



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

1160 S. VICTORY DRIVE, STE #5
MANKATO, MN 56001
PHONE 507.345.4744
FAX 507.345.6036

Approved Minutes of August 4, 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, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Technician: Haley Johnson, District Conservationist: Ciara Ahrens

Guests: County Commissioners: Kevin Paap

Proceedings: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Krosch at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the July 7, 2022, minutes, seconded by Hughes. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 824,284.97
Receipts	\$ 63,637.55
Disbursements	\$ 35,777.76
Total	\$ 852,146.12

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioner: Paap presented the Blue Earth County report. Attended FarmFest for the last three days. The County held a July work session to continue work on the annual budget. The current draft includes an increase of Blue Earth SWCD's allocation to \$120,000. Second of three neighborhood meetings on the new public works building and continuing to work through concerns. Community members are still able to give public comment on the Rapidan Dam through the county's website.

District Conservationist: Ahrens gave the District Conservationist report. CRP is keeping them busy and new staff attended quite a few trainings in July.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager Report (see attached). Commissioner Paap thanked Bach for being the facilitator for the CD56/Crystal Lake sediment removal project.

COST SHARE

CWF-WWDW-21-07-03 (Well Decommissioning)

Johnson requested to encumber \$750.00 for well decommissioning, with an estimated total cost of \$2,575.00. **Gardner** moved to encumber \$750.00 for the CWF-WWDW-21-07-03 contract to be paid by the Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection grant, seconded by **Rollings**. **Motion adopted.**

WBIF-WW-21-07-05 (Cover Crops)

Johnson requested to encumber \$5,670.00 for the planting of 45 acres of cover crops over a period of three years. **Rollings** moved to encumber \$5,670.00 for the WBIF-WW-21-07-05 contract to be paid by the Watonwan Watershed Implementation grant, seconded by **Gardner**. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

BWSR Academy Registration:

Bach reviewed the estimated costs to send staff to the 2022 BWSR Academy on October 24 – 27. **Bach** requested to send all 4 staff to the BWSR Academy and close the office during that time. **Rollings** approved 4 staff to attend the 2022 BWSR Academy and to close the SWCD office on October 24 – 27, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion Adopted.**

Maple River Donation Request:

Bach requested to approve \$500 from our Education and Promotion budget to fulfill a request from the Maple River School District to support their duck house project. **Gardner** moved to approve \$500 for the Maple River School District to support their duck house project to be paid by the District's Education & Promotion budget, seconded by **Hughes**. **Motion adopted.**

2022 Outstanding Conservationist:

Johnson opened the discussion of who the board would like to nominate for the 2022 Outstanding Conservationist Award. The board was presented with a list of possible candidates by the SWCD staff and **Johnson** presented the work they have done. After some discussion, the board tabled the decision until September's meeting.

Le Sueur River Watershed Entity:

Hughes presented an update on the Le Sueur River Watershed and where discussions are at regarding the fiscal agent and the Watershed Coordinator. **Bach** shared his thoughts with the board of the possibility of Blue Earth SWCD being the fiscal agent.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Shanahan – Gave an update on last month's GBERBA meeting as well as FarmFest.

Hughes – No report.

Rollings – Discussed the RIM easement program and aging easements.

Gardner – Gave an update on last month's MPI meeting. He will report back with more information on a possible project site tour to take place this fall.

Krosch – Commented on the Blue Earth County Fair and inquired about FarmFest, as she couldn't attend this year.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 6:41 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held September 8, 2022
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____