



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of April 6, 2023

Supervisors Present: Chairman: Chris Hughes; Vice Chairman: John Rollings, Treasurer: John Shanahan, PR&I: Carol Krosch

Supervisors Absent: Secretary: Jacob Quade

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

Guests: County Commissioner: Kevin Paap

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 Shanahan.

Motion adopted.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Shanahan moved to approve the March 9, 2023 minutes, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 880,552.86
Receipts	\$ 20,900.18
Disbursements	<u>\$ 90,084.14</u>
Total	\$ 811,368.90

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

County Commissioners: Paap presented the County Commissioner report. A resolution was made to move forward with the negotiations of purchasing land for the Public Works building at the corner of Stoltzman Road and County Road 90. Bids for upcoming projects are coming in higher than originally planned as we continue to see increased pricing on construction materials. The Le Sueur 1W1P is in the final draft stages and things are moving forward.

District Conservationist: Beske presented the District Conservationist. She announced that she is the new team lead for our area and she will officially take that position this coming Monday. NRCS is continuing to search and hire field staff. The Inflation Reduction Act funding has started to come in which is boosting their EQIP funds and the contracts they had, are all moving forward.

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

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NEW BUSINESS:

Server Replacement:

Bach presented the server replacement request. The cost of the new server hardware and software is \$5,218.73 and the range for labor is between \$1,600 to \$2,500. The cost of the previous server was paid for by the South Central Technical Service Area. To help balance the expenses between the two entities, the SWCD will cover the cost of the new server replacement. Rollings moved to approve the server replacement request as presented, seconded by Krosch.

Motion adopted.

Le Sueur 1W1P Final Draft:

Board Supervisors were provided digital access to the Le Sueur River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and the next stage of planning is to send the final draft to BWSR for their 90-day review and approval. Rollings made the motion to support the submittal of the final draft of the Le Sueur River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR and the other plan review agencies by the Policy Committee of the Le Sueur River One Water One Plan Planning Partnership, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

RIM/CREP Update:

Johnson presented the RIM/CREP update which included an overview of the available easement program options as well as the new 2023 RIM rates.

2022 Project Highlights:

Fritz gave a 2022 project highlights presentation and fielded questions from the attendees regarding the projects presented.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Rollings – Asked if there was a map of RIM easements and public hunting lands and if not, could the staff put one together.

Krosch – Gave a brief overview of her experience from the MASWCD Legislative Briefing.

Shanahan – No Report.

Hughes – The Prairie Enthusiasts group has begun their busy work with controlled burns, and they’ve recently welcomed quite a few new individuals to the organization.

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

- * Meeting adjourned 5:18 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held April 6, 2023
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____