



*Freeborn County 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  
August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**I. The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 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:**

Don Kropp, Chairman  
Chris Dahl, Vice-Chair  
Dave Ausen, Treasurer

Brenda Lageson, Office/Assistant Manager  
Lindsey Zeitler, District Technician

**Absent:**

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary  
Colin Wittmer, Supervisor

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager/Tech.  
Senja Viktora, District Technician  
Gary Kurer, NRCS District Conservationist

**III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

- **Minutes of the July 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Dahl. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

**IV. Treasurer's Report:**

- **The treasurer's balance as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**, was \$370.16 in checking and \$642,433.29 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Dahl and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Dahl. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

**V. Cost Share Actions and/or Information:**

- Cost share request from Dahl is tabled until the next regular board meeting.
- State cost share policy changes were briefly discussed. More info at the next regular board meeting.
- Lageson presented an amended work plan that includes the additional 2016 Capacity funding. The new amounts were allocated to Education/Info and Supplies/Equipment categories. After some discussion a motion was made by Dahl and seconded by Ausen to approve these changes and re-submit work plan to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Dahl. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- FY2014 Flood Recovery dollars will be available for Phase 3. Project list was submitted earlier this year and our request was not funded for the first go around. Notified today that we should get some dollars Grant agreement should be forthcoming.

**VI. New Business:**

- NRCS Agency report was not available at this time.
- Meetings and/or trainings attended during the past month. . . .
  - Heers, Jr. and Schaetzke – attended the Southeast Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting July 27<sup>th</sup> in Oronoco, MN. Topics included; hiring an engineering tech, hiring a half-time Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) tech, purchasing vehicle for soil health tech and raising dues. Funding is made possible from the JPB Capacity fund. These staff may be available to us as their schedules allow.
  - On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Schaetzke, Viktora, Zeitler and Lageson – helped put on an informational meeting regarding the Governor’s new Buffer Law for local landowners at the Fairlane Bldg./Fairgrounds in Albert Lea. Speakers included Tom Gile, BWSR, Todd Piepho, MN DNR, Warren Formo, MN Agricultural Water Resource Center, and Senja Viktora, SWCD. Refreshments were provided by Farm Bureau.
- Reviewed Correspondence Received. . . .
  - Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Cedar River W.D. from their April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Election information for MASWCD President and Vice-President.
- Discussion was held regarding granting Zeitler permanent status. Her six (6) months probationary period expired on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. Schaetzke was unable to complete her evaluation before he had to take leave, but he recommends granting her permanent status with the expectation that she would agree to work on any issues identified after her evaluation has been completed. After reading a letter of recommendation from Lageson on behalf of Schaetzke a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl to grant Zeitler permanent status with a pay increase of .50 per hour, 8 hours annual leave and ability to earn leave benefits according to our employee handbook, retroactive to Monday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Dahl. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

**VII. Adjournment:**

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

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016** at 7:00 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,

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Dave Ausen, Acting Board Secretary

Date