



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of May 10, 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 Specialist, Jake Fritz, and Conservation Technician, Derek Denisen

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis, County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, District Conservationist: Ray Hummel, and BWSR Board Conservationist: Jill Sackett Eberhart

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. **Krosch moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Minutes: **Shanahan moved to approve the April 5, 2018 minutes, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$1,222,627.23
Receipts	\$ 26,583.48
Disbursements	\$ 446,396.65
Total	\$ 802,814.06

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Purvis updated the board on the many road construction projects underway in the County. The Government Center renovations are going well with the concrete being poured after a small delay due to weather. The County Communicator had gone out with a new look and format. Taxpayer Services is gearing up for the property tax payments next week.

BWSR Board Conservationist: Sackett Eberhart explained the "Other Waters" determined by the County and SWCD is included in the County's Comprehensive Water Management Plan but will likely not need to be included in the SWCD's Comprehensive Plan. The 2019 SWCD Local Capacity Grant will be slightly different this year, and the BWSR will be asking for input. The competitive Clean Water Fund grant application period will be open a little longer this year. The Board and staff discussed the Local Capacity funding and Watonwan One Watershed One Plan progress.

District Conservationist: Hummel presented report (see attached). Hummel asked the Commissioners to consider stipulations about land management on County rented crop land to help promote soil stewardship. Commissioners Purvis and Bruender noted there currently isn't a policy but they would look into it for the next rental contract.

District Manager: Bach presented report (see attached). Bach handed out the BWSR Snapshots article about the Crystal Lake efforts (see attached).

COST-SHARE

Josh Oldenburg – CL-CC-5FY16: Denisen requested to encumber \$13,676.40 for the planting of Cover Crops for 3 years with an estimated cost estimate of \$17,093.76. **Rollings moved to encumber \$13,676.40 for the Josh Oldenburg Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Adam Jones – CL-CC-6FY16: Denisen requested to encumber \$8,960.40 for the planting of Cover Crops for 3 years with an estimated cost estimate of \$11,199.36. **Rollings moved to encumber \$8,960.40 for the Adam Jones Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

Roger Hubmer – 319-TMDL-07-03: Denisen requested to encumber \$3,000.00 for the planting of a Cover Crop for 1 year with an estimated cost estimate of \$4,000.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$3,000.00 for the Roger Hubmer Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

John Frey – 319-TMDL-07-04: Denisen requested to encumber \$2,062.50 for the planting of a Cover Crop for 1 year with an estimated cost estimate of \$2,750.00. **Rollings moved to encumber \$2,062.50 for the John Frey Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Poppel Family Farms-MAWQCP Incentive Payment: Bach requested payment approval of \$300.00 for the application and certification incentive payment for the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. **Krosch moved to approve the \$300.00 application and certification incentive payment for the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program for Poppel Family Farms seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

Javens suggested that we recognize the newly certified producers with a letter if they don't want to be formally thanked at an SWCD Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2016 SWCD Capacity Financial Report: Bach reviewed the FY2016 SWCD Local Capacity Services grant Financial Report from the compliance review. **Rollings moved to approve and sign the FY2016 SWCD Local Capacity Service Financial Report, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.**

FY2017 Financial Audit: Billings explained the reasoning for the financial audit required by BWSR. Billings reviewed the bid letter from Peterson Company LTD. **Rollings moved to approve and sign the letter of understanding to hire Peterson Company LTD to perform the financial audit of 2017, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Buffer – Validation of Compliance Request: Fritz reviewed the BWSR policy for Validation of Compliance requests. Fritz then presented two Validation of Compliance requests made by Greg Mikkelsen. The Board reviewed and discussed the requests as presented. **Rollings moved to approve the two Validation of Compliance Requests, seconded by Shanahan. Motion adopted.**

Billings reviewed a comparison chart of buffer legislation compliance with neighboring counties (see attached). It was noted that the Public Ditch parcels listed as noncompliant are for administrative purposes only right now since they technically are compliant until the November 1, 2018 deadline passes.

Lake Crystal Battle of the Bands Parade: Bach reviewed the dates and cost for an entry in the Lake Crystal parade. Bach explained how it has been good public relations to have a the SWCD in the parade. **Krosch moved to have the SWCD register for the Lake Crystal Battle of the Bands Parade, seconded by Gardner. Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings had nothing to report this month. **Krosch** brought up discussion about cover crops and the different species, rates, and application methods. **Javens** discussed testimony given by Greg Mikkelson at the legislature about the SWCD. The Board and staff discussed the matter. **Rollings moved to have Javens and Fritz develop a response letter to be sent to the legislature, and have the Board review prior to sending, seconded by Krosch. Motion adopted.** **Shanahan** reported the GBERBA meeting had more discussion about the financial record keeping. He discussed an ISG project flying drones over the Cobb near his property. **Gardner** announced that MPI brought in \$52,000 at the annual banquet in April. There will be discussions about possibly moving the MPI banquet to summer next year.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held June 7, 2018
- * Minutes submitted by John Billings, Assistant Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Emily Javens, Chairman _____