



## *Blue Earth County*

### *Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Approved Minutes of October 4, 2018

**Supervisors Present:** Treasurer: John Shanahan, PR&I: William Gardner, and Secretary: Carol Krosch

**Supervisors Absent:** Chairman: Emily Javens, Vice-Chairman: John Rollings

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

**Guests:** County Commissioner: Kip Bruender

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order by Secretary Krosch 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 Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

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

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

Balance on hand	\$ 694,029.65
Receipts	\$ 23,811.47
Disbursements	<u>\$ 12,483.38</u>
Total	\$ 705,357.74

Bach presented the Treasurer's Report for September and read Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses. Gardner moved to file the September Treasurer's Report subject to audit, and pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, seconded by Shanahan. **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 Highway 22.

**District Conservationist: No report**

#### **District Manager:**

**Bach** presented report (see attached). Krosch asked what the stipulations of the cover crop projects are, specifically the size of field one landowner can enroll. Bach explained that there are limits to acreage and they suggest to landowners of not doing too much due to the level of upkeep. Krosch asked if there were specific areas being looked at for phosphorus tank placement and Bach responded that based on data from their monitoring equipment, there are higher risk areas they are targeting. Shanahan asked about an update on the Conservationist of the Year and Bach reported that Harold Loeffler accepted, the paperwork was submitted but there is no update on Area finalists.

#### **COST-SHARE**

**Lyons – 8FY17: Bach** requested to encumber \$1,100.00 for a well decommissioning project with an estimated cost of \$2,200.00. Gardner moved to encumber \$1,100.00 for the Lyons Well Decommissioning contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**District 1 Vacancy:**

**Bach** opened discussion on the District 1 vacancy stating that it is up to the Board on how they would like to move forward with the appointment. Now that it’s been approved in the September minutes, the discussion can begin officially. The appointed person will serve the remaining two years of Javen’s term (calendar years 2019 & 2020) and at the next general election in 2020 that person would need to apply to be on the ballot or step down. Board members would like to publicly announce the vacancy per our standard method and will pass along the message personally to specific groups of interest.

**Buffer Monitoring Policy:**

**Fritz** presented the Blue Earth SWCD Monitoring Policy (see attached). Shanahan asked what type of role departments such as Environmental Services and the County Drainage Authority would hold. Fritz explained he’s been in close contact with these departments throughout this process and SWCD will handle complaints and monitoring. Every effort will be made to work with landowners on compliance before handing the issue over to Environmental Services for enforcement. Gardner moved to approve the Blue Earth SWCD Buffer Monitoring Policy, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**MASWCD Resolution Packet:**

**Bach** presented the MASWCD Resolution packet (see attached). Supervisors must have their voter sheets into Kuduk by October 19<sup>th</sup> so they can be processed and sent to MASWCD.

**MASWCD Annual Convention:**

**Bach** addressed the upcoming MASWCD Annual Convention schedule (see attached). Shanahan will attend all three days, Krosch and Gardner are undecided. Supervisors should let Kuduk know by next month’s board meeting and she can make reservations.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Shanahan** updated the Board on the TSA meeting he attended and noted that he hopes the Enterprise Fleet Management program goes through. Bach updated him that we did receive the final VIN needed to begin the process. He also updated the Board on the GBERBA Policy meeting he attended where there was a lot of grant discussions of which need to be closed and what’s available for funds. Shanahan also talked about the wet fall season and how there isn’t much progress happening in the fields. **Krosch** updated the Board on the training she attended regarding negotiations and the skills she learned. The next training is on October 10<sup>th</sup> and the topic is community involvement. She commented on the government building construction and that things are going well. **Gardner** informed the Board that there is no update yet on the Area 451 property MPI was looking at purchasing and they are still working on the promotional video for MPI. Gardner attended the bus tour on September 13<sup>th</sup> and was pleased with the progress of the projects taking place in the McPherson township. MPI is hoping to make a monetary donation to the trap teams in Nicollet and possibly also LCWM. They are continuing their planning for the upcoming 2019 Banquet which will take place in April. Ditch pickup will begin next week. Gardner also reported that even though pheasant numbers are up about 30% for the state average, the south-central area numbers are down due to the late spring snow storm this past April.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held November 8, 2018
- \* Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

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

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