



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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

Approved Minutes of September 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, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, District Conservationist: Myles Elsen
Guests: County Commissioners: Will Purvis & Kip Bruender, FarmBill Biologist: Jeff Potts

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, 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, Shanahan moved to approve the August 6, 2020 minutes, seconded by Rollings.

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

Motion adopted.

Treasurer’s Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 661,946.46
Receipts	\$ 24,281.97
Disbursements	\$ 41,625.37
Total	\$ 644,603.06

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

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

Motion adopted.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Purvis presented the county commissioners report. Blue Earth County received \$8.2 million dollars from the CARES Act which has been split up into relief packages. The roundabout at the intersection of Stadium Rd and Pohl Rd is finally finished and open to traffic. Staff are in full swing getting ready for the general election. Voters are encouraged to vote from home with absentee ballots. The product reuse program has been reopened by appointment only. Bruender added that the planning and zoning committee are still meeting to get through issues but it’s much more difficult to do virtually. Levy to set by the end of September.

District Conservationist: Elsen presented the DC report for Ahrens who wasn’t able to make the meeting. NRCS’s doors are still locked to the public. The deadline for CRP is upon them and they

are looking to hit their goal of completing the necessary contracts. They had a few people interested in seeding services which they sent over to the SWCD. Bach asked if any information is available yet for EQIP and if the funding has been set for next fiscal year 2021. Elsen has not heard about funding amounts but the resource concerns will continue to be based off the LWG that was conducted in July.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report. Last meeting, we discussed submitting a grant application for our targeted Le Sueur Watershed and after more research and discussion, we decided to not go forward with it at this time. We have enough resources right now with other funding and programs to support the landowners who were willing, at this time, to do projects. RIM site inspections are wrapping up and reports are being sent to landowners. We have about four State Cost Share projects to complete this fall once harvest is completed. Le Sueur 1W1P will start setting meetings and Hughes will be notified as the board rep. SCTSA hired a new civil engineering tech, Brandon Ellickson, who started last week. The search to fill the second tech position will continue. The office is still closed to walk-in traffic but appointments are available to those who need to speak with staff.

FarmBill Biologist: Potts gave the Pheasants Forever report (see attached).

NEW BUSINESS:

Watowan 1W1P Public Hearing:

Bach explained that the Watowan 1W1P has approved the plan to be sent out to the parties in the agreement. The parties are now required to hold a public hearing to approve the plan. We are asking that the board approve the Blue Earth SWCD to hold their public hearing with the county at the Blue Earth County board meeting on September 22 at 9:00 am. Rollings moved to approve hosting the Watowan 1W1P public hearing jointly with Blue Earth County on September 22, 2020 at 9:00 am, seconded by Shanahan.

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

Motion adopted.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Vernon Center has voted down to grow hemp within the city.

Hughes – Encourage folks to visit the Prairie Enthusiasts website for a lot of great info they’ve put out. He updated the board with the September 4th legislative update, which was pretty short and there’s nothing definitive yet on funding.

Shanahan – No report.

Gardner – MPI is still working through some Area 451 issues. MPI bus tour is next Wednesday and they are looking forward to it!

Krosch – Did not have much to report but discussed project work with Bach and the concern due to the amount of rain we’ve had.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:13 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held October 8, 2020
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____