



# BLUE EARTH SOIL & WATER

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

Approved Minutes of December 7, 2023

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

**Staff Present:** District Manager: Jerad Bach, 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, Rollings moved to approve the November 9, 2023, minutes, seconded by Krosch. **Motion adopted.**

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

Balance on hand	\$ 826,688.23
Receipts	\$ 13,233.86
Disbursements	<u>\$ 95,309.02</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 744,613.07</b>

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

**Motion adopted.**

## OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

**County Commissioner: Paap** gave the County Commissioner report. Mankato township did pass a resolution of completeness for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the new Blue Earth County Public Works facility. There will be a hearing on December 21<sup>st</sup> and the public comment period is currently open. Hearing for the FY24 budget will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**District Conservationist: Beske** presented the District Conservationist report. NRCS will be receiving \$53M for EQIP. It will be geared towards climate smart practices. Payment caps will increase to \$50,000 per person/yr and contract lengths will increase to five years instead of three.. Cost share rates have not been released yet. NRCS will receive \$36M for CSP with a focus on forestry. NRCS will be looking to hire an office admin and also finalize a Pheasants Forever partnership agreement.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Maple River Donation Request:**

**Bach** presented the request from Maple River Schools regarding a donation for their duck house building event they do every year. The board has requested additional information from the Maple River contact regarding the project such as a budget and where the houses end up.

**Watonwan County SWAG**

**Bach** presented the request from MPCA to assist with adding additional sampling sites in Watonwan County. The board discussed concerns they had on adding the volume of work. Rollings moved to deny MPCA’s request to pick up the Watonwan SWAG sites, seconded by Shanahan. **Motion adopted.**

**FY24 Budget**

**Kuduk** presented the FY23 year to date expenditures and the proposed FY24 Budget. The Supervisors discussed the details of the budget. Quade moved to approve the FY24 budget as presented, seconded by Rollings. **Motion adopted.**

**Employee Reviews**

The Personnel Committee met to discuss the annual review for the District Manager; Bach did the annual reviews for the staff. The Personnel Committee presented the 2024 proposed wage recommendations. After some discussion, Rollings made a motion to approve the proposed wage schedule with the change of increasing Johnson’s proposed wage by an additional \$1.00, second by Quade. **Motion adopted.**

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Shanahan** – Reported on the last GBERBA meeting that was attended.

**Hughes** – Reported on the recent GreenSeam forum that was attended.

**Quade** – No report.

**Rollings** – Reported on the Blue Earth 1W1P meeting.

**Krosch** – No report.

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

- Meeting adjourned 5:44 pm
- Next regular meeting will be held January 4, 2024
- Minutes submitted by Jillian Kuduk, Administrative Specialist

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

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

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

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