

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FARIBAULT COUNTY AG CENTER
415 SOUTH GROVE ST., SUITE 8
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2019**

Chairman Bell called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

SUPERVISORS ABSENT:

TREASURER – DAVE MATHEWS

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:

ASSISTANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR – BRANDEE DOUGLAS
CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN – NATE CARR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – AMY HUBER
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – SHANE JOHNSON
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR – MICHELE STINDTMAN

I. APPROVALS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS

Motion by Anderson to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mensing to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2019 SWCD Board Meeting.
Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

5. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BILLS

Motion by Feist to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$10,655.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. GRIEVANCES – None

III. NEW BUSINESS –

- 1. FSA/NRCS** - were absent from the meeting. Nicki did have an email that Amy shared in regard to their plans of hosting meetings in December in conjunction with the SWCD. FSA plans to share information on ARC/PLC sign up at the December meeting along with CRP information.

2. COST-SHARE CONTRACT AND VOUCHER SPREADSHEET

ENCUMBERING –

Motion by Anderson to approve the Cost Share Encumbering Requests, for a total amount of \$13,090.00. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

VOUCHER PAYMENTS –

Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Payment Requests as presented for a total payment amount of \$1012.50. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

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

3. GRANTS UPDATE/OTHER –

Future Grants: Michele discussed her meetings with the Bass Lake group and what their various concerns are. She mentioned she was disappointed in the attendance at the last meeting where there were only 3 people that showed up, but several more committed to attending on her doodle poll. The funds for the expenses related to the Bass Lake project will come from the LeSueur 319 Grant.

The Program Administrator also briefed the Board on the status of the Brush Creek 319 Grant, which is in the contract phase and mentioned the Soil Health Grant was submitted. The Soil Health Grant had 18 applicants, so is not sure if we will benefit from that grant or not.

Michele said she is pursuing some funding available from the Water Resource Center to have a Student do some work for the SWCD. Will provide updates as she learns more.

Current Grants: Shane provided a copy of a Grant Amendment to the 2017 Local Capacity Grant and explained they are seeking a revision to the expiration date from 12/31/19 to 12/31/20 due to the above normal precipitation the last two years, which has made it difficult to get projects completed.

Motion by Anderson to approve the FY 2017 Capacity Grant Amendment to the Expiration Date from 12/31/19 to 12/31/20 and amending the Final Progress Report from 2/1/20 to 2/1/21. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

4. STAFF PROGRAM UPDATES –

Web-site Overview –

Brandee showed the Board the final product of the new SWCD web-site and mentioned it is scheduled to go live this Friday, 11/15/19, if the County is done with their updates by then. The SWCD portion of the County web-site is ready for publication, however.

Conservationist Award Update –

Nate mentioned that Don and Andy Linder did receive the area Conservationist award. There were eight applications for this area award. Their application will also be considered for the state award, which we won't find out the State Conservationist award winner until the MASWCD State Convention in December.

5. SUPERVISOR UPDATE -

Board member Mensing mentioned he attended the GBERBA meeting on November 8th. He said GBERBA has about four grants submitted at this time. Neal also stated that John Lore, from the DNR, had a very good presentation about the river at the last GBERBA meeting.

Upcoming meetings the Board could consider attending were discussed. Board member Feist mentioned he could attend the MASWCD Convention in December. Amy will get him registered and make hotel accommodations for him.

Chairman Bell thanked the Board members for attending the meeting today in the midst of the busy harvest season and making the commitment to the SWCD Board and Staff.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Consider/Approve a Facilitator for a future Board/Staff Retreat and Costs Associated

The Program Administrator discussed having a Board/Staff retreat sometime this winter and mentioned many SWCD's do this every year. She said we have not ever had a retreat and felt it may be a good idea to schedule one with a professional consultant this winter. Michele has contacted a consultant in regards to this and will continue to pursue scheduling a retreat sometime after the first of the year. She felt the end of the year and beginning of a new year are too busy to try to schedule something, but maybe in February or March we could schedule one.

2. Consider/Approve County/SWCD Contract for Services Amendment Request from the County, which was tabled at the October meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the tabled Contract for Services Amendment request from the County. The Program Administrator mentioned she is still working on review of the contract with an attorney. Board Chairman Bell felt we should table the request until the December Board meeting when the full Board is present, and the attorney has had a chance to fully review and or make changes to it.

Motion by Feist to table consideration and or approval of the County/SWCD Contract for Services Amendment Request from the County until the December meeting. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

3. December Board Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, in the Ag Center Conference Room at 8:30 a.m. The Board will meet with the Program Administrator for the yearly Personnel review at 8:30 and the regular Board Meeting will follow. There will be an opportunity for staff to meet with the board individually if they wish to.

V. MEETINGS/EVENTS/TRAININGS FOR STAFF -

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

Nov. 18	Urban/Ag Mtg., MSU - Nate
Nov. 19-20	Manager's Meeting, Brainerd – Michele
Nov. 21	Area VI Meeting, Franklin – Shane
Dec. 3	Environmental Congress, MSU, Mankato - Amy
Dec. 4	Huntley Sewer Dist. Mtg. – Chad
Dec. 5	TAP Meeting, St. Paul – Chad
Dec. 6	Conservation Planner Mtg., Martin Co – Amy or Shane
Dec. 9-10	MASWCD Convention, Bloomington – Nate
Dec. 10	Planning Comm./Board of Adjustment, Ag. Center – Amy

Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.
Chairman Bell adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.