



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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Approved Minutes of September 7, 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, Administrative Specialist: Jillian Kuduk, Conservation Technician: Haley Johnson, 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, Krosch moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Rollings.

**Motion adopted.**

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed, Krosch moved to approve the August 10, 2023, minutes, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

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

Balance on hand	\$ 902,855.41
Receipts	\$ 6,041.20
Disbursements	<u>\$ 30,206.72</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 878,689.89</b>

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

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**County Commissioner: Paap** presented the County Commissioner report. The Blue Earth County Board will be also discussing the Blue Earth River 1W1P but they will be tabling the Minnesota River – Mankato 1W1P. There may be some options for county water quality funding to help with the proposed CD 56 project.

**District Conservationist: Beske** presented the District Conservationist report. Wrapped up this years EQIP and CSP workload and looking ahead to next year. NRCS will be switching gears to more outreach as we come into the fall. Henry will be leaving NRCS at the end of September. She attended Waseca County SWCD 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **2023 Outstanding Conservationist:**

**Johnson** opened the discussion of who the board would like to nominate for the 2023 Outstanding Conservationist Award. **Krosch** moved to select **Tod Stokman** as Blue Earth Soil and Water's 2023 SWCD Outstanding Conservationist, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

### **USDA-NRCS Civil Rights Checklist:**

**DC Beske** gave a thorough presentation of the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist to the board. She asked that all Board Supervisors sign off on this checklist and **Kuduk** will return it to her when completed.

### **SWCD Aid Payment Guidelines Resolution:**

**Bach** reviewed Resolution No. 2023R-03, which details the guidelines on how Blue Earth County SWCD will spend SWCD Aid. **Krosch** moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023R-03 regarding SWCD Aid, seconded by **Rollings**. **Motion adopted.**

### **Le Sueur River 1W1P Plan Adoption Resolution:**

**Bach** reviewed Resolution No. 2023R-04, which allows Blue Earth County SWCD to adopt and implement the Le Sueur River watershed management plan. **Rollings** moved to adopt Resolution 2023R-04, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

### **Le Sueur River 1W1P Joint Powers Agreement:**

**Bach** reviewed the Le Sueur 1W1P Joint Powers Agreement with the board. This details the structure of the collaboration that the Le Sueur River 1W1P group will follow moving forward. **Rollings** moved to approve and enter into the Le Sueur 1W1P Joint Powers Agreement, seconded by **Shanahan**. **Motion adopted.**

### **Le Sueur River 1W1P By-Laws:**

**Bach** reviewed the Le Sueur 1W1P By-Laws with the board. These are the policies and procedures that the Le Sueur 1W1P Joint Collaboration will follow moving forward. **Krosch** moved to approve the Le Sueur 1W1P By-Laws, seconded by **Rollings**. **Motion adopted.**

### **Blue Earth River Watershed Supervisor Appointment:**

**Bach** opened the discussion for the board to appoint a Supervisor for the Blue Earth River Watershed planning committee. **Shanahan** moved to appoint **Rollings** as the Primary and **Krosch** as the alternative for the Blue Earth River Watershed assignment, seconded by **Hughes**. **Motion adopted.**

### **Minnesota River-Mankato Watershed Supervisor Appointment:**

**Bach** opened the discussion for the board to appoint a Supervisor for the Minnesota River-Mankato Watershed planning committee. **Rollings** moved to table this appointment until next month's board meeting, seconded by **Krosch**. **Motion adopted.**

### **Tree Program Update:**

**Kuduk** gave an update on the tree program including information of possible changes for the upcoming 2024 program.

**MASWCD Convention:**

**Kuduk** gave an update on the upcoming 2022 MASWCD Annual Convention that will take place on December 11-13, 2023 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Supervisors will be updated when registration opens.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Shanahan** – Commented on a recent interaction he had with the SWCD office.

**Krosch** – Gave an update on the resolution committee meeting she attended in St. Paul.

**Rollings** – Inquired about our new Board Conservationist, Jeremy Maul, and what construction outlook looks like due to the drought.

**Hughes** – Inquired about the contractor shortage.

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

- \* Meeting adjourned 6:10 p.m.
- \* Next regular meeting will be held October 5, 2023
- \* Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

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

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

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

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