

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FARIBAULT COUNTY AG CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2024**

Chairman Bell called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Jeff Bell
Michael Humburg
Bill Anderson
Neal Mensing
Randy Feist

SUPERVISOR ABSENT:

None

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:

Shane Johnson, Nate Car, Hadley Mensing, Chad Viland – SWCD Staff | Nicki Miranowski – FSA |
Nick Segar – NRCS

I. APPROVALS

- 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / ADDITIONS (noted in red)** (Action Item)
Motion by Feist to approve the Agenda with the addition of: Current Grants – 2. Saturated Buffer / Bioreactor Equipment (Action Item) , and Miscellaneous – 8. SWCD Pickup (Discussion Item).
Seconded by Mensing.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.
- 2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES** (Action Item)
Motion by Humburg to approve the January 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Feist.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.
- 3. APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT** (Action Item)
Motion by Feist to approve the January 2024 Treasurer’s Report as presented and to file it subject to audit. Seconded by Mensing.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.
- 4. PAYMENT OF BILLS** (Action Item)
Motion by Anderson to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded by Feist.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.
- 5. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BILLS** (Action Item)
Motion by Mensing to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Feist.

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Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Grievances / Other** (Discussion Item) – None.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. FSA (8:45), NRCS (9:00), and Drainage (9:15) Update**

-FSA – Nicki gave an FSA update.
-NRCS – Nick gave an NRCS update.
-Drainage – No update.

- 2. COST SHARE CONTRACT / VOUCHER SPREADSHEET**

A. Encumbering – None.
B. Voucher payments – None.

- 3. STAFF PROGRAM & GRANT UPDATES – Including Policy Updates, Contract Approvals, etc.**

A. Future Grants –

- 1. MDM CD-14** (Action Item)

Motion by Feist to apply for the MDM CD-14 Grant. Seconded by Mensing.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

- 2. Phase 2 Soil Health Grant** (Discussion Item)

Nate gave the Board an overview of the Phase 2 Soil Health Grant, which will hopefully be ready by June/July 2024.

B. Current Grants –

- 1. Cover Crop Demo Grant** (Discussion Item)

Nate mentioned the SWCD had their grant reconciliation on 2/13/2024, and overall, it went well.

- 2. Saturated Buffer / Bioreactor Equipment** (Action Item)

Nate & Chad mentioned the researchers at the UofM want to add a monitoring box to the Mensing Bioreactor, which would be funded by unused saturated buffer money.

Motion by Feist to approve new monitoring equipment at the Mensing bioreactor. Seconded by Humburg.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

- 4. BOARD SUPERVISOR UPDATES**

A. Supervisor Updates from Meetings | Trainings | Events (Discussion Item)

-Neal gave a GBERBA Policy meeting update.
-Randy & Bill gave a 1W1P meeting update.

B. Upcoming Meetings | Trainings | Events for Supervisors (Action Item)

Motion by Feist to approve attendance to the following:

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February 20th Joint Board Meeting (All)
February 26th 1W1P, Blue Earth (Jeff)

Seconded by Mensing.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

The Board took a short recess from 9:38 a.m. to 9:44 a.m.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Staff Reports (Chad, Shane, Nate, Hadley)

SWCD staff gave job & project updates.

2. 2023 Audit (Action Item)

Motion by Feist to approve Peterson Company LTD for the 2023 SWCD audit. Seconded by Mensing.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

3. SWCD Scholarship (Action Item)

The SWCD Board and staff discussed scholarships for Faribault County school districts (USC & BEA).

After some discussion, it was decided table this item to the March 2024 meeting and to get more information from the school and other districts regarding scholarships.

4. Farm Bill Biologist PF – CRP (Action Item)

Nate mentioned our district was asked to “buy-in” for a few PF-Farm Biologist positions, which could help with some of our programs. After some discussion, the district was *not* in favor of donating.

Motion by Feist to deny donating money for the PF-Farm Bill Biologist position. Seconded by Anderson.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.

Voting against – None. Motion Failed.

5. Ag Center Lease (Action Item)

The SWCD lease is about to expire, so a new lease contract must be signed.

Motion by Humburg to approve the Ag Center Lease. Seconded by Feist.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

6. Area 6 MASWCD Chairperson Meeting (Discussion Item)

Shane asked Jeff (Chair) and Michael (Vice-Chair) if they preferred an online or in-person for the Area 6 meeting.

7. 2024 Local Cost Share (Discussion Item)

Hadley and Nate asked the Board if they would be in favor of using County Allocation dollars to fund soil health projects outside of priority areas, especially for new producers.

After some discussion, it was decided to create a 2024 Local Cost Share Policy before proceeding. A work session will be held before the next SWCD Board meeting on 3/13/2024 at 8:00 a.m.

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8. SWCD Pickup (Discussion Item)

Board members asked SWCD staff to pursue 2-3 bids for a new SWCD pickup.

9. March Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – 8:30 a.m., Ag Center Conference Room

V. APPROVE MEETINGS | EVENTS | TRAININGS FOR STAFF (Action Item)

Motion by Feist to approve attendance to the following:

February 15 th	TAP; St. Paul – Chad
February 15-16 th	1W1P Interviews – Nate
February 20 th	Joint Board Meeting – All
February 26 th	SSTS Training; Belle Plaine – Chad
February 27 th	Annual Feedlot Program Review – Chad
February 29 th	SSTS Talking Tour (online) – Chad
March 12 th	Huntly Sewer District Meeting – Chad

Seconded by Humburg.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mensing.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Feist, Humburg, and Mensing.

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

Chairman Bell adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 11:07 a.m.