

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023**

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

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Feist
Bill Anderson
Neal Mensing
Jeff Bell

SUPERVISORS ABSENT:

Michael Humburg

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:

Shane Johnson, Nate Carr, Hadley Mensing, Chad Viland – SWCD Staff | Henry Berghoff – NRCS | Merissa Lore – Drainage Dept.

I. APPROVALS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / ADDITIONS (noted in red) (Action Item)

Motion by Anderson to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Bell.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Action Item)

Motion by Mensing to approve the August 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Bell.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 30, 2023, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Action Item)

Motion by Anderson to approve the August 30, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Bell.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

4. APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT (Action Item)

Motion by Bell to approve the August 2023 Treasurer’s Report as presented and to file it subject to audit. Seconded by Mensing.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS (Action Item)

Motion by Bell to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded by Mensing.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

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6. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BILLS (Action Item)

Motion by Bell to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$56,000.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Grievances / Other (Discussion Item)

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. FSA, NRCS, and Drainage Update

-FSA: No Update

-NRCS: Henry B gave an NRCS update

-Drainage: Merissa L gave a drainage update.

2. COST SHARE CONTRACT / VOUCHER SPREADSHEET

A. Encumbering (Action Item) – Shane updated the Board on the Cost Share Request.

Motion by Bell to approve the Cost Share Requests as presented for a total of \$16,063.00.

Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

B. Voucher Payments (Action Item) – None.

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

A. LeSueur 1W1P – JPA & Bylaws (Action Item)

Motion by Bell to approve the LeSueur 1W1P Joint Powers Agreement. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Bell to approve the LeSueur 1W1P Bylaws. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

B. Resolution to Adopt the LeSueur 1W1P (Action Item)

Motion by Mensing to approve the Resolution to Adopt the LeSueur 1W1P and implement the plan. Seconded by Bell.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

C. Potential NRCS 345 Standard Contracts (Action Item)

Nate mentioned there's been interest in reduced tillage (VT) applications. He asked the Board their options on creating a policy & funding this practice.

Motion by Bell to table this discussion to the October Board Meeting. Seconded by Anderson.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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4. BOARD SUPERVISOR UPDATES

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

Jeff and Neal gave a Soil Health Team meeting update.

Jeff, Neal, and Randy gave a Soil Health Field Day update.

Neal gave a JD 4FM Informational Meeting update.

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

Motion by Bell to approve attendance to the following:

September 11th Cover Crop, No Till, Soil Health Field Day; Mapleton

September 15th GBERBA, Policy (Neal)

September 22nd 1W1P (Randy)

Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

The Board took a short recess from 9:49a.m. to 9:54a.m.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

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

SWCD staff gave job and project updates.

2. High Interest Savings Account (Action Item)

Nate spoke with First Bank Blue Earth about a high interest savings account, which the SWCD would always have access to.

Motion by Bell to improve the High Interest Savings Account. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

3. 2023 Audit (Action Item)

Motion by Anderson to approve the 2023 draft audit and representation letter by Peterson Company LTD. Seconded by Bell.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

4. Rainbarrel Pricing (Action Item)

Hadley informed the Board of the price of rainbarrels, and asked if they were in favor of reducing the price for customers, if they signed a contract saying they'll use them.

Motion by Anderson to price rainbarrels at \$60.00 (limit of 2) for customers. Seconded by Bell.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

5. Bass Lake (Action Item)

Nate reminded the Board of ISG estimate of \$9,500.00 for a Lake & Watershed assessment & members of the Bass Lake Coalition were wondering if the SWCD would pay for some of that assessment.

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However, when Nate spoke with members Bass Lake, they were not satisfied with that price & will continue to stay in contact with ISG.

Motion by Bell to deny the action for Bass Lake. Seconded by Anderson.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

6. New Laptop – Amy (Action Item)

Motion by Bell to approve upgrading Laptops for Amy Lorenzen. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

7. October Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 8:30 a.m., Ag Center Conference Room

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

Motion by Bell to approve attendance to the following:

September 11 th	Cover Crop, No Till, Soil Health Field Day; Mapleton – Hadley
September 18 th	Area 6 Managers Meeting; Nicollet – Shane, Nate
September 27 th	Septic Regulators Meeting; Owatonna – Chad
October 10 th	1W1P, Steering Team – Nate

Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

Chairman Feist adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 10:49 a.m.