



**FREEBORN COUNTY**  
**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:30 am

**1. Call to Order**

- The regular meeting of the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was called to order by Chairman Christopher Dahl at the district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN on Thursday, April 11th, 2024, at 8:30 am.

**Attendees**

- In attendance: Christopher Dahl (Chairman), David Ausen (Treasurer), Curt Helland (Board Secretary), Vickie Heers (Supervisor), Brenda Lageson (District Manager), Chad Billat (Private Lands Biologist), Lindsey Zeitler (Resource Conservationist), Mark Trnka (Conservation Technician), Senja Viktora (District Technician), Brad Kramer (Citizen).
- Absent: Donald Kropp (Vice-Chairman)

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on March 14th, 2024, was made by Ausen and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

- Balance in checking account was \$8,597.86, savings \$1,142,182.57, and CD (10 month) \$250,000.00 as of March 31st, 2024. A motion to approve treasurer’s report and payment of bills was made by Heers and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Cost Share & Grant Items**

**a. NEW COST SHARE**

- Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a well sealing.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-11	WELL SEALING	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	WBIF#C23-2187

A motion was made by Ausen to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for a well sealing.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-12	WELL SEALING	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	WBIF#C23-2187

A motion was made by Heers to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**b. Partial/Final Payments**

- Tabled partial payment for contract WBIF-CW-FREE-22-02 until next meeting.

**6. NRCS Report**

- Kurer provided a written report for the board, highlighting current staffing changes/news, and the status of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), & Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

**7. Supervisor Reports**

- Helland virtually attended a Southeast Minnesota Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting. Reported that Discussion was had regarding hiring a new engineer, JPB will hold off on hiring a new engineer for now.

**8. Manager Report**

- Manager report was emailed prior to meeting.

**9. Staff Reports**

- Staff reports were emailed prior to meeting.

- Zeitler gave a brief update on the Soil Loss Complaint brought before the board at March 14, 2024 board meeting. A letter was sent to the landowner. Landowner and the renter both contacted our office and staff discussed ways to reduce wind erosion and programs available to help.

### 10. Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor Candidate Filing Date

- Reminded board members that the filing date for SWCD Supervisor candidates is May 21<sup>st</sup>-June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by 5 pm.
- Districts with expiring terms are: 1,2,3 & 5

### 11. Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

- Distributed the MAWQCP quarterly update for southeastern Minnesota to supervisors.

### 12. US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Land Available for Grazing

- Notified the board about grazing opportunities on Wetland Protection Areas (WPA) owned by the USFWS in Freeborn County and to share the information with local cattlemen.

### 13. Adjournment

- There being no further business, adjournment was made by Ausen and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date