



BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of August 10, 2023

Supervisors Present: Secretary: Jacob Quade, Treasurer: John Shanahan, PR&I: Carol Krosch
Supervisors Absent: Chairman: Chris Hughes, Vice Chairman: John Rollings
Staff Present: District Manager: Jerad Bach, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk,
Conservation Specialist: Jake Fritz, Conservation Technician: Haley Johnson, District
Conservationist: Jessica Beske, NRCS Soil Conservationist: Freya Linnett
Guests: None

Proceedings: Secretary Quade called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and acknowledged the absence of both Chairman Hughes and Vice-Chairman Rollings. Krosch made the motion to appoint Quade as Chairman Pro-Tem for today's meeting, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Pledge: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, Krosch moved to approve the July 6, 2023, minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

Balance on hand	\$ 825,009.73
Receipts	\$ 114,832.01
Disbursements	\$ 36,986.33
Total	\$ 902,855.41

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

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

District Conservationist: Beske presented the District Conservationist report. Freya Linnett was introduced as the new Soil Conservationist for the Mankato Field Office. The EQIP application deadline is October 6th. Rates are expected to increase this year, but they are not finalized. Every CSP application was funded in our area. Area Resource Conservationist Jim Fritz has retired.

District Manager: Bach presented the District Manager report (see attached). The recommendation of the board is to inform the landlord we wish to stay in our current accommodations and wait to see what comes of the USDA move.

COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

2FY22 (Grassed Waterways)

Fritz requested to encumber \$16,819.00 for the construction of two grassed waterways, with an estimated total cost of \$27,835.00. **Krosch** moved to encumber \$11,003.00 from FY22 State Cost Share Grant and \$5,816.00 from FY23 State Cost Share Grant, for the 2FY22 contract, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Buffer Law Update:

Fritz reviewed the compliance rates for the Buffer Law in Blue Earth County. Blue Earth County has a 99.7% compliance rate and we will continue to work with landowners to maintain compliance year after year.

MAWQCP Request:

Bach reviewed the request for \$6,000 in technical assistance funding from GBERBA to administer the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). **Krosch** moved to approve the request for \$6,000 in technical assistance funding for the administration of the MAWQCP, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

Blue Earth 1W1P MOA:

Bach reviewed the Blue Earth 1W1P MOA with the board including which counties will hold the grant administration duties as we progress through the planning process. **Krosch** moved to accept and enter into the Blue Earth 1W1P MOA, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

2023 BWSR Academy Registration

Bach reviewed the estimated costs to send staff to the 2023 BWSR Academy on October 23 – 26. **Bach** requested to send all 4 staff to this year's BWSR Academy and close the office during that time. **Shanahan** approved 4 staff to attend the 2023 BWSR Academy and to close the SWCD office on October 23 – 26, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

CD 56 Sediment Basin Grant:

Johnson reviewed the proposal for the CD 56 sediment trap basin project grant application. The purpose of the project is to reduce the load of sediment and phosphorus into Crystal Lake. CD56 is a priority within our Blue Earth SWCD Comp Plan. **Johnson** asked for board approval to submit the grant application for the CD 56 sediment trap basin project grant application. **Shanahan** moved to approve the submission of the CD 56 sediment trap basin project grant application, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

2023 Outstanding Conservationist:

Fritz opened the discussion of who the board would like to nominate for the 2023 Outstanding Conservationist Award. The board was presented with a list of possible candidates by the SWCD staff and the work they have done. After some discussion, the board tabled the decision until September's meeting.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Shanahan – No report.

Krosch – No report.

Quade – No report.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Quade adjourned the meeting.

- * Meeting adjourned 5:13 p.m.
- * Next regular meeting will be held September 7, 2023
- * Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Approved Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____