



*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  
July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**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  
Dave Ausen, Treasurer  
Colin Wittmer, Supervisor

Mark Schaetzke, District Manager/Tech.  
Brenda Lageson, Office/Assistant Manager  
Lindsey Zeitler, District Technician  
Jarod Schamaun, District Technician

**Absent:**

Chris Dahl, Vice-Chair  
Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary  
Gary Kurer, NRCS District Conservationist

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

- **Minutes of the June 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. **The motion carried.**

**II. Treasurer's Report:**

- **The treasurer's balance as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, was \$5,038.68 in checking and \$836,215.86 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Wittmer, and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

**III. Grant Program Actions and/or Information:**

- FY2018 Buffer cost share dollars are available to help establish buffers for those not enrolled in another cost share program to become compliant with the Buffer Law. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to apply for these funds and set the cost share amount at \$300 per acre with the board's discretion to set acre limits in the future. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Lageson announced that the 2017 Easement Services Grant funds have been spent. After some review a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen approving expenditures and staff is authorized to submit final report. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Schaetzke has landowner interest in a ditch project that would be a good fit with the Clean Water Fund – Multi Purpose Drainage Management (MDM) grant. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to apply for these grant funds. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

**IV. New Business:**

- NRCS Agency report was printed. Kurer's report included several program statuses.

- Board members reviewed the Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS for approval and signature. A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen approving this agreement. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Board members also reviewed the new Operational Agreement with NRCS which solidifies shared services. A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Schamaun has an opportunity to attend an NRCS conservation planner training in Aug. After some discussion a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer authorizing Schamaun's attendance and reimburse allowable expenses. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Meetings attended by supervisors and staff included; Resolutions meeting, Soil Health, WRAPS, 1W1P, and a Managers meeting.
- 2018 Budget was reviewed as prepared by staff. Supporting documents from BWSR indicate that if we ask for the match again it will still be available. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to present to the County Board as prepared and request the same as 2017 appropriation. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Fairbooth ideas were presented. Staff inquired about purchasing tickets. After some discussion a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer include, buffer law, pollinators, soil health and MAWQCP and to purchase tickets for staff entrance. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Staff prepared a list of candidates for consideration of the Outstanding Conservationist Award. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen selecting the Freeborn County Pheasant Habitat Club for 2017. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Reviewed Correspondence Received. . .
  - Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Governor's 25 by 25 initiative
  - MASWCD summer report

#### V. Adjournment:

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

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017** 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 for Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date