



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of February 9, 2023

**Supervisors Present:** Chairman: Chris Hughes, Vice Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, Secretary: Jacob Quade, PR&I: Carol Krosch

**Staff Present:** Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, Conservation Technician: Haley Johnson, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, District Conservationist: Jessica Beske

**Staff Absent:** District Manager: Jerad Bach

**Guests:** None

**Proceedings:** Meeting called to order by Chairman Hughes 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 Krosch.

**Motion adopted.**

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the January 5, 2023 minutes, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

**Treasurer's Report:** (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 759,757.20
Receipts	\$ 538,181.35
Disbursements	<u>\$ 421,308.60</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 876,629.95</b>

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

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**District Conservationist: Beske** presented the District Conservationist report. NRCS is in the middle of an office remodel with all new furniture. CSP signup is currently open with the application deadline ending tomorrow. There's a potential for an additional EQIP signup with the Inflation Reduction Act funding and we should know more in the coming weeks. The beginning of April will be the end of her 120 day acting detail and there's no word yet on her replacement.

**District Manager: Bach** included his District Manager report for the board to review in his absence (see attached).

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **2022 AgBMP Report:**

**Kuduk** reviewed the 2022 AgBMP loan report and stated the 2023 funding needs request was submitted last week. In 2022, a total of 12 loans were completed for a total of \$226,789.44.

### **eLink Report Update:**

**Kuduk** presented the eLINK report update to the board. The SWCD reported on 14 grants for a total of \$685,525.00, 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 \$1,130,000.00.

### **Le Sueur 1W1P Draft Plan Comments:**

**Kuduk** reminded the board of the deadline to submit comments for the review period in the Le Sueur 1W1P planning process. If the board wishes to discuss possible comments and submit something formally as a group, they could do so at this time. Hughes voiced his opinion on how the planning process is going and the plan itself.

### **FY23 Conservation Delivery Grant Closeout:**

**Kuduk** reported on the FY23 Conservation Delivery grant expenses and final financial report. Rollings moved to approve the FY23 Conservation Delivery grant closeout to be signed by the treasurer, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

### **VanLith RIM Easement Alteration:**

**Johnson** presented the VanLith RIM easement alteration and explained that the Blue Earth County Highway Department is requesting the release of 0.16 acres of the RIM Easement due to the reconstruction of the CSAH 16 project. Rollings made a motion to approve VanLith RIM Easement Alteration, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

### **FY22 Audit Engagement Letter:**

**Kuduk** requested that the board approve Peterson Company's bid of \$3,600.00 to complete the FY22 Audit. Rollings raised a concern which was discussed by the board. Rollings moved to table this topic until the March board meeting, seconded by Quade. **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 3rd. Supervisors were encouraged to contact legislators to setup meetings to discuss SWCD needs with the focus on SWCD Aid. An email will be sent out in the next week or two to take registrations from Supervisors.

### **MPI Banquet Donation Request:**

**Kuduk** reviewed with the Board what has been given in the past as a donation towards the MPI Banquet. Rollings moved to donate a gift certificate for two bundles of trees and a gift certificate for a pollinator seed mix, seconded by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

## **SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Rollings** – Asked to see a presentation on past projects and asked Fritz what new grants GBERBA will be taking on.

**Hughes** – Gave a review of the Area VI Chairman’s meeting he attended last week. The public hearing for the Le Sueur 1W1P has been scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

**Shanahan** – Gave a review of the last GBERBA policy/executive meeting he attended. They elected new officers for that group which will be a nice change.

**Quade** – No report.

**Krosch** – Discussed the news of the carbon pipeline that may be coming through the area.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned 5:36 p.m.
- \* Next regular meeting will be held March 9, 2023
- \* Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_