



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of February 10, 2022

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 & Kevin Paap

Proceedings: Hybrid meeting called to order by Chairman Krosch 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.
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Hughes moved to approve the January 6, 2022 minutes, seconded by Shanahan.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 699,302.33
Receipts	\$ 536,659.66
Disbursements	\$ 415,118.20
Total	\$ 820,843.79

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

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Bruender and Paap presented the Blue Earth County report (see attached).

District Conservationist: Ahrens gave the District Conservationist report. NRCS is busy with EQIP applications and noted the deadline to have everything ranked is March 4th and preapprovals would begin on March 9th. The office is at 25% capacity for staff and due to a lack of applications for their open positions, they will be reposting the job openings.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 AgBMP Report:

Kuduk reviewed the 2021 AgBMP loan report and stated the 2022 funding needs request was submitted last week. In 2021, a total of 12 loans were completed for a total of \$178,528.30.

eLINK Report Update:

Bach presented the eLINK report update to the board. The SWCD reported on 15 grants for a total of \$906,147.00, which covers staff time, projects and equipment. Being the host district for the South Central TSA, the SWCD is also responsible for tracking and reporting on their 7 grants totaling \$1,370,000.00.

2022 Area VI Dues

Kuduk presented the invoice for the 2022 Area VI dues and requested approval of payment. Rollings moved to approve the payment of the 2022 Area VI dues in the amount of \$400.00, seconded by Shanahan.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

Fritz Job Approval Authority Update:

Bach presented the report outlining the recent job approval authority Fritz received last month, which was signed off by NRCS Area Resource Conservationist, James Fritz. The board was asked to approve the authority for Fritz based upon the categories and levels on the report. Rollings moved to approve authority for Fritz as stated on the reported authorized by NRCS Fritz, seconded by Shanahan.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

Equipment Purchase – Brillion Drill

Bach presented the quote for the purchase of a 10' Brillion Drill from Kibble Equipment in the amount of \$19,700.00. This piece of equipment would specifically be used as a rental option to the public and would be purchased with funds from the FY22 Local Capacity grant. Shanahan moved to approve the purchase of the Brillion Drill with a budget of \$19,700.00 to be paid from the FY22 Local Capacity grant, seconded by Hughes.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

FY21 Audit Engagement Letter:

Bach requested that the board approve Peterson Company's bid of \$3,150.00 to complete the FY21 Audit. Rollings moved to approve Peterson Company's bid to complete the SWCD's FY21 Audit, seconded by Hughes.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 **Motion adopted.**

MASWCD Legislative Briefing Day:

Kuduk informed the board of the upcoming MASWCD Legislative Briefing Day. Registration is open and the deadline to register is March 4. Supervisors were encouraged to contact legislators to setup meetings to discuss SWCD needs. An email will be sent out in the next week or two to take registrations from Supervisors.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – No report.

Hughes – Gave an update on the recent LeSueur 1W1P policy and technical meetings he attended last month.

Shanahan – Reported on the AgExpo he attended in Mankato last month and was pleased to hear that the focus of several presentations and discussions revolved around soil health and conservation efforts.

Gardner – Gave update from last month’s MPI meeting.

Krosch – Gave an update from the recent Area VI Chair’s meeting she attended in New Ulm as well as spoke about her hopes for the upcoming Legislative Briefing Day and what our focus should be.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:44 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held March 10, 2022
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Approved Date: _____ Chris Hughes, Secretary _____

Approved Date: _____ Carol Krosch, Chairman _____