosch, and PR&I: William Gardner

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Assistant Manager: John Billings, Conservation Technician: Derek Denisen

Guests: County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, Property Assess Clean Energy Loan Program: Robin Weis, NRCS District Conservationists: Reginald Liddell and Ray Hummel, NRCS ACE Employee: Joe Christianson, 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. Bach said that Weis' presentation should be moved up to the Open Communication Section. Billings noted the additions of two new additions to Old and New Business. **Krosch moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Guests: Javens welcomed Purvis, Liddell, Hummel, and Potts

Minutes: Rollings moved to approve the February 8, 2018 minutes, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 707,283.22
Receipts	\$ 648,615.97
Disbursements	<u>\$ 126,237.30</u>
Total	\$1,229,661.89

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

Open Communications

Guests:

PACE Loan Program: Weis presented the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Loan Program. She handed out brochures and explained the funding is for business, nonprofits, churches, agribusinesses, and large group residential property owners. Weis explained the loans are for increased energy efficiency based on an energy audit performed prior to the loan agreement. Weis said there has been a hog facility that received funds for a solar energy upgrade, and other rural businesses in need of better energy efficiency. Rollings asked if people could group together to qualify for the loans. Weis said that grouping would not be allowed. Krosch asked the current rate. Weis said 4%. Javens asked if this was revolving loan program. Weis said it will start to be as more loans are paid back. Javens

asked what the consequences for borrowers that do not pay the loan back. Weis explained it was assessed to taxes, so eventually someone is responsible.

County Commissioner: Purvis presented report (See Attached). Shanahan thanked Purvis for all the daycare funding.

District Conservationist: Liddell introduced Hummel and Christianson. Liddell announced he would be detailed to Utah for a 120 day period to assist the State Conservationist. Liddell reported the EQIP applications are in ranking.

District Manager: Bach presented report (see attached). Javens asked if we would be hiring a replacement for Kalbus. Bach explained we would likely not rehire

Farmbill Biologist: Potts presented his report. (See Attached)

Cost-Share:

Lynch - 4FY17: Bach requested to encumber \$1,085.00 for a well decommissioning with a total cost of \$2,171.00. **Gardner moved to encumber \$1,085.00 for the James Lynch well decommissioning contract, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Old Business:

Levos Easement Alteration: Denisen presented the proposed easement boundary line changes on aerial maps (See Attached). **Shanahan moved to approve the recommendation of the easement boundary change Option C which is nearly a 3 to 1 acre replacement, seconded by Krosch. Motion Adopted.**

New Business:

BWSR Financial Reconciliations: Bach reviewed the reconciliation report for the 2014 Minnesota Flood Relief Grant-Phase 3. **Rollings moved to approved and sign the Disaster Relief reconciliation report, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.** Bach explained the 2016 Local Capacity Grant reconciliation report completion will happen after a determination of compliance for a purchase completed through the grant. **Rollings moved to approved and designate Bach to sign the Financial Report for the 2016 Local Capacity grant, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

FY18 SWCD Local Capacity Amendment: Bach explained the need of the amendment to the 2018 Local Capacity funds. **Rollings moved to accept and sign the 2018 SWCD Local Capacity grant amendment, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Computer Request: Bach reviewed price quote for two computers (See Attached). Bach explained that we have been trying replace two of the six computers every year to keep the systems and hardware up to date. **Shanahan moved to purchased the two quoted computers, seconded by Rollings. Motion adopted.**

Area 6 Meeting: Billings announced the Area 6 meeting would be held in St James on March 22 and asked which supervisors would attend. Shanahan said he could attend, and Rollings said he would try.

Supervisors and Chairman:

Supervisors: Rollings apologized for missing the Area 6 Chairman's Meeting. Rollings reviewed a picture presentation from footage taken from his drone. He said he thought SWCDs would like a tool like a drone for conservation reviews and investigations. **Krosch** reported Blue Earth County approved the disposal of ash at the Ponderosa Landfill. She said she would be attending the Blue Earth WRAPS meeting next week. **Javens** asked permission to have the SWCD pay the per diem and expenses for her NACD Washington trip. She said MASWCD would be paying for the flight and hotel. Everyone agreed the per diem and expenses could be paid by the District. **Shanahan** reported he will be attending the GBERBA, Blue Earth WRAPS, Area VI, and South Central TSA meetings. Shanahan also said he would be in attendance at the SWCD Legislative Day. **Gardner** said MPI was moving forward with a promotional video. Gardner reported MPI would be closing on another acreage soon. Gardner reminded everyone about the MPI banquet is on April 6.

Adjourn: There being no further business, **Rollings moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Shanahan.**
Motion adopted.

- * Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held April 5, 2018
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____