



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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

Approved Minutes of December 5, 2019

Supervisors Present: Chairman: Carol Krosch, Vice-Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, Secretary: Chris Hughes, PR&I: William Gardner

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

Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis, County Commissioner: Kip Bruender, Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Krosch at 4:15 p.m.

Pledge: All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the November 7, 2019 minutes, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Rollings arrived at the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 679,519.38
Receipts	\$ 31,858.82
Disbursements	<u>\$ 32,389.02</u>
Total	\$ 678,989.18

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

Kuduk presented the bill for WSSI for the phosphorus removal system that was installed in Lake Crystal last month. Kuduk requested permission to pay the bill in the amount of \$6,000 to be paid from the Technical Assistance activity of the CWF FY16 Crystal Lake Watershed grant. Rollings moved to approve paying the bill, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Kuduk presented the bill for ISG for services related to the phosphorus removal system that was installed in Lake Crystal last month. Kuduk requested permission to pay the bill in the amount of \$7,500 to be paid from the Technical Assistance activity of the CWF FY16 Crystal Lake Watershed grant. Gardner moved to approve paying the bill, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Purvis presented the Blue Earth County Commissioner's Report (see attached). Rollings spoke with Purvis regarding a couple of manure pits.

District Conservationist: Liddell the District Conservationist's report (see attached). Liddell reported that the CRP signup with open on Monday, December 9 and will close on February 28, 2020.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

LeSueur AIG Grant Extension: Bach presented the LeSueur AIG grant extension and explained why we were asking for an extension. It's a 1-year extension with a new grant end date of 12/31/2020. Rollings moved to approve the extension for the LeSueur AIG grant, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

MASWCD Convention: Kuduk discussed the MASWCD Convention reservations and agenda with the board. Anyone who needs clarification on reservations or materials needed should contact her before the weekend.

Health Insurance Policy: Bach presented the request for the new health insurance policy for the District. The District's current policy is offering 100% coverage for employees and 50% of dependents for health insurance but no dental coverage. We are looking to align with the SCTSA and ask for a 100/85% coverage split for health and add dental with the same coverage. Rollings moved to approve the new health insurance policy with a 100/85% split and add dental with same coverage, seconded by Gardner. **Motion adopted.**

Mission Statement: Bach opened the discussion for changing our mission statement by explaining the purpose of a mission statement and giving a few examples of statements the staff came up with. After discussion amongst the board supervisors, Gardner moved to approve "Conserve, maintain and enhance the quality of soil and water through educational, technical and financial assistance" as our new mission statement, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

FY20 Budget: Bach presented the FY20 budget to the board. The Supervisors discussed the details of the budget. Gardner moved to approve the FY20 budget as presented, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

Employee Reviews: The personnel committee gave their recommendations to the rest of the board regarding pay raises based on employee reviews. Recommendation of a 4.9% raise across the board for Bach, Kuduk & Fritz. Rollings moved to approve the raises as presented by the personnel committee, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings gave a quick update on land values in south central Minnesota.

Shanahan gave an update on the GBERBA meeting he attended last month.

Hughes gave an update on the Area VI meeting he attended last month including what to think about as we talk more about water storage in the future.

Krosch gave an update on the Minnesota River Basin forum she attended last month. Suggested a thank you for the county board for their continued support.

Gardner wasn't able to make last month's MPI meeting and therefore does not have an update.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 7:31 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held January 9, 2020
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____