



Blue Earth County

Soil & Water Conservation District

1160 South Victory Drive, Suite #5
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone (507) 345-4744
Fax (507) 345-6036

Approved Minutes of December 6, 2018

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

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, and Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk

Guests: Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist: Jeff Potts, County Commissioner: Will Purvis, County Commissioner: Kip Bruender

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the November 8, 2018 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 687,182.64
Receipts	\$ 24,357.66
Disbursements	<u>\$ 61,767.33</u>
Total	\$ 649,772.97

Kuduk presented the Treasurer's Report for November and read Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses. Rollings moved to file the November Treasurer's Report subject to audit, and pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Purvis presented his report. A Childcare Forgivable Loan request in the amount of \$5,600 was board approved for both the City of Eagle Lake and Epiphany Preschool as well as the City of Madison Lake and All Saints Academy. There are several waste and recycling programs that will begin after the 1st of the year such as document shredding and reduced cost for electronic waste. A rooftop solar energy array was approved to be installed at the Ponderosa landfill. Government center construction is proceeding even with the weather delay. Scott Fichtner is retiring and Drew Campbell decided to not run again and will be replaced by Colleen Landkammer. Bruender added that an open house for Fichtner will be held on December 12, 2018 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. There will also be an open house for Drew Campbell on December 21 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Rollings asked how much the solar array was going to cost and how much energy it would produce. Bruender provided him with estimate figures.

District Conservationist: No Report

District Manager:

Bach presented report (see attached). He also thanked Javens for her service. Rollings asked if Denisen could perform a CREP scoring for a particular parcel. Bach will have Denisen follow up with him.

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist:

Potts presented report (see attached).

NEW BUSINESS**MASWCD Annual Convention:**

Board discussed the logistics of the upcoming Convention. Javens asked if the Outstanding Conservationist would be attending, Bach reported Loeffler had not responded. Javens also asked if Chris Hughes would be able to attend and Bach explained that the MASWCD advised against it until he is sworn in next year.

FY19 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement:

Bach presented the FY19 Farm Bill Grant agreement. This is for Potts' partnership contract with the Blue Earth SWCD. Rollings moved to approve the FY19 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

2014 Flood Phase 1 Grant Closeout:

Bach presented the grant closeout. Rollings moved to approve the 2014 Flood Phase 1 Grant Closeout, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

2014 Flood Phase 2 Grant Closeout:

Bach presented the grant closeout. Rollings moved to approve the 2014 Flood Phase 2 Grant Closeout, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

2014 Flood Phase 3B Grant Closeout:

Bach presented the grant closeout. Gardner moved to approve the 2014 Flood Phase 3B Grant Closeout, seconded by Shanahan. Rollings and Krosch abstained from voting. **Motion adopted.**

FY17 State Cost Share Grant Closeout:

Bach presented the grant closeout. Rollings moved to approve the FY17 State Cost Share Grant Closeout, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

2019 District Budget:

Bach presented the proposed budget. With the new administrative position, Kuduk is able to bill under the capacity grant which will help with the budgeting going forward. The board had discussion on the budget and Javens noted how the budget has come along way over the past 6 years. Rollings moved to approve the 2019 District Budget, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Employee Reviews:

The personnel committee presented their pay raise recommendations to the board. Rollings moved to approve the proposed pay raises, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Shanahan updated the board on the GBERBA meeting he attended in November. It was very informative on the programs and the policies in place for sign up. He wished more landowners could hear from these speakers. Krosch asked if they had these meetings recorded and available online and Shanahan didn't think so.

Rollings asked Fritz how the buffer law compliance was going. Fritz stated that it was going well and 80-83% of public ditches were compliant. The remaining 17% are landowners they haven't been able to reach. No complaints or enforcement issues so far on any buffers.

Javens – No Report

Krosch asked Bach if he knew what the focus would be for the MN Ag Expo. Bach stated that they are currently working out ideas for this year but possibly something similar to last year with the cover crops. He's hoping to finalize it next week. Krosch also asked about the cover crop seedings which Bach explained was a bit behind with the hard fall we've had but we've got time to do those yet next year.

Gardner gave an area 451 update. MPI made a \$250 donation to both the Maple River and Lake Crystal/Nicollet trap teams. Mankato Motors will be donating \$100 a vehicle through the month of March to the MPI organization. Thanked Javens for her service. Rollings asked about the Area 451 tour, Gardner responded that they shot the footage of the projects, even though he wasn't able to attend due to injury, but that would be the best way to see the projects. The club is aware that the Board would like to see it and would like to set up a time to tour.

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

- * Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held January 10, 2019
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Chairman _____