



*Freeborn Soil & Water
Conservation District
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**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
August 15th, 2017**

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 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	Mark Schaetzke, District Manager/Tech.
Dave Ausen, Treasurer	Brenda Lageson, Office/Assistant Manager
Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary	Lindsey Zeitler, District Technician
Colin Wittmer, Supervisor	Gary Kurer, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent:

Chris Dahl, Vice-Chair
Jarod Schamaun, District Technician

I. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- **Minutes of the July 13th 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, Heers, Jr. and Wittmer. **The motion carried.**

II. Treasurer’s Report:

- **The treasurer’s balance as of July 31st, 2017**, was \$5,491.87 in checking and \$872,832.29 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, Heers, Jr. and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

III. Grant Program Actions and/or Information:

- Manager Schaetzke announced that Jeff Wayne has mostly completed his Water & Sediment Control Basin project and is requesting a partial payment. Schaetzke recommends withholding 10% of payment to finish putting orifices in.

<u>Contract</u>	<u>#Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>	<u>Partial Pmt. Request</u>
DRAP2-16-02	Wayne, Jeff	638	\$5,637.13	\$3,442.50

After some discussion, a motion approving a partial payment of contract# DRAP2-16-02 in the amount of \$3,442.50 not to exceed 75% of the total eligible cost or whichever is less was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Schaetzke is suggesting the Board amend the FY17 Nonstructural Land Management Practices plan policy. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to amend policy as follows: Producers will be allowed to contract for a different number of acres each year. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Schaetzke then presented a new cost share request from Douglas Redman for Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) cost share assistance:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Cost Est.</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>
319-TMDL-24-01	Redman, Douglas	340 Cover crop – 80 ac.	\$4,000	\$3,000

After reviewing this request for cost share assistance a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers, Jr. approving the project# 319-TMDL-24-01 with the dollar amount mentioned above not to exceed 75% of the total eligible cost whichever is less. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.** This contract will now be forwarded on to GBERBA for final approval.

- Schaetzke also asked the board to amend the 2017 Capacity Grant work plan by removing \$10,000 from buffer cost share to the soil health cost share category due to the high demand of producers interested in trying cover crops. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen authorizing these changes in the work plan. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Staff then presented five (5) cover crop applications for cost share ranked and prioritized.

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Project Estimate (as per flat rate)</u>	
▪ FY17-CAP-CC-01	Bangert, Norman	\$5,400	17 Capacity Funds
▪ FY17-CAP-CC-02	Ness, Bruce	\$7,092	17 Capacity Funds
▪ FY17-CAP-CC-03	Stadheim, Richard	\$6,696	17 Capacity Funds
▪ FY17-CAP-CC-04	Wangen, Zach	\$2,912.40	17 Capacity Funds
▪ FY17-CAP-CC-05	Redman, Douglas	\$7,200	17 Capacity Funds \$2,599.60
			17 C/S \$4,600.40

After some discussion a motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Wittmer approving all five (5) applications. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Zeitler then presented a new state cost share request from Wayne Fett for state cost share assistance:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Cost Est.</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>
FY16-01	Fett, Wayne	412 Grassed Waterway	\$9,800	\$7,350

- After reviewing this request for cost share assistance a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers, Jr. approving the project# FY16-01 with the dollar amount mentioned above not to exceed 75% of the total eligible cost whichever is less. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

IV. New Business:

- NRCS Agency report was given by Kurer included several program statuses.
- Meetings attended by supervisors and staff included; One watershed one plan (1W1P), SE Joint Powers Board (JPB), Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA), Soil Health, WRAPS, 1W1P, and a Soil Health Field Day.
- Manager’s report was given by Schaetzke. The CD8 Clean Water Fund application did not get submitted, he also gave a buffer jurisdiction update, the county Shore Land Ordinance possibly aligning with the Buffer Law, and reported that a possible upcoming Working Lands Watershed Restoration Program in the Cobb Watershed.
- Schaetzke then presented a Sub-Agreement between the SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board and our SWCD for approval to provide cost share to Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by

Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Discussed granting Jarod Schamaun permanent status. His 6 months probationary period will expire on August 6th. After reading a letter of recommendation from Mark Schaetzke, Manager, a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen to grant Schamaun permanent status with a pay increase of .50 per hour, 8 hours annual leave, and ability to earn leave benefits as according to our employee handbook, beginning on Monday, Aug. 7th, 2017. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Staff is requesting authorization to attend the BWSR Academy training Nov. 1 – 3rd at Cragun's in Brainerd, MN. After some discussion a motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Wittmer to authorize attendance and reimburse allowable expenses. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Farmer's Choice Cover Crops pilot program was again brought before the board for consideration. Schaetzke explained that the program aims to allow more flexibility with cover crops and a more simplified process for landowners compared to traditional forms of funding such as EQIP or State Cost share. Capped at a \$500 reimbursement for cover crop seed only. Pilot program capped at \$8000. No state dollars are to be used for this effort. Funds will come out of the county allocation. After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers, Jr. to approve this pilot program. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Reviewed Correspondence Received. . . .
 - Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their July 18th meeting
 - Governor Dayton's 25 x 25 town hall meetings
 - MCIT dividend notice
 - Staff reviewed a draft letter from BWSR with the board regarding results from the FY15 State Cost Share close out. Everything was found in good order with a couple of suggestions for future grant compliance

V. Adjournment:

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

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, September 14th, 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,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date