



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of January 7, 2021

**Supervisors Present:** Chairman: Carol Krosch, Vice Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, Secretary: Chris Hughes, PR&I: William Gardner  
**Staff Present:** Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, District Conservationist: Ciara Ahrens  
**Guests:** County Commissioners: Kip Bruender, County Commissioner: Kevin Paap, 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.

## **OATH OF OFFICE:**

**Chair Krosch** lead Hughes and Shanahan in the Oath of Office and then completed her Oath of Office led by Gardner.

**Rollings joined the meeting at 4:09 pm.**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**Krosch** called for nominations for the Officer designations.

Shanahan moved to elect to keep the same supervisor titles as the previous year, seconded by Gardner.

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

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Krosch** called for the Board to make any changes to the Supervisor Assignments and SWCD Committees. Gardner moved to keep the same committee assignments as the previous year, seconded by Rollings.

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

## **2021 SWCD BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Krosch** called for discussion or changes to the Board Meeting schedule. January's board meeting date will need to be corrected as it took place on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Gardner moved to approve the 2021 SWCD Board Meeting and Holiday Schedule with the aforementioned change of the January meeting date, seconded by Rollings.

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

## **2021 PER DIEM/MILEAGE RATE:**

**Krosch** called for discussion or changes to the Per Diem and mileage reimbursement rates. Krosch noted the mileage rate was set to change from \$0.575 to \$0.56 starting on January 1, 2021. Rollings moved to approve the new mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.56; the Meal Reimbursement Rates (See attached); the Supervisor Per Diem Rates (See attached); keep the SWCD official Newspaper as the Maple River Messenger; and keep the SWCD Official Bank as U.S. Bank, seconded by Shanahan.

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

## 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 December 10, 2020 minutes, seconded by Rollings. Hughes wanted to clarify the language of his last month’s report. Hughes amended previous motion to include changes, Rollings seconded. Rollings – Aye Hughes – Aye Shanahan – Aye Gardner - Aye Krosch – Aye **Motion adopted.**

### **Treasurer’s Report:** (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 617,032.91
Receipts	\$ 277,268.36
Disbursements	<u>\$ 46,212.32</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 848,088.95</b>

**Kuduk** presented the Treasurer’s Report for December and requested to pay the Supervisor per diems, which were read by each Supervisor. Rollings moved to file the December 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: Bruender** presented the Blue Earth County report (see attached) Paap introduced himself and commented on his first commissioner activities he’s taken part in. Paap also commented on the upcoming work sessions to discuss for additional funding for the Covid-19 pandemic relief and spoke to the board regarding the recent newspaper story on the Rapidan Dam and what the board is planning to do. Shanahan asked who the new appointee will be for the GBERBA committee, which Paap responded would be him.

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

**District Conservationist: Ahrens** gave the District Conservationist report. There have been a few CRP trainings and they are working on getting the pilot program rolled out. This will allow producers to see a uniformity in the process of CRP signup regardless of where they are located. Four projects were installed for EQIP before winter set in. She will continue to work on the ranking questions for Blue Earth County. She also has 2 new positions open and if anyone knows of a good candidate to send them her way. (Due to technical difficulties, audio was lost for the remainder of the DC report).

**District Manager: No Report** but Kuduk did update the board on the arrival of Bach’s 3<sup>rd</sup> child this past week.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### **Watowan Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan**

**Kuduk** presented the Watowan Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan. Rollings moved to approve the Watowan Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan as presented, seconded by Shanahan.

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

### **2021 MASWCD Dues:**

**Kuduk** presented the invoice for the 2021-2022 dues and requested approval of payment. The board discussed the MASWCD dues required. Rollings moved to approve the payment of the annual MASWCD dues in the amount of \$5,158.43, seconded by Shanahan.

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

### **Campaign Finance Disclosure:**

**Kuduk** reviewed the Campaign Finance Disclosure letter with the board. Board members have until January 25, 2021 to file their statement of economic interest.

### **FY18 Cost Share Grant Closeout:**

**Kuduk** presented the FY18 Cost Share Grant closeout. The board will need to approve the financial report which will then be sent to BWSR. Gardner moved to approve the FY18 Cost Share Grant closeout as presented, seconded by Rollings.

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

### **FY19 Cost Share Grant Closeout:**

**Kuduk** presented the FY19 Cost Share Grant closeout. The board will need to approve the financial report which will then be sent to BWSR. Rollings moved to approve the FY19 Cost Share Grant closeout as presented, seconded by Hughes.

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

### **Le Sueur AIG Grant Closeout:**

**Kuduk** presented the Le Sueur AIG Grant closeout. The board will need to approve the financial report which will then be sent to BWSR. Rollings moved to approve the Le Sueur AIG Grant closeout as presented, seconded by Shanahan.

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

## **SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Rollings** – No report.

**Hughes** – Received a newspaper article regarding erosion concerns and how the landowners are working to improve the soil health. He would like to pass it along to the rest of the board members by email after the meeting. With the new year getting underway and the legislature meeting for the first time, he gave a brief legislative update.

**Shanahan** – Appreciated the service he received from the SWCD on his cost share project. The staff have been doing a great job keeping everything going. He also wanted to note that two members of the GBERBA Executive board are retiring so there will be a couple of new members this year.

**Gardner** – Was not able to make the last MPI meeting and will give an update at the next board meeting. Also touched on the Crystal Waters project and the work they are continuing to do in the CD56 watershed.

**Krosch** – Echoed Shanahan’s comments of the SWCD staff and the great work they have been doing despite the pandemic.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned 5:50 pm
- \* Next regular meeting will be held February 4, 2021
- \* Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chris Hughes, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Krosch, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_