



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of May 9, 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

**Guests:** Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts, Blue Earth County Commissioner: Will Purvis, BWSR: Dale Krystosek, and BWSR: Jill Sacket-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 April 4, 2019 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**Treasurer's Report:** (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 763,252.46
Receipts	\$ 96,936.90
Disbursements	<u>\$ 44,769.32</u>
Total	\$ 815,420.04

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

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**Blue Earth County Commissioner: Purvis** presented the Blue Earth County Commissioners report (see attached). Krosch asked what the declared state of emergency entails. Purvis explained the emergency fund money will be used for public infrastructure repair.

**District Conservationist: Liddell** presented his report. He passed along the annual operational agreements for the District to review. He attended the Emergency meeting with Mike Mauer and has had several people from the public contact them regarding available funds through the NRCS. They have emergency water quality money but it's restricted for imminent danger to life situations. Tomorrow is the deadline to be working on the EQIP contracts and they still do not have an update on when CRP will open.

**BWSR: Krystosek** presented the draft report of the PRAP Level II (see attached). The board discussed the feedback.

**District Manager: Bach** presented the District report (see attached). There was discussion regarding the buffer law.

**Farmbill Biologist: Potts** presented the Pheasants Forever report (see attached).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Crystal Lake Parade Registration**

**Bach** presented the request for the Crystal Lake Parade registration. The SWCD has participated in the parade for the last few years and it's the consensus of the office to continue. Gardner made a motion to continue participation in the parade and pay the \$50 fee to register, seconded by Rollings.

**Motion adopted.**

**Gardner left the meeting @ 5:25 pm.**

### **FY19 South Central TSA Dues**

**Bach** presented the request to pay the FY19 South Central TSA dues. This is the cash match for the grants they receive and it's split between the 11 counties they serve in the South Central region.

Rollings made a motion to pay the FY19 South Central TSA dues in the amount of \$3,319.00, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

### **Sohler RIM Easement Alteration**

**Denisen** presented the Sohler RIM Easement Alteration and explained that the Blue Earth County Highway Department is requesting the release of 0.4 acres of the RIM Easement due to the reconstruction of the Hwy 14 project in Medo township. Rollings made a motion to approve Sohler RIM Easement Alteration, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

### **Computer Upgrades**

**Bach** presented the computer purchase request to update two of the District's computers. He explained that the SWCD has been on a plan to replace 2 computers each year so these will be the final two of the first phase. Mankato Computer Technology gave the recommendation for the computers which are adequate for our needs. Rollings made a motion to approve the purchase of the two computers based on the \$4,000 estimated cost from Mankato Computer Technology, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

### **Vehicle Management Plan/Purchase**

**Bach** presented the bill for the Big Horn repair from Austin's Auto Repair. Shanahan made the motion to pay the Austin's Auto Repair bill in the amount of \$4,144.45, seconded by Rollings.

**Motion adopted.**

**Bach** presented the vehicle management plan and how the SWCD would like to move forward. The SWCD is able to purchase through the SCTSA's Enterprise Fleet contract as a department of the SCTSA. The staff would like to lump sum purchase a third District fleet vehicle now and then roll the vehicles into a rotational lease program thereafter. The board discussed the options presented by Bach. Rollings made a motion to approve the purchase of a third vehicle with a budget of \$37,000 from the FY18 Local Capacity Grant and approve the vehicle management plan of leasing vehicles, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**John Deere Gator Purchase**

**Bach** presented the John Deere Gator purchase request. The office has requested that we swap out the failing ATV with a Gator versus another ATV. This new Gator will have the capability for a Vicon seeder to be mounted in the back for the seeding program. With the purchase of another Gator, an additional trailer is necessary for hauling. There was discussion by the board regarding the request. Rollings made a motion to approve the purchase for a John Deere Gator with a budget of \$14,000 from the FY18 Local Capacity Grant and a trailer with a budget of \$4,000 from the FY17 Local Capacity Grant, seconded by Hughes. **Motion adopted.**

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Rollings** is not able to attend the May 15<sup>th</sup> Watonwan meeting and Shanahan will look to see if he is available to attend. Rollings was curious if he could get an update on some past floodplain feedlot projects which Bach will look into.

**Shanahan** attended the Area 6 meeting. The discussion on the MN River Basin was good but can see that a process, such as water storage, can take a lot of years to get through the correct channels. Sackett-Eberhart asked if MASWCD passed a resolution or if it was tabled. Krosch thought it passed but Shanahan thought it was tabled so that it could be rewritten.

**Hughes** got an email about a legislative update on May 6, 2019 and presented it to the group.

**Krosch** mentioned that she did hear the tree ad on the radio and said it was well done.

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

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

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chris Hughes, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

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