



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of January 10, 2019

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

Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, Conservation Technician: Derek Denisen and NRCS District Conservationist: Reginald Liddell

Guest: Commissioner: Kip Bruender, Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Rollings at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oath of Office:

Secretary Krosch lead Hughes, Rollings, and Gardner in the Oath of Office.

Election of Officers:

Rollings called for nominations for the Officer designations. Krosch nominated herself for Chair, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.** Shanahan moved to elect Rollings as Vice Chair, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.** Shanahan nominated himself as Treasurer, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.** Rollings moved to elect Gardner as Public Relations and Information, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.** Rollings moved to elect Hughes as Secretary, seconded Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Vice-Chairman Rollings turned the meeting over to Chairman Krosch.

Committee Assignments:

Krosch called for the Board to make any changes to the Supervisor Assignments and SWCD Committees.

Rollings moved to replace Javens with Hughes as the representative on the Madison Lake Association, County Ditch Projects, Ballantyne Association and the County Water Plan Assignments and add the One Watershed, One Plan Assignment with Rollings and Krosch as the representatives; seconded by Shanahan. **Motion Adopted.**

Rollings moved to replace Krosch with Hughes at the representative on the County Ditch Law/Administration and Education and promotion committees; seconded by Shanahan. **Motion Adopted.**

2019 SWCD Board Meeting Schedule:

Krosch called for discussion or changes to the Board Meeting schedule. Rollings moved to approve the 2019 SWCD Board Meeting and Holiday Schedule as presented, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Per Diem/Mileage Rate:

Krosch called for discussion or changes to the Per Diem and mileage reimbursement rates. Bach noted the mileage rate was set to change from \$0.545 to \$0.58 starting on January 1, 2019 if the

Supervisors choose to accept the change. Shanahan moved to approve the new mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.58; the Meal Reimbursement Rates (See attached); the Supervisor Per Diem Rates (See attached); keep the SWCD official Newspaper as the Maple River Messenger; and keep the SWCD Official Bank as U.S. Bank, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the December 6, 2018 minutes, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 649,772.97
Receipts	\$ 1,611.98
Disbursements	<u>\$ 104,234.09</u>
Total	\$ 547,150.86

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Bruender presented his report. Reported that the land use plan was finally approved after 2 years. Their meetings will stay as the first Tuesday of each month. They welcomed new board member Landkamer and Purvis will remain Chairman of the Board. Their county engineer reported at their meeting that they are already gearing up for construction season. Rollings asked when County Road 10 will begin construction by Vernon Center, Bruender stated it is slated for 2019. Rollings also stated that some of the corner street signs in his area are deteriorating. Bruender reported that some are under warranty and they are currently working on replacing them but asked Rollings to inform them if some are really bad. Krosch reviewed some of the temporary office changes including Veterans Services and Environmental Services moving to courthouse. Bruender will bring in more information about the temporary office moves at next month's meeting. He's also hoping the parking ramp will open in March and the new expansion should be completed this summer.

District Conservationist: Liddell presented report. NRCS is still working during the shutdown and will continue to work for as long as they can. They are helping landowners by taking deadline sensitive documents for the FSA. He currently has 15 EQIP contracts in the works and they are doing a lot of construction and engineering work on CRP contracts.

District Manager: Bach presented the District report (See attached).

NEW BUSINESS

MASWCD Dues:

Kuduk presented the invoice for the 2016-2017 dues and requested approval of payment. Bach noted the dues were more than the previous year. Rollings moved to make payment of \$4,835.78 for the 2018-2019 MASWCD dues, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Campaign Finance Disclosure:

Bach reviewed the Campaign Finance Disclosure letter with the board. Board members have until January 28, 2019 to file their statement of economic interest. Hughes has an exception being a new board member and must file within 60 days of being sworn in.

Copier Purchase:

Bach presented the proposed copier purchase with the board. Gardner moved to approve the purchase of the Kyocera copier with Coordinated Business Solutions, seconded by Rollings. **Motion Adopted.**

2017 Financial Audit Report:

The Board discussed the 2017 Financial Audit Report. Bach stated the report will be posted on our website and copies will be available in our office.

Krosch asked if Denisen and Fritz would like to give an update. Denisen stated that they are continuing to conduct outreach for the CREP program. Of the 40 letters they sent out to landowners last month, 12 have responded with interest. They are also working on buffer compliance and have sent out a second mailing to those landowners whom they still haven't received confirmation of compliance from.

Krosch asked for Pott's updated. **Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist: Potts** presented report (See attached). Gardner asked when the Pheasants Forever State Convention will be which Potts stated it would be January 17 – 18

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Gardner banquet planning, not much to share from the last MPI meeting.

Shanahan attended the TSA meeting on Dec 18. The employee reviews and raises were a sensitive subject but he was happy to see they were approved. He also attended the GBERBA Tech meeting which focused mainly on One Watershed, One Plan. Watonwan has decided to move forward with a few other counties following suite. The MASWCD Convention was ok but he was not impressed with some of the sessions and speakers. He was happy to see that Loeffler came along to receive his Outstanding Conservationist award.

Rollings enjoyed the Convention and the breakout sessions but did not have anything else to report on this month.

Krosch enjoyed the convention but did not have much to report this month.

Hughes appreciated the efforts of the staff to get him acquainted with the process. Was happy to see the announcement in the paper for the Supervisor vacancy because he knew he would enjoy this role and looks forward to making plans and seeing changes.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 6:00 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held February 7, 2019
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____