



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of July 9, 2020

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, Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, District Conservationist: Ciara Ahrens, NRCS: Myles Elsen
Guests: Farmbill Biologist: Jeff Potts

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Krosch at 4:06 p.m. via virtual Webex platform and roll call was taken. Krosch entered the meeting late due to technical difficulties from virtual meeting access code.

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Shanahan.
Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes, seconded by Shanahan.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

Treasurer’s Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 657,282.61
Receipts	\$ 1,345.15
Disbursements	<u>\$ 33,335.55</u>
Total	\$ 625,292.21

Bach presented the Treasurer’s Report for June and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems, which were read by each Supervisor. Rollings moved to file the June Treasurer's Report subject to audit and pay Supervisor per diems as read, seconded by Gardner.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: No commissioners present.

District Conservationist: Ahrens gave the District Conservationist report. NRCS got their Area EQIP pre-approvals with 7 in total; 5 are erosion control structures and 2 are cover crops. Working closely with Jeff Potts and Jennifer Hahn on CRP contracts. NRCS office in Mankato closed to public currently due to pandemic and will remain closed until at least September. Ahrens & Elsen left meeting after her report at 4:15pm to attend another meeting.

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

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report. South Central TSA had their year-end meeting in June which included the resignation of Karsten Petersen. We have 3 CREP applications totaling close to 300 acres. Gave an update on Buffer Law stating that landowners have been completing their Corrective Action Notices. RIM site inspections are underway and are about halfway completed. The District completed 5 seeding sites totaling 177.5 acres. The Le Sueur 1W1P Grant app got submitted. A brief COVID-19 update is that the office is still closed to the public, but staff are able to meet with landowners. There is a pre-health screening questionnaire that landowners must complete prior to meeting and employees are required to follow social distancing measures and sanitizing protocols.

COST SHARE CONTRACTS

319-TMDL-16-07-11 Hubmer (Cover Crops):

Fritz requested to encumber \$6,700.00 for the installation of 312 acres of cover crops, with an estimated total cost of \$13,400. Rollings moved to encumber \$6,700, from the GBERBA 319 TMDL Implementation Grant, for the 319-TMDL-16-07-11 (Hubmer) contract, seconded by Shanahan.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

1FY19 Heinze (Waterway):

Fritz presented the cost-share contract 1FY19 for Heinze to construct a waterway in one of our priority areas on CD83 with a total cost estimate of \$7,500.00. Shanahan moved to encumber \$5,121.00 from the FY19 State Cost Share grant and \$504.00 from FY20 State Cost Share grant, for a total of \$5,625.00, seconded by Rollings.

Rollings- Aye Hughes- Aye Shanahan- Aye Gardner- Aye Krosch- Aye

Motion adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

FY21 Pheasants Forever Local Partners Agreement:

Bach presented the FY21 Pheasants Forever agreement which covers Farmbill Biologist Potts to work collaboratively in our office. The funding for this partnership comes from BWSR and NRCS with \$29,250 being Blue Earth SWCD's obligation. Bach recommends approval of this contract for fiscal year 2021. Rollings moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Gardner.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

FY21 Clean Water Fund Grant RFP:

Bach presented the plan to apply for a grant to implement projects throughout the LeSueur River Watershed which is part of our priority area outlined in our comp plan. The application period is currently open until August 17th. BWSR is unsure how much funding will be available yet but there are three categories of projects; general, drinking water and multi-purpose drainage management, Our LeSueur AIG grant that we have been working in has targeted, prioritized and measured possible projects that we could implement with the proposed grant application. Rollings moved to approve the District to apply for a FY21 Clean Water Fund Grant, seconded by Shanahan.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

Watowan River 1W1P

Bach updated the board that the draft plan is up for public comment.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Shanahan – TSA board meeting update from June.

Krosch – County is trying to assess the damage of the Rapidan Dam. She is working on a grade stabilization project on her property through NRCS. Happy with her CREP easement from last year and the restoration work.

Hughes – Prairie Enthusiast update on some restoration work done that was highlighted in an article in the Mankato Free Press.

Gardner – Updated the board on the MPI group. Having some tile issues on Area 451 and they’re sorting through some of the legality of those issues. Set their banquet date of March 26th.

Rollings – Wanted information regarding cover crop contractors who do seeding applications.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:25 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held August 6, 2020
- * Minutes submitted by Jake Fritz, Conservation Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____