

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FARIBAULT COUNTY AG CENTER
VIA SWCD AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM & TELECONFERENCE
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2020**

Chairman Bell called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN – JEFF BELL
VICE-CHAIRMAN – RANDY FEIST
TREASURER – DAVE MATHEWS
SECRETARY – NEAL MENSING
P/R – BILL ANDERSON

SUPERVISORS ABSENT:

NONE

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:

Ciara Ahrens, Nate Carr, Myles Elsen, Amy Huber, Shane Johnson, Dustin Anderson, and Michele Stindtman (virtual attendance).

I. APPROVALS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS

Motion by Feist to approve the Agenda with the addition of discussing a response to a letter that was sent to the SWCD recently. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Anderson to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2020 SWCD Board meeting. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Mensing to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and to file it subject to audit. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Mathews to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

5. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BILLS

Motion by Mensing to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$37,000.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. GRIEVANCES/OTHER –

The Program Administrator provided an update on a response to a letter the SWCD received in regard to a proposed Hog Barn. She said she called the community member that sent the letter out and explained the role of the SWCD. The conversation went very well, and the community member appreciated the call back.

III. NEW BUSINESS –

1. FSA – Nicki Miranowski met regarding FSA business.

NRCS – Ciara Ahrens and Myles Elsen met regarding NRCS business. They reminded the Board of the Work-group meeting at 11:00 today.

Board member Anderson requested that NRCS provide a yearly update to the Board for the purpose of transparency.

FARIBAULT COUNTY DRAINAGE DEPT. – Dusty Anderson met regarding Drainage Dept. business. He also provided an update on the Buffer Law compliance.

2. COST-SHARE CONTRACT/VOUCHER SPREADSHEET/PROJECT LOG

Shane Johnson and Nate Carr briefed the Board on the Cost-Share Requests & Payments.

ENCUMBERING –

Motion by Feist to approve the Cost Share Encumbering Requests as presented for a total of \$8,940.00. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

VOUCHER PAYMENTS –

Motion by Mathews to approve the Cost Share Payments as presented for a total of \$5,371.40. Seconded by Feist. Motion Carried.

The complete and detailed list of Encumbering requests are attached to the official minutes and are available in the SWCD office.

PROJECT LOG/TECHNICAL MEETING UPDATE –

Shane Johnson provided an updated Project Log for the Board to review. The Program Technician also provided a copy of the County Rainfall data through May.

The Conservation Technician discussed the Technical meeting he and Shane had with NRCS and the County Drainage Department. Their next meeting will be after 9/11/20 due to the NRCS workload until that time.

STATE COST SHARE & CAPACITY GRANT FY 19 EXTENSION

The Program Technician had draft letters to BWSR requesting an extension of one year to the FY19 Cost Share and Capacity Grants for the Board to review. Shane explained that due to COVID-19 and the weather in 2018 and 2019, which has created a backlog for Contractors, some of the projects may not get done before the grant expires.

Motion by Feist to approve the letter to BWSR requesting an extension of one year for the FY19 Cost Share and Capacity Grants. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

3. STAFF PROGRAM UPDATES –

Dusty Anderson gave an update on Buffer Law Compliance.

The Program Administrator had an email from Anna Cates from the University of Minnesota available for the Board. The email confirmed that the Faribault County SWCD is eligible to receive up to \$1200 for Cover Crop Data Collection field work to begin in the spring of 2021.

Motion by Anderson to approve the Cover Crop Data Collection proposal. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

4. GRANTS, POLICY, CONTRACT UPDATES –

Memorandum of Agreement with NRCS - The NRCS has provided the SWCD with a Memorandum of Agreement with the USDA NRCS and Faribault County SWCD. It was noted there was a typo on page 8, where it listed Cass SWCD rather than Faribault SWCD on Page 8.

Motion by Anderson to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, noting the correction to change Cass SWCD to Faribault SWCD. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES -

Board member Anderson reported on the recent TSA meeting. The Board discussed the role of the TSA locally and the challenges of retaining TSA staff.

Board Chairman Bell said Dr. Mulder has communicated with him. He said he has his report done and would like to coordinate a day to come down and meet with the two boards for a morning session and all staff together for an afternoon session.

A list of upcoming meetings Board members could consider attending was reviewed:
July 10 GBERBA Policy/Tech Meeting (Neal)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Recommendation to Hire Hadley Mensing for the Seasonal/Temporary Position

The Program Administrator recommended the hiring of Hadley Mensing to fill the Seasonal/Temporary position for up to 67 days beginning July 13, 2020.

Motion by Anderson to approve the hiring of Hadley Mensing to fill the Seasonal/Temporary position of Outreach Technician for up to 67 days beginning on July 13, 2020. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

2. SWCD COVID-19 Response Update

The Program Administrator mentioned that the office door is open to the public beginning 7/6/20 and discussed the Mask Policy.

3. August Board Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 8:30 a.m., in the Ag Center Conference Room and or via Teleconference.

V. MEETINGS/EVENTS/TRAININGS FOR STAFF -

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

July 10 GBERBA Tech – via Zoom, Michele

Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.
Chairman Bell adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.