



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 6, 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, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, District Conservationist: Ciara Ahrens
Guests: County Commissioner: Will Purvis

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Chairman Krosch at 4:00 p.m. via virtual Webex platform and roll call was taken.

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

Agenda: Agenda was reviewed, Gardner moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Shanahan.

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

Motion adopted.

Ahrens entered the meeting at 4:03pm.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by Gardner.

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

Motion adopted.

Treasurer’s Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 625,292.21
Receipts	\$ 67,546.52
Disbursements	<u>\$ 30,892.27</u>
Total	\$ 661,946.46

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

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

Motion adopted.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Purvis gave the County Commissioner’s Report. Blue Earth County was awarded \$8.2 million dollars from the CARES Act to respond to the public health and economic impacts from COVID-19. Grant programs will be setup for small businesses to apply for. A bid was approved to replace the County Road 41 bridge over Le Sueur River. Election staff have been busy with the primary and encouraging voters to vote from home with the mail-in ballots. Rollings and Purvis discussed the comments made by Blue Earth County on the Watonwan 1W1P. Hughes and Purvis discussed an update on the Rapidan Dam.

Fritz left meeting at 4:30pm

District Conservationist: Ahrens gave the District Conservationist report. Received notification that another EQIP contract was approved for funding in Mankato. She’s been working with Potts on CRP contracts that are due September 11, 2020. Ahrens and Shanahan discussed the hog industry and how it affects NRCS.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report. Bach updated the board on the steps the office has taken to adhere to the new COVID-19 requirements. The new server firewall was installed. There have been quite a few agreements passed through the office including the Pheasants Forever Partnership and the upcoming CREP Outreach Grant agreement. The District is about ready to start the application for the Le Sueur targeted watershed. The public comment period is now closed for the Watonwan 1W1P and the steering team is meeting to address the comments that were submitted. The annual BWSR Academy and the MASWCD Convention have both been postponed.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY21 CREP Outreach Grant Agreement

Bach presented the FY21 CREP Outreach Grant Agreement. Half of the allocation will help pay for the CREP Technician’s salary and the other half will reimburse the District for the portion owed based on the agreement with Pheasants Forever. Rollings moved to approve the FY21 CREP Outreach Grant agreement, seconded by Hughes.

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

Motion adopted.

2020 Outstanding Conservationist:

Bach informed the board that the MASWCD Convention in December will be virtual and the MASWCD Award’s Programs for this year will be postponed. SWCD’s are still welcome to highlight conservation achievements. Shanahan and Gardner voiced their opinion in postponing the local recognition, which the remaining board members agreed with.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Had a question regarding his CRP inspection he received which Ahrens and Bach were able to answer for him.

Hughes – Updated the board on Legislative happenings during the last session. The Prairie Enthusiasts group, which he is a part of, received a National Fish & Wildlife Fund grant which allowed them to hire two new employees to help with outreach and technical support.

Shanahan – No report.

Rollings left the meeting at 5:22pm.

Gardner – Updated the board on the latest MPI happenings.

Krosch – Updated the board on how the EQIP LWG meeting went.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:27 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held September 10, 2020
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____