



*Freeborn Soil & Water
Conservation District
1400 West Main Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: 507-373-5607 Ext. 3
www.freebornswcd.org*

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
February 4th, 2016**

- I. The meeting was called to order** at 4:00 P.M. by Chairman Don Kropp in our district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN.
- II. Those present were as follows:**
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| Don Kropp, Chairman | Mark Schaezke, District Manager/Tech. |
| Chris Dahl, Vice-Chair | Brenda Lageson, Office/Assistant Manager |
| Dave Ausen, Treasurer | Senja Viktora, District Technician |
| Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary | Gary Kurer, NRCS District Conservationist |
| | Tracy Oquist, Citizen |
- Absent:**
Colin Wittmer, Supervisor
- III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**
- **Minutes of the January 14th regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Dahl. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, and Heers, Jr. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- IV. Treasurer's Report:**
- **The treasurer's balance as of January 31st, 2016**, was \$3,033.77 in checking and \$622,912.96 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Dahl and seconded by Heers, Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, and Heers, Jr. Opposed - - None. **The motion carried.**
- V. Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Actions and/or Information:**
- Mr. Oquist addressed the board regarding the corrective actions transmittal form that he received from the SWCD regarding his RIM easement #24-01-88-01. He provided the board with a map of the easement area with some areas he identified that could be swapped for the easement area in question. The SWCD board is not able to alter RIM boundaries so the board advised Mr. Oquist to contact BWSR.
- VI. New Business continued:**
- Manager Schaezke informed the Board of Supervisors that our new District Tech., Lindsey Zeitler will start on Monday, Feb. 8. He then discussed the SWCD Capacity funding, Biennial Budget Report, DRAP III, and the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) comment period. He and Viktora also attended a technology meeting with area staff in Rochester last month.
 - NRCS Agency report was given by Kurer. He is no longer acting for the Blue Earth office, Several CSP applications are in the works for FY2016, CRP tends to be a large workload, and HELC and WC certifications are still being worked on as they come in.
 - Heers, Jr. reported on the Joint Powers Board meeting he attended on Jan. 27 in Oronoco. Officers were elected, committee appointments were made, and financial business was discussed and voted on. A

presentation was given by Mower SWCD/Cedar River WD with a request for more engineering assistance. Paul then asked the board of supervisors if they would reimburse his lunch. After some discussion a motion was made by Dahl and seconded by Ausen to reimburse meals for JPB meetings. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, and Heers, Jr. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Heers, Jr., Dahl and Kropp along with two staff members also attended the Soil Health Workshop in Owatonna on Jan. 19. The workshop was well attended with good presenters. Group discussion followed the workshop.
- Schaetzke discussed our Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) grant. The purpose of this grant is to encourage producers to get certified. In order to get the word out and drive up interest in the program it was suggested that we hold a workshop with a lunch. These expenses can be covered with the MAWQCP grant dollars. After some discussion a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl to host a MAWQCP workshop. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, and Heers, Jr. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.** *MAWQCP is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. ~ MN Dept. of Ag.*
- Schaetzke's wetland delineator certification is due for renewal. After some discussion a motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen to renew his certification. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, and Heers, Jr. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Discussion was held on the upcoming preparation of the Annual Report and Plan. Topics to be included; new staff, trees and current programs. Same format as last year.
- Reviewed Correspondence Received. . . .
 - Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their Jan. 19th meeting
 - Cedar River W.D. from their Dec. 16th meeting
 - Leadership info from MASWCD

VII. Adjournment:

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Dahl. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, and Heers, Jr. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, March 10th, 2016** at 1:30 P.M. at our SWCD office at 1400 West Main, Albert Lea.

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors.
Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date