



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of June 10, 2021

Supervisors Present: Chairman: Carol Krosch, Vice Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, Secretary: Chris Hughes

Supervisors Absent: 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: Kevin Paap,

Proceedings: Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Rollings at 4:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes, seconded by Rollings.

Rollings – Aye, Hughes – Aye, Shanahan – Aye, Krosch – Aye **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 869,682.21
Receipts	\$ 38,032.73
Disbursements	<u>\$ 48,787.64</u>
Total	\$ 858,927.30

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

Rollings – Aye, Hughes – Aye, Shanahan – Aye, Krosch – Aye **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Paap presented the County Commissioner's report. Blue Earth County is continuing their vaccine efforts with 16 different locations available for those 12 years of age and older. The board is continuing to look over information we've received on the American Rescue Act and allocating the funds where necessary. This is the largest road construction season in Blue Earth County's history totaling over \$30 million. Commissioner Bruender will attend next month in my absence.

District Conservationist: Ahrens gave the District Conservationist report. Since last meeting, 1 EQIP contract for cover crops has been approved in Blue Earth County. No applications were submitted for the RCPP program. The CIC program has been tabled until 2022 due to some technical difficulties. The office is still closed to the public with 50% of the staff working in office. The Blue Earth LWG meeting is coming up next week.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report (see attached).

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

CWF-WWDW-21-07-01 Duncanson (Cover Crops)

Fritz requested to encumber \$12,000.00 for the planting of 150 acres of cover crops, with an estimated total cost of \$18,500.00. **Shanahan** moved to encumber \$12,000.00, encumbered from the GBERBA WWDWP #40 grant, for the CWF-WWDW-21-07-01 (Duncanson) contract, seconded by **Hughes**.

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

MAWQCP Assessment Incentive - Bartsch

Bach presented the request for a \$300 payment to **Bartsch** as an incentive for completing the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Assessment. **Rollings** moved to encumber \$300 to be paid by the MAWQCP grant for the **Bartsch** MAWQCP Assessment, seconded by **Shanahan**

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Blue Earth County Fair:

Bach opened the discussion of whether or not the Blue Earth SWCD should have a booth at the Blue Earth County Fair this year. **Hughes** moved to approve that the Blue Earth SWCD attend the county fair on Friday, July 23rd, seconded by **Rollings**.

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

2020 Tree Program Report

Bach reviewed the summary of the 2021 tree sales compared to years past. When the government programs which promoted tree plantings ended, we saw an overall decline of our tree program. Sales bottomed out at about 8,000 trees a couple of years ago and this year we saw an increase even though we had little to no advertising. We've gained efficiencies in the program and our profit margin without staff time is just over \$8,000, which is a \$5,000 increase since 2015.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Discussed questions and concerns with Commissioner Paap.

Hughes – Gave an update on the Le Sueur 1W1P policy meeting that was attended as well as the latest Legislative update he received.

Shanahan – Gave an update on the GBERBA executive meeting he attended.

Krosch – Appreciated the staff's efforts with the tree program and is looking forward to seeing some eye-catching activities for the fair. Also, discussed the cover crop production that's been seen around the county.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:21 pm
- * Next regular meeting will be held June 10, 2021
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ **Chris Hughes, Secretary** _____

Approved Date: _____ **Carol Krosch, Chairman** _____