



## ***Blue Earth County***

### ***Soil & Water Conservation District***

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Approved Minutes of November 8, 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

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

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the October 4, 2018 minutes, seconded by Krosch.

**Motion adopted.**

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

Balance on hand	\$ 705,357.74
Receipts	\$ 32,189.89
Disbursements	<u>\$ 50,364.99</u>
Total	\$ 687,182.64

Kuduk presented the Treasurer's Report for October and read Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses. Rollings moved to file the October Treasurer's Report subject to audit, and pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, seconded by Shanahan.

**Motion adopted.**

#### **OPEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**County Commissioner: No Report**

**District Conservationist: No Report**

**District Manager:**

**Bach** presented report (see attached). Rollings asked for clarification on how many 16.5' buffers required compliance, Fritz stated that there were 600+ in Blue Earth County. Krosch asked if there was a procedure for where the bioreactors and phosphorus removal systems were being placed. Bach explained that they have reports and samplings showing higher priority areas and those are where they are focusing on. Krosch asked for the approximate cost of installing one of the tanks. Bach gave an estimate at about \$10,000 per system. With grant funds and financial assistance from Crystal Waters group, the project can be free of cost to landowners.

**Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist:**

**Potts** presented report (see attached). Shanahan made a comment of how long a particular project was taking to get completed. Rollings asked where the RIM easements were exactly, Potts didn't have the exact location but gave township locations.

## **COST-SHARE**

**Nitch Notch Renovations – 9FY17:** Bach requested to encumber \$717.00 for a well decommissioning project with an estimated cost of \$1,500.00. Krosch moved to encumber \$717.00 for the Nitch Notch Renovations well decommissioning contract, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

**VonDerharr – W04-16:** Bach requested to approve payment in the amount of \$4,687.50 for a critical area planting project with an estimated cost of \$6,335.00. Gardner moved to approve payment \$4,687.50 for the VonDerharr critical area planting contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **District 1 Appointment:**

Bach opened up the discussion of the appointment process. After last month's meeting, we advertised in the Mankato Free Press, on our website as well as the Mapleton Messenger. We received one application for the District 1 Appointment. The board reviewed the application and discussed the starting and ending dates. Javens would step down at the end of December and the new appointment would start January 2019. Rollings moved to appoint Chris Hughes as the District 1 Supervisor, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

### **Crystal Lake Grant Extension:**

Bach explained the process of how an extension must be approved for execution and why we are requesting to extend this grant for another year. Krosch moved to approve the Crystal Lake Grant Extension, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

### **NACD Dues:**

Kuduk reviewed the last six years of payment amounts for the NACD dues with the board. Javens reviewed the benefits of remaining a Diamond Member and asked what other entities were in that category. Bach stated there was only one entity in the Platinum category and two others in the Diamond category. Rollings moved to approve NACD dues in the amount of \$2,000, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

### **MASWCD Annual Convention:**

Discussion of who will be attending and when. Kuduk will make arrangements for registrations and hotel accommodations. Gardner stated he is unable to attend. The Board would like to contribute again this year to the silent auction. Krosch is willing to pick it up and bring it along. Javens moved to approve the purchase of a gift for the silent auction, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

### **Area VI MASWCD Meeting:**

Javens went around the table and inquired on who will be able to attend the meeting. Shanahan will be the only board member attending this month.

### **FY16 SWCD Local Capacity Closeout:**

Bach reviewed the financial report for the FY16 SWCD Local Capacity Grant. Shanahan moved to approve the closeout of the FY16 SWCD Local Capacity Grant, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

### **FY18 Conservation Delivery Closeout:**

Bach reviewed the financial report for the FY18 Conservation Delivery Grant. Rollings moved to approve the closeout of the FY18 Conservation Delivery Grant, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

### **Buffer Validation of Compliance Request:**

Fritz presented the report for Mikkelson's request of compliance (see attached). The board reviewed and discussed the request. Rollings moved to approve the buffer validation of compliance for Mikkelson, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Shanahan** attended the GBERBA meeting last month. Tomorrow’s GBERBA meeting should be really good and informative.

**Rollings** wondering when the Pheasants Tour will take place, Gardner said the bus tour was last month and it was a full bus! The cover crop that was seeded on his land, isn’t coming in. Bach said he’ll talk with Derek and see if he’s had a chance to go out and check his site.

**Javens** wondering if a partner could come in every other month to give an update like Potts with Pheasants Forever. We could focus on a group each meeting. Shanahan agreed with this idea.

**Krosch** suggested sending a thank you to Crystal Waters for their donation of cost share money. Saw on KEYC this morning that the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Legislative event will be held December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Gardner** updated us on the tree removal on the Howard Farms just outside of Lake Crystal. WPA 200 acres in Lincoln township, east of hwy 32, got permission to name it Bob Kaul WPA. Bob passed about 5 years ago now so it’s great to add this to his memory. Contacted some of the local high school trap teams and they are excited to receive MPI’s donation, which will be discussed more this evening at the next MPI meeting. Hope is to get more kids interested in the outdoors. Work is still being done on the watershed video, hopefully to get some drone shots if it’s not too windy. Ditch cleanup is complete as of Oct 11. First annual Sportsman’s show at Verizon Dec 6-7, option of doing a SWCD/conservation combined booth at this show.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held December 6, 2018
- \* Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

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

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