

**FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
January 13, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairman Christopher Dahl at the Freeborn County Courthouse in the Freeborn Room, with further attendance through Zoom. This meeting is being held in accordance with Section 13D.02, Subdivision 1 of MN Open Meeting Law which permits public bodies to hold meetings via interactive technology if specific conditions are met.

Those present were as follows: Christopher Dahl, Chairman, Donald Kropp, Vice-Chairman, Paul Heers Jr., Board Secretary, Colin Wittmer, Supervisor, Brenda Lageson, District Manager, Lindsey Zeitler, Resource Conservationist, Chad Billat, Private Lands Biologist, Brittany Dawson, District Technician, Mark Trnka, Conservation Technician, Remote attendance - Dave Copeland, BWSR, and Gary Kurer, NRCS-Team Lead 19. **Absent:** David Ausen, Treasurer.

Election of Officers – 2022 Board Positions and Committees:

A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Heers Jr to approve board positions and committee members as listed below. Results of a roll call vote were as follow: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Board Officer Positions are as follows:	Committee Assignments are as follows:
District Chairman: Christopher Dahl	Budget: Ausen, Dahl, Heers Jr., Kropp, and Wittmer
District Vice-Chairman: Donald Kropp	Legislative: Ausen and Dahl
District Treasurer: David Ausen	Education: Kropp
District Board Secretary: Paul Heers Jr.	Personnel Committee: Dahl and Wittmer
District Supervisor: Colin Wittmer	State Cost Share Policy: Ausen, Dahl, Heers Jr., Kropp, and Wittmer
	SE Joint Powers Board: Heers Jr.
	Soil Health: Heers Jr.
	GBERBA Policy Board: Kropp
	Cedar River/Wapsi Watershed Policy Board: Heers Jr., Alt. Dahl
	Shell Rock-Winnebago 1WIP Policy Board: Ausen, Alt. Heers Jr.
	Le Sueur 1WIP Policy Board: Kropp, Alt. Ausen

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the December 9, 2021 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report:

The treasurer’s balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$21,888.07 in checking and \$1,486,245.59 in savings. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented and pay bills was made by Kropp and seconded by Wittmer. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Consent Agenda:

- Official Bank Depository as Security Bank Minnesota and signatories to include the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Manager.
- Approval of 2022 Budget as presented to the County Board.
- Payment of MCIT insurance for 2022 of \$8,937.
- Payment of MASWCD dues for 2022 of \$5,600.33.
- Payment of NACD dues for 2022 of \$775.00.
- Payment of Area 7 TSA/JPB dues for 2022 of \$3,000.
- Payment of MACDE state employee dues for 2022 of \$125.00 and Area 7 Southeast employee dues for 2022 of \$50.00.
- Payment of Envirothon donation for 2022 of \$175.00.
- Authorize Chairman, Vice Chairman, or Manager to sign grant agreements or other documents as needed.
- Authorize Manager to sign eLINK interim and final financial reports.
- Authorize Manager to make electronic payments as needed.
- Authorize IRS mileage rate for 2022 of \$0.585/mile and Supervisor per diem rates of \$125.
- Authorize ads for 2022 tree sales.

A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Kropp to approve the consent agenda. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Grant Actions and Information:

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>
WayneJ	FY20-02	638-WASCOBS	\$10,190.90	\$1,647.52*

A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the payment request for WayneJ with the dollar amount mentioned above. *Note project was approved for Federal EQIP cost share the SWCD piggybacked the difference not to exceed 75% of the eligible total or whichever is less. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

<u>Contract Holder</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ThompsonS	WBIF-CW-FREE-20-05	351-Well Decommissioning	\$2,100.00	\$1,000.00

A motion was made by Heers Jr and seconded by Wittmer to approve the payment request for ThompsonS as listed above. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

NRCS Report:

Kurer discussed personnel changes throughout the Team 19 Area, applications submitted for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and payments from 2021, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments and application deadline, and the plan for completing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) renewal conservation plans.

BWSR Report:

Copeland discussed personal changes for previously vacant positions, working with Lageson on end of year Grant Reporting, upcoming BWSR Spring Training, and options pertaining to the SWCD election framework.

Supervisor Reports:

Kropp reported on his attendance at the LeSueur 1W1P meeting December 16, 2021 at the Freeborn County Courthouse.

Manager Report:

Lageson provided a report to the Board of Supervisors via email which included meetings attended and workload.

- ✓ The University of Minnesota requested that the SWCD rent a location for their Nitrogen Smart Workshop in Alden, and they would reimburse the SWCD the amount of the deposit/expenses. A motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Heers Jr to approve the rental and reimbursements for the location in Alden for the event. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

Staff Reports:

Staff provided a report of their activities for the past month to the Board of Supervisors via email and briefly discussed activities not included in their reports. Zeitler and Trnka had nothing to add to their reports. Billat briefly discussed the progress of the CD68 project, and Dawson provided an update for the SE Area Envirothon to be held on April 21 at the Byron Sportsman's Club, information on sending out the 2022 SWCD newsletter, and provided an update on the online store and tree sales.

Additional Items:

Cover Crop 101 Event in Blooming Prairie on January 26

I-90 Soil Health Tour at Wedgewood Cove on February 9

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 – Dahl, Kropp, Heers Jr, and Wittmer. Opposed – none. **The motion carried.**

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date