



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of October 8, 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 Commissioners: Kip Bruender, FarmBill Biologist: Jeff Potts, Cisco Support: Paramjit Singh

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.

4:02 pm - Shanahan was disconnected from the call due to technical difficulties.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the September 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by Hughes.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Krosch – Aye

Motion adopted.

4:05 pm - Shanahan reconnected to the meeting

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 644,603.06
Receipts	\$ 26,094.27
Disbursements	\$ 23,986.84
Total	\$ 646,710.49

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

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

Motion adopted.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Bruender presented the County Commissioner's report (see attached). Shanahan discussed the CD 5 project with Commissioner Bruender.

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

4:25 pm – Gardner joined the meeting

District Conservationist: Ahrens presented the District Conservationist report. They are finishing up the CRP signup now that the deadline has passed. They are doing some site visits for some possible upcoming EQIP projects. They are still waiting to find out more on EQIP funding and she will be sure to pass along that information once it becomes available. The RCPP proposal is still open and available for the District to submit if interested. They have hired a few additional staff for the Waseca field office to help with the backlog they are experiencing.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report. We are hoping to bring the Board members back into the office for meetings but we need to figure out the logistics of the connectivity for the public and guests going forward. Staff have been out in the field working on construction projects with the favorable weather we have had this fall. The 2021 Tree Program will be kicking off at the end of October. The SCTSA is still looking to hire a second Civil Engineering Technician. The Watonwan 1W1P public hearing was on Sept 22 and the County and District have approved the plan jointly. The Le Sueur River Watershed held a steering team meeting and an orientation will be held by BWSR on November 5th.

4:50 pm Hughes disconnected from meeting due to technical difficulties

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

319-TMDL-16-07-11 Hubmer: Fritz requested to approve payment in the amount of \$6,072.00 for 305 acres of cover crops planted. Rollings moved to approve payment of \$6,072.00 for the Hubmer cover crop planting, seconded by Shanahan.

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

Motion adopted.

319-TMDL-16-07-10 Duncanson: Fritz requested to approve payment in the amount of \$18,375.00 for 1,060 acres of cover crops planted. Rollings moved to approve payment of \$18,375.00 for the Duncanson cover crop planting, seconded by Gardner.

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

Motion adopted.

4:56 pm Hughes reconnected to meeting and voted on previous actions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Area VI Officer Nominations:

Bach briefed the board on the Area VI officer nomination procedures. Due to Covid-19, the Area VI meetings this year have been cancelled/postponed but with Officer vacancies, Schnobrich is wanting the local Area VI boards to discuss possible nominations and have them submitted after their October board meetings. The three open positions are Director, Co-Director and Secretary/Treasurer. Voting will take place in November at our local board meeting.

FY19 District Audit – Management Letter:

Kuduk and Bach explained the Management Representation Letter that needs to be signed and send back to Peterson Company to complete the District FY19 audit. Hughes asked for a simple breakdown of what the letter states, which Bach gave a more detailed overview of the letter. Gardner moved to approve the signing of the letter by Chair Krosch and District Manager Bach, seconded by Rollings.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye
Motion adopted.

2020 MASWCD Resolution Packet:

Kuduk presented the MASWCD resolution packets for this year’s upcoming convention in December which will be a virtual event. She informed the board of when their ballots need to be submitted to her. The board discussed the committee comments document to clarify which resolutions were made by each committee or area.

FY21 Local Capacity & Buffer Law Grant Agreement:

Bach presented the FY21 grant agreement in the amount of \$138,427.00 for the FY21 Local Capacity Grant and \$25,800 for the FY21 Buffer Law Grant. Rollings moved to approve the FY21 SWCD Local Capacity and Buffer Grant Agreement, seconded by Gardner.

Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner – Aye Krosch – Aye
Motion adopted.

SWCD Project Review:

Fritz presented the SWCD Project Review and fielded questions from the attendees regarding the projects.

5:42 pm Gardner left the meeting.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – No Report

Hughes – Will be conducting some prairie burns with his Prairie Enthusiasts group.

Shanahan – Attended the MPI bus tour and was impressed with everything they are doing. He is looking forward to working with the District on his new waterway project.

Krosch – Attended the MPI bus tour and enjoyed the experience. She is currently working with NRCS on a grade stabilization project that failed on her property and it’s been a pleasant experience working with Ahrens.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 6:07 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held November 5, 2020
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____