



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of March 7, 2019

Supervisors Present: Chairman: Carol Krosch, Vice-Chairman: John Rollings, & Treasurer: John Shanahan

Supervisors Absent: Secretary: Chris Hughes & PR&I: William Gardner

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

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis, Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts, BWSR: Dale Krystosek, BWSR: Jill Sackett-Eberhart

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Krosch at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the January 10, 2019 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 547,150.86
Receipts	\$ 698,646.05
Disbursements	<u>\$ 460,753.13</u>
Total	\$ 785,043.78

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

Rollings moved to file the February Treasurer's Reports subject to audit, and pay Supervisors Per Diem/Expenses, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Purvis presented the Blue Earth County update (see attached).

BWSR: Krystosek explained the PRAP process and what's been discussed as far as the process for Blue Earth SWCD. He'll be sending out a performance review survey to the partners as well as the staff and supervisors. Along with the survey's, the comprehensive plans will also be reviewed. He'll come back in a few months with a draft report and recommendations to review with staff.

District Conservationist: Liddell presented his report. NRCS is continuing work on conservation plans with landowners. He's been working out of the Waseca office 1 to 2 days a week. Liddell and Potts have been working together on quite a few CRP contracts. There are several trainings coming up including cover crops, soil health, etc. The office is still short staffed and actively looking for applicants.

District Manager: Bach presented the February and March District reports (see attached). Rollings asked what our cost for Paychex was. Bach stated it fluctuated depending on the reports that had to be submitted each payroll but average was \$108 per pay period. Sackett-Eberhart asked if the SWCD is looking to apply for any competitive grants once our AIG ends. Bach explained that is the plan.

Farmbill Biologist: Potts presented the Pheasants Forever report (see attached). There was some discussion regarding the RIM contracts he presented.

COST SHARE

CWP/319-ConsDrain 15-07-01:

Bach presented the project. Looking to complete five alternative side intakes on JD85 for a total estimate of \$25,000. ISG will be the main lead for the design portion of these projects. Sackett-Eberhart suggested bringing it to Martin County's attention, if it benefits them, to tap into more of the GBERBA funds.

Rollings moved to encumber \$12,500 of cost-share from the 2015 GBERBA Drainage Partnership grant for the CWP/319-ConsDrain 15-07-01 contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS

FY19 Capacity/Buffer Law Grant Amendment:

Bach presented the amended grant report. Sackett-Eberhart explained why this extra money was awarded. There is still a lot of work to be done with the buffers and BWSR understands that additional funds are needed. Shanahan moved to amend the FY19 Capacity grant amount from \$100,000 to \$126,577 and the Buffer Law grant amount from \$30,000 to \$60,000, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

2018 Ag BMP Loan Report

Bach reviewed the 2018 Ag BMP Loan Report (see attached). This report is submitted in January for last year and then we can begin working with new applications.

eLink Report Update:

Bach gave the eLink report update.

MPI Banquet Donation:

The Board discussed the option to donate auction items to the annual MPI Banquet. Last year we donated a bag of pollinator seed mix and one bundle of trees. Rollings moved to donate the same two auction items to the annual MPI Banquet, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Admin Specialist Probation Period Ending:

Bach explained Kuduk's probation period ends on March 17th. He recommended to the board to end her probation period and give the standard 3% raise. Rollings moved to end Kuduk's probation period and give the standard 3% raise starting March 17, 2019, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2018 Audit Bid:

Bach explained that due to the volume of grant funds we received in 2018, we surpassed the threshold where BWSR requires an audit. We received a bid from Peterson Company in the amount of \$2,725.00. Efforts were made to receive a bid from Abdo, Eick & Meyers but due to the busy tax season, we did not hear back. Bach is recommending using Peterson since they have the most

experience with us. Rollings moved to accept Peterson Company's bid to complete the 2018 audit, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings gave an update on the Watonwan 1W1P committee and suggest that down the road we add Watonwan as part of our priority but we have a lot of projects in the county already.

Shanahan found out that Hughes will be on the legislative committee for the SWCD. Legislative days were very busy but he didn't see some of the local representatives he was hoping to see.

GBERBA meeting tomorrow and agricultural drainage is on the agenda. Reiterated that Bach does a wonderful job as the host district for the TSA.

Krosch ask Bach and Fritz how the AgExpo went this year. Bach explained that the value is tough to gage because the people who attended are from all over, not just Blue Earth County. This makes it hard to promote our programs when they don't reside in Blue Earth County. Fritz added that the crowds were down due to the weather and for the most part it was general information that was given out versus target signups. Krosch gave the board an update of the Area 6 chairs meeting she attended. One thing she was hoping to see is an optional conservation fee added into mortgage and deed recording fees. She wishes she could have attended on the seconded day of legislative days but she plans to reach out to legislators.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 6:03 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held April 4, 2019
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____