



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

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Approved Minutes of July 12, 2018

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, and Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz

Guests: District Conservationist: Ray Hummel, and Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Javens at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Krosch moved to approve the June 7, 2018 minutes, seconded by Gardner.

Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 767,165.10
Receipts	\$ 2,516.41
Disbursements	<u>\$ 31,669.27</u>
Total	\$ 738,012.24

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Farmbill Biologist: Potts presented report (see attached). The Board discussed USFWS rules on Easements for grazing.

District Conservationist: Hummel presented report (see attached). Hummel mentioned that NRCS had hired a new State Conservationist Troy Daniell and he would be starting July 27th. A statewide satisfaction survey was sent out to USDA participants and most people were not satisfied with their service. Hummel noted this is due to NRCS being at about half their normal staffing capacity.

District Manager: Bach presented report (see attached).

COST-SHARE

Lantz – CL-NT-1FY16: Fritz requested to encumber \$5,130.08 for a 3 year No-Till contract with an estimated cost of \$6,412.60. Gardner moved to encumber \$5,130.08 for the Lantz No-Till contract, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

Rollings – 319-TMDL-07-05: Fritz requested to encumber \$750.00 for the planting of a Cover Crop for 1 year with an estimated cost of \$1,000.00. Shanahan moved to encumber \$750.00 for the Rollings Cover Crop Planting, seconded by Krosch. **Rollings abstained, Motion adopted.**

Lynch - 4FY17: Fritz requested an amendment to the original contract install by date. The request was to change the install by date from 7/15/18 to 9/15/18 due to wet weather conditions. Krosch moved to change the install by date for the Lynch Well Decommissioning from 7/15/18 to 9/15/18 due to wet weather conditions, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Warner - 5FY17: Fritz requested an amendment to the original contract install by date. The request was to change the install by date from 7/15/18 to 9/15/18 due to wet weather conditions. Krosch moved to change the install by date for the Warner Well Decommissioning from 7/15/18 to 9/15/18 due to wet weather conditions, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS

MASWCD 2018 Officer Elections: Bach reviewed through the information sent out by MASWCD looking for President and Vice President Candidates. The deadline for Board members to file is September 6, 2018.

Position Vacancy: Bach informed the Board that after 10 years of service Assistant Manager Billings had decided to resign effective July 20th. Bach discussed a plan to realign a few job duties and fill the vacancy with an administrative position. The Board discussed different ideas and concerns with moving forward. The Board requested Bach to draft up the administrative position announcement along with the job duties of all staff. Rollings moved to hold a special meeting on July 19th at 4:00 pm to review and approve the administrative position posting, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings updated the Board that the Vernon Center treatment ponds were still not up to snuff and that he had been inquiring about the use of the Carp Virus as a way to treat local lakes with high carp populations. **Krosch** reported on the Blue Earth County Board meeting where there was talk of issues with flooding and property damage. She also discussed the Minnesota nitrogen rule and the draft process. **Javens** Noted that she would not be able to attend the August SWCD Board meeting. An exit interview for Billings was setup for 3:00 on July 19th. **Shanahan** reported he attended the South Central TSA meeting. The Area 6 meeting where there was good discussion about the monarch butterfly and invasive water species. Updated the board on the ISG drainage conference he attended. It offered a lot of excellent information along with breakout sessions on drainage, planning, hydrology and cover crops. Discussion occurred at the meeting about environmental planning and who is liable for downstream impacts. **Gardner** is working on a video for the Watonwan River Watershed and could play a copy of the video at an upcoming SWCD meeting. MPI is working on mowing and seeding on the new Area 451 parcel recently acquired. They are working on a promotional video with Bethany. MPI is working with the sheriff's department to promote "Project Child Safe" a gun lock and safety program. Their annual bus tour to look at projects will be September 13th. They donated \$500 to the Crystal Lake carp removal project.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held August 9, 2018
- * Minutes submitted by Jerad Bach, District Manager

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ John Rollings, Vice-Chair _____