



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

1160 S. VICTORY DRIVE, STE #5
MANKATO, MN 56001
PHONE 507.345.4744
FAX 507.345.6036

Approved Minutes of August 8, 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

Guests: Kip Bruender, County Commissioner

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 Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Gardner moved to approve the July 11, 2019 minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 756,646.13
Receipts	\$ 849.23
Disbursements	<u>\$ 28,912.57</u>
Total	\$ 728,582.79

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Bruender presented the County Commissioners report. They are currently working on a new property tax levy of 6%. The new building is up and running but they are working out some kinks right now. Haefner Drive roundabout is about 8 days behind schedule due to weather. The hope is to have it completed before the school year begins. Rollings asked if they could setup a time to meet to discuss a strategy to tackle all the 1W1Ps that Blue Earth will be a part of. Shanahan asked if the Vashro project has been discussed at the county which Bruender reported it has not.

District Conservationist: Liddell presented the District Conservationist. Their clerical staff member took a position in Watonwan County and their new staff member will begin on Monday. They are continuing to work on the CRP signups between Blue Earth, Faribault and Waseca counties.

District Manager: Bach presented the District report (see attached).

COST SHARE

Rob Grover – MAWQCP Assessment Incentive Payment: Kuduk presented the request for a \$100 incentive payment to Rob Grover for completing the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Assessment. Rollings moved to encumber \$100 to be paid by the GBERBA MAWQCP grant for the Rob Grover MAWQCP Assessment, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Hubmer – 319-TMDL-07-07: Fritz requested to encumber \$2,000.00 for the planting of cover crops on 80 acres with an estimated cost of \$4,000.00. Rollings moved to encumber \$2,000.00 from the GBERBA 319 TMDL Implementation Grant for the Hubmer 319-TMDL-07-07 contract, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Rollings – 319-TMDL-07-08: Fritz requested to encumber \$500.00 for the planting of cover crops on 20 acres with an estimated cost of \$1,000. Gardner moved to encumber \$500.00 from the GBERBA 319 TMDL Implementation Grant for the Rollings 319-TMDL-07-08 contract, seconded by Shanahan. Rollings abstained from the vote. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS

MPI & Watonwan Watershed Videos: Gardner presented the MPI & Watonwan Watershed videos to the board.

FY20/21 SWCD Programs & Operations Grant Agreement: Bach presented the FY20/21 SWCD Programs and Operations grant agreement. Rollings moved to approve the FY20/21 SWCD Programs and Operations grant agreement, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

2019 BWSR Academy: Bach reviewed the estimated costs to send staff to the three-day 2019 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 and closing the office during that time. Rollings approved 4 staff to attend the 2019 BWSR Academy and to close the SWCD office on October 29, 30 & 31, seconded by Gardner. **Motion Adopted.**

Governance 101 Conference Registration: Kuduk reviewed the Governance 101 Conference agenda with the board. All are welcome to attend and if they plan to attend, let Kuduk know so that she can register them. Shanahan will for sure attend and the rest of the members will check their schedules and get back to Kuduk.

2019 Outstanding Conservationist: Bach opened the discussion for the 2019 Outstanding Conservationist. The deadline to have someone chosen and sent off to MASWCD is September 16, 2019. The board agreed to bring ideas to next month's meeting and make a decision at that time.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings reported on the 1W1P efforts for Blue Earth County. He wants to sit down with county members to discuss priority strategies for 1W1P to make it more cost and time effective for SWCD staff and to avoid becoming too overwhelming. Rollings also recommended a letter be written on behalf of the NRCS to support the efforts of streamlining the signup process. He feels that too much staff time is lost with no results, the process is discouraging to our local landowners which will likely result in minimal future interest and we are in one of the highest polluting areas. Rollings made a motion to write the letter on behalf of NRCS, seconded by Hughes. **Motion Adopted.**

Shanahan reported on the GBERBA and Area VI meetings as well as FarmFest and the MPCA/DNR canoe trip he attended.

Hughes reported on his first Area VI meeting and his thoughts on the resolution process.

Krosch reported on the update for the JD17 ditch improvement project as well as the MPCA/DNR canoe trip.

Gardner reported on the last MPI meeting.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held September 5, 2019
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____