

**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
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

Chairman Bell called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. following the Personnel Committee meeting.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

SUPERVISORS ABSENT: None

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:

CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN – NATE CARR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – AMY HUBER
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – SHANE JOHNSON
NRCS – JOSIAH OLSON
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR – MICHELE STINDTMAN

I. APPROVALS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS

Motion by Anderson to approve the Agenda with the following additions to item V. Meetings/Events/Trainings for Staff: 9/11/19, MCIT Risk Management Training; 9/12/19, Faribault County Safety Training; 9/24/19 Cost Share Policy Review with Jill/BWSR; 9/26/19, MPCA Civic Engagement; and 10/8/19, Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Anderson to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2019 SWCD Board Meeting. Seconded by Mathews. 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 Mathews. Motion carried.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Anderson 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 \$12,900.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. GRIEVANCES/OTHER – None

III. NEW BUSINESS –

1. NRCS/Josiah –

Updates/Reports: Said his last day at NRCS will either be this Friday or the end of September – was waiting to hear back from his Supervisor. Was not sure how the Blue Earth Office will be staffed yet after he leaves – there are a couple options that could happen, but most likely someone will be in the office 2-3 days a week until a permanent replacement is found. He also discussed the various NRCS program applications and how many were funded or approved to date.

Board Supervisor Feist joined the meeting at this time.

2. COST-SHARE CONTRACT and VOUCHER SPREADSHEET

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

ENCUMBERING –

Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Encumbering Requests as presented for a total amount of \$12,003.75. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

VOUCHER PAYMENTS –

Motion by Feist to approve the Cost Share Payment Requests as presented for a total payment amount of \$1,575.00. Seconded by Mathews. 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 – Michele provided a copy of the notice from the MPCA regarding the Rice Creek Small Watershed process, which states the next steps in the work plan. She mentioned we will probably work with the DNR on this. Michele also discussed the Brush Creek 319 Grant and that we are still waiting for contract approval on this from the MPCA. She thought March or April we should receive the funds. She also discussed the LeSueur 319 Grant, which needs to be spent by August of 2020. Michele mentioned that they switched or plan to switch some of the components that were originally in the grant. Lastly, she brought up providing “Harvest Bags” to Landowners this fall from the SWCD and inquired if the Board felt we should pursue this. There was discussion about the Harvest Bags and what could be placed in them.

Motion by Feist to pursue the Harvest Bag outreach to Landowners. Seconded by Mathews.

Before the Chair stated the motion, member Feist asked to modify his motion. Mathews second was withdrawn.

Motion by Feist to pursue the Harvest Bag outreach to Landowners at a cost not to exceed \$2000.00. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

4. STAFF PROGRAM UPDATES –

Strip Till Policy – 2nd Reading – Nate reviewed the strip till policy as a follow-up from the prior meeting. Motion by Feist to approve the Strip Till Policy. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

LeSueur River Watershed & Soil Health/Manure Application Field Day Update – Nate discussed the projects and focus of the LeSueur River Watershed which include some waterways. Will need to survey this fall. He also mentioned he had about 25 people attend the September 5th Field Day. About half of them were new people that have not attended before. There was discussion and ideas on what to do next year, to include possibly doing something jointly with Martin County, side by side demonstrations, have companies come, etc.

MCIT Estimated 2020 Insurance Quote – Michele and Amy provided a hand-out of the MCIT proposed insurance costs for 2020. They mentioned we have until December to make any changes to it. It was also pointed out that MCIT specifically made a notation on the insurance quote that Board of Supervisors of Soil and Water Conservation and Watershed Districts must also be covered under Workers Compensation and will be included in the 2020 cost of coverage.

Department of Revenue/Department of Labor Workshop Update – Amy provided a document to the Board on a new regulation that went into effect July 1, 2019 regarding Minnesota's new Wage Theft Law and new responsibilities for employers as well as the Employee Notice that must be given to new employees. She also discussed some Unemployment Issues the Department of Labor brought up at the meeting that employers should be mindful of.

County Budget Meeting – Michele provided documents to the Board of the proposed 2020 Budget she put together for the County and provided them with an update of what she is asking for in the upcoming year.

5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES -

Board member Mensing discussed his last GBERBA meeting he attended. Board member Bell and Feist discussed the September 5th Manure Application Soil Health Field Day they attended.

A list of upcoming meetings Board members could consider attending was reviewed.

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

September 13	GBERBA Policy Meeting – Mankato
September 17	TSA Board Meeting – Mankato
September 27	GBERBA Technical Meeting - Mankato

Seconded by Anderson. Motion carried.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Personnel Committee Meeting/Action

Michele handed out information on Amy's one year review and wage increase recommendation, which was discussed with the Personnel Committee prior to the Regular Board meeting.

Motion by Feist to approve Amy's wage increase as presented by the Program Administrator and Personnel Committee. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

2. October Board Meeting

The October Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the SWCD Conference room. It was discussed that if Harvest was in full swing at this time, that we would try to have a slim agenda with only necessary action items and reserve lengthier, less time sensitive items for a later meeting date.

V. MEETINGS/EVENTS/TRAININGS FOR STAFF -

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

- September 11 MCIT Risk Management, Mankato – Michele/Amy
- September 12 Safety Meeting, Faribault County - Shane
- September 17 TSA Board Meeting, Mankato – Shane
- September 19 TAP Meeting, St. Paul – Chad
- September 24 Cost Share Policy Review w/Jill SWCD Conf. Rm – SWCD Staff
- September 26 MPCA Civic Engagement, Mankato – Michele, Nate, Shane
- September 27 GBERBA Technical Mtg., Mankato - Michele
- October 8 Planning Commission/Bd of Adjustment, Ag. Center - Amy

Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.
Chairman Bell adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

SWCD BOARD MEETING COST SHARE ENCUMBERING REQUEST

Board Meeting Date

September 10, 2019

Board Chair Signature _____

[illegible]

SWCD BOARD MEETING COST SHARE PAYMENT REQUEST

Board Meeting Date	September 10, 2019
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Board Chair Signature _____

[illegible]