



FREEBORN COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Thursday, June 13th, 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, June 13th, 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).
- Absent: Donald Kropp (Vice-Chairman)

2. Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on May 9th, 2024, was made by Ausen and seconded by Helland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Treasurer’s Report

- Balance in checking account was \$14,954.14, savings \$1,027,104.69 and CD (10 month) \$250,000.00 as of May 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

- Lageson informed the board that there will be Soil Health grants available. Discussed with the board regarding applying for grants. A motion was made by Ausen to authorize Lageson to apply for the Soil Health Grants when they become available, motion seconded by Heers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. New Cost Share

- Billat presented to the board a request for cost share for a filter strip.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-22-09	FILTER STRIP	\$8,436.00	\$8,436.00	WBIF#C22-5721

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

- Billat presented to the board a request for cost share for prairie strips.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
WBIF-CW-FREE-22-11	PRAIRIE STRIP	\$13,128.00	\$13,128.00	WBIF#C22-5721

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

- Zeitler presented to the board a request for cost share for cover crops.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Estimate	Encumbered	Fund Source
FY21-BUFF-01	COVER CROPS	\$5,320.00	\$5,320.00	#P21-2793

A motion was made by Ausen to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Heers. **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-23-15	WELL SEALING	\$1, 500.00	\$1, 500.00	WBIF#23-2187

A motion was made by Helland to approve this contract for funding, motion seconded by Ausen. **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-23-16	WELL SEALING	\$1, 500.00	\$1, 500.00	WBIF#23-2187

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

c. Partial/Final Payments

- i. Zeitler presented to the board a request for final payment on a well sealing cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Cost	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-11	WELL SEALING	\$2,175.00	\$1,087.50	WBIF#23-2187

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

- ii. Zeitler presented to the board a request for final payment on a well sealing cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Cost	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-14	WELL SEALING	\$2,967.50	\$1,483.75	WBIF#23-2187

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

- iii. Zeitler presented to the board a request for final payment on a well sealing cost share contract.

Contract Number	Practice	Project Cost	Final Payment	Fund Source
WBIF-SW-FREE-23-12	WELL SEALING	\$2,075.00	\$1,037.50	WBIF#23-2187

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

d. Contract Change

- i. Zeitler requested to change funding source of contract WBIF-SW-FREE-24-01 from grant #C24-0197 to grant #C23-2187. A motion was made by Heers to change funding source from grant #C24-0197 to grant #C23-2187 for contract WBIF-SW-FREE-24-01, seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. NRCS Report

- Kurer presented 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).

6. FSA Report

- Brune informed the board about an open position for the FSA County Committee for area LAA3 (Albert Lea, Hayward, Oakland, Freeman, Shell Rock & London Twp). Nominations are due August 1st; landowners will receive ballot in mail.

7. Supervisor Reports

- Helland- reported attending the Blue Earth One Watershed One Plan Kick-Off Meeting in Fairmont at the Chain of Lakes Yacht club on May 23rd, 2024.
- Heers- reported attending the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Local Work Group Meeting at the City Hall in Blooming Prairie, MN on June 11th, 2024. Discussed local priorities.

8. Manager Report

- Reported attending the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) meeting.
- Informed the board that the SWCD received a Budget Request from Freeborn County, was then submitted by Lageson.
- FYI- Governance 101 Training July 16-17th for supervisors.
- Lageson requested authorization to attend the Administrative Training on June 24th-26th in Baxter, MN. A motion was made by Helland to authorize two-night stay, meals, and training cost for Lageson; seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. Staff Reports

- Staff reports were emailed prior to meeting.
- Trnka brought before the board options for truck accessories and asked for authorization to purchase. A motion was made by Ausen for the SWCD to purchase accessories with dealership install of up to \$5,000.00.
- Billat notified the board of projects and meetings he attended; updated the board regarding easements he's working on.

10. Freeborn County Fair

- Discussion was had regarding staff manning the fair booth to interact with community members. The board was agreeable to having staff at the fair booth for portions of the day throughout the fair. A motion was made by Helland to purchase three (3) fair passes for staff members; seconded by Ausen. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Viktora requested fair booth ideas from the board. Suggested creating content related to wind erosion and soil health.

11. MASWCD Area 7 Resolution Meeting

- FYI- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District (MASWCD) Area 7 Resolution Meeting will be held on Monday, June 17th from 9:00-2:00pm at the American Legion in Stewartville, MN.

12. Adjournment

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

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on July 11th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Helland, Board Secretary

Date