



*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 16th, 2018**

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Donald Kropp in our district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN.

II. Those present were as follows:

Donald Kropp, Chairman	Brenda Lageson, Interim District Manager
David Ausen, Treasurer	Jarod Schamaun, District Technician
Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary	Gary Kurer, NRCS District Conservationist
Colin Wittmer, Supervisor	David Copeland, BWSR Board Conservationist

Absent:

Christopher Dahl, Vice-Chair
Lindsey Zeitler, District Technician

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- **Minutes of the July 12th regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion 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.**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- **The treasurer's balance as of July 31st, 2018**, was \$4,544.89 in checking and \$923,620.09 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Wittmer. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

V. New Business:

- CREP report was given by Billat and included updates: landowners contacted, eligibility review, cultural resource reviews, and three (3) new applications.
- NRCS report was printed by Kurer and included updates; EQIP FY18, CSP, CRP, WRP/WRE/ACEP, etc.
- BWSR report was given by Copeland. Several grant activities are happening in our county which include: Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) RFP, One Watershed One Plan - Planning Grant (1W1P) application, and one (1) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) contract has been granted. He also stated that BWSR is working diligently to get training out to SWCD staff.
- Our open District Manager/Tech. position was reviewed. Our first posting failed to attract enough qualified candidates to choose from, so after some discussion it was decided to re-post with a salary range in hopes to attract a larger pool of applicants.

Grant actions and/or info:

- Staff presented a letter of intent to partner with Freeborn Co. Drainage authority for applying for the 2019 CWF MDM Grant. After some discussion a motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen to sign the letter to partner. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Schamaun presented two (2) cover crop cost share applications one for Casey Madson and one for Steve Ausen. Both applications were approved and will be sent to the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) for approval. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Discussion was held regarding signing authorization for cover crop contracts due to the time sensitivity of getting the cover crops planted and board meetings. After some discussion a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer authorizing Lageson to approve and sign cover crop cost share contracts on behalf of the board. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Staff presented a letter of intent to partner with Mower County SWCD who are also applying for a CWF MDM Grant (the proposed project is Freeborn Co. Ditch #30). After some discussion a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen After some discussion a motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Ausen to sign the letter to partner. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Schamaun presented a contract amendment regarding Thompson # DRAP15-03. Upon further site investigation it was found that the trees had only been cut and not totally removed, also the engineer stated a need for a dewatering trench and is requesting cost share be increased to \$9,631.20. After some discussion a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

VI. New Business continued:

- Supervisors and staff reported on several meetings and trainings this past month which included; Area meeting/resolutions, Cotter Soil Health Field Day, Cedar 1W1P, Shell Rock River WD Advisory, Cedar River WD Advisory, new NRCS standards for cover crops training, administrative training, pollinator training, Joint Powers Board meeting, and Blue Earth Civic Engagement.
- Training requests from staff include; Wetland training for Schamaun, BWSR Academy for all staff. A motion was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Wittmer authorizing training for staff. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Heers, Jr., and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Drawing was held regarding the tree we are giving away from fairbooth display.
- Reviewed Turtle Creek WD minutes from their July 17th meeting.

VII. Adjournment:

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Wittmer. 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 13th, 2018** 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