



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of November 5, 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: Will Purvis, 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.

Rollings joined the meeting at 4:03 pm

HOUSEKEEPING

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

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

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Rollings moved to approve the October 8, 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	\$ 646,710.49
Receipts	\$ 394,357.35
Disbursements	<u>\$ 397,055.71</u>
Total	\$ 644,012.13

Kuduk presented the Treasurer’s Report for October and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems, which were read by each Supervisor. Rollings moved to file the October 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 presented the County Commissioner’s report. The main subject on everyone’s minds was the election. The staff and volunteers did a fantastic job with the record number of ballots coming in. His term will end at the end of this year and Kevin Paap will be his replacement. County road projects are still in progress and the weather will hopefully hold off long enough to get those completed. One project they are hoping to complete this fall is the walk-up transaction windows on the outside of the license bureau to allow customers to complete license and tab renewals without having to come into the building. The county is wrapping up their small business grant program with an application deadline tomorrow with almost \$2 million being

disbursed so far. The future of the Rapidan Dam and next year's budget will be main topics that they will focus on before the end of the year.

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

Ahrens joined the meeting at 4:29 pm

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report. Watonwan 1W1P is preparing to present the plan to the Southern Region of BWSR for approval. The annual BWSR Academy took place the last week of October and it was held virtually. Le Sueur 1W1P had their first pre-planning meeting with the steering team to lay the ground work of what's expected. The SWCD Tree Program will kick-off next week with our new online webstore starting up. We may look into a more virtual presence due to Covid-19 with our Tree Days Open House. The SWCD Audit has been completed and hard copies are available in our office. We continue to work on grant reporting and moving along with our cost share projects. Two of the five seeding sites have been completed so far and we hope to complete the remaining three before the end of the month. We hope to have a more hybrid meeting system setup moving forward especially with the busy December and January board meetings but it will depend a lot with the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic.

District Conservationist: Ahrens presented the District Conservationist report. Yesterday the new EQIP guidance came out and the first deadline for applications will be November 20, 2020. She is currently working on a CPS renewal with 5 projects being ranked as high priority. Bach and Ahrens will setup a time to discuss the new EQIP information.

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

319-TMDL-16-07-09 BE Drainage Authority CD5: Fritz requested to approve payment in the amount of \$24,500.00 for 16 alternative side inlets that were installed on County Ditch 5. Rollings moved to approve payment of \$24,500.00 for the BE Drainage Authority CD 5 project, seconded by Gardner.

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

Motion adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

NACD Annual Dues:

Kuduk presented the NACD dues request and gave prior year payment figures. After some discussion the board decided on \$1,000 as the amount they wish to contribute as dues. Gardner moved to approve payment of \$1,000 for Blue Earth SWCD's NACD FY21 Conservation Investment, seconded by Shanahan.

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

Motion adopted.

District Manager Leave Request:

Bach announced the news of the upcoming birth of his 3rd child and asked for a 3-week paternity leave to be taken after the birth. Rollings moved to approve Bach's request for a 3-week paternity leave after the birth of his third child, seconded by Shanahan.

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

Motion adopted.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – No Report

Hughes – Informed the board of the latest Legislative update he received. The Prairie Enthusiasts group conducted burns thanks to the nice mild weather.

Shanahan – Reported on the GBERBA executive meeting he attended last month. He enjoyed working with Fritz and the SCTSA on his waterway project over the last week.

Gardner – Gave an update on MPI’s area 451 progress with some issues they’ve had. Krosch asked how the pheasant population was in the area and Gardner reported it’s looking really good.

Krosch – Reminded Supervisors to submit their resolution ballots to Kuduk if they haven’t already. She opened the discussion of how the board feels about bringing back in-person meetings.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:16 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held December 10, 2020
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____