



## *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 August 9, 2018

**Supervisors Present:** 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: Reginald Liddell, and County Commissioner: Kip Bruender

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Rollings 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 Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the July 12, 2018 minutes, seconded by Shanahan.

**Motion adopted.**

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed, Krosch moved to approve the July 26, 2018 special meeting minutes, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

**Treasurer's Report:** (See Attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 738,012.24
Receipts	\$ 1,413.80
Disbursements	\$ 72,854.49
Total	\$ 666,571.55

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

#### **OPEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**County Commissioner: Bruender** presented report (see attached). Shanahan asked for an update on current road projects. Bruender gave an update on the status of County 12, Highway 22 & 90 Roundabout and Highway 14. Gardner asked who decides if rumble strips are put on roads. Bruender said it depends if safety concerns warrant them being installed or if there were safety improvement grants available.

**District Conservationist: Liddell** reported that he was back from Utah as of Tuesday. Things went well while he was detailed out in St. George. He worked with 14 counties and supervised around 40 people. He discussed limited water issues out in Utah as most reservoirs are fed by snow melt and the past years had low snow totals. Since getting back he is looking into the current CCRP signup. He also expressed his appreciation for acting DC Hummel who filled in and did a wonderful job while he was in Utah.

**District Manager: Bach** presented report (see attached). The Board discussed the Buffer Compliance numbers and the great job staff did getting that done for the public waters. Liddell asked about the CREP interest and Bach updated that 7 applications have been funded for a total of 361 acres. Krosch asked how quick cover crop contracts can be setup and if there were many people interested on areas where no crop was planted due to the wet spring. Bach said that all contracts need to be Board approved and that the Board meets once a month. The SWCD office has not seen much increase in request due to unplanted areas. Most of the interest is in areas following a cash crop.

**COST-SHARE**

**Rosevold – 6FY17: Fritz** requested to encumber \$1,685.00 for a well decommissioning project with an estimated cost of \$3,370.00. Krosch moved to encumber \$1,685.00 for the Rosevold Well Decommissioning contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Geo 7X GPS Request: Fritz** reviewed the request to purchase a Trimble Geo 7X GPS unit for \$8,685.00 to replace the current GPS unit which is 10 years old. There is a GIS grant with South Central TSA which will cover up to 80% of the request with the SWCD covering the rest with local match. Shanahan moved to approve the purchase of the Geo 7X GPS request, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

**2018 BWSR Academy: Bach** reviewed the estimated costs to send staff to the three day BWSR Academy on October 29, 30 & 31. Bach requested to send 3 existing staff and the new hire to the BWSR Academy for three days closing the office during that time. Krosch approved 4 staff to attend the BWSR Academy and to close the SWCD office on October 29, 30 & 31, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Shanahan** updated the Board on the GBERBA Policy meeting he attended and noted that Bach gave a presentation and did a great job. Shanahan talked about his time at Farmfest where he visited many different conservation booths and discussed water quality and agricultural issues. **Krosch** attended the Blue Earth County meeting where there was discussion about monitoring County ditches. CD28 which was just installed was having issues already that need to be fixed. Krosch updated the Board that Breakfast on the Farm event would be this Saturday August 11 at the Guentzel Family Farm. It's a great event with many kids activities. **Gardner** informed the Board that MPI is working on improvements to Area 451. They are talking about buying a new parcel of land south of Area 451. MPI has created a new email system for its Board members to use. Work is underway on an MPI Promotional video. MPI helped out at the youth day on July 21 at the conservation club. They have a bus tour setup for September 13 at 5:00 to tour projects. The MPI sorghum sales were at about \$4,000.00 this year. **Rollings** reported that the Vernon Center sewage ponds are still not 100%. Progress is being made but the N stabilizer is now in the sediment. They are having trouble getting the bacteria going again. He is working on a telephone tower easement issue where the company has options to buy the land around it or relocated to a different spot on the parcel. This may impact our conservation programs and should be something to watch for.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business Rollings adjourned the meeting.

- \* Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held September 6, 2018
- \* Minutes submitted by Jerad Bach, District Manager

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Krosch, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Emily Javens, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_