

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FARIBAULT COUNTY AG CENTER
SWCD AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12th, 2020**

Chairman Bell called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:37 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:

Nate Carr, Amy Huber, Shane Johnson, Dustin Anderson, and Michele Stindtman.

I. APPROVALS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS

Motion by Mathews to approve the Agenda with the addition of Michele's document of suggested Organizational Review timelines and priorities of implementation. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

2. BOARD/PERSONNEL DISCUSSION

The Board met with a staff member and held a Personnel discussion.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion by Feist to approve Dr. Mulder's Organizational Review recommendations as a model for the SWCD. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Anderson to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2020 SWCD Board meeting. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

5. 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.

6. PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

7. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BILLS

Motion by Mathews to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$53,000.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. GRIEVANCES/OTHER – None

III. NEW BUSINESS –

1. 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 \$110,578.75. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

VOUCHER PAYMENTS –

Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Payments as presented for a total of \$12,015.00. 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 UPDATE –

Shane Johnson provided an updated Project Log for the Board to review. The Program Technician discussed his RIM spot checks to date, WCA applications and progress, and the feedlot inspections he has done so far this year.

2. PROGRAM UPDATES –

Dustin Anderson from the Faribault County Drainage Department was available to discuss the Weir Well Sealing issue. Dustin inquired if there were any other funds available that the SWCD would have access to so as to assist Mr. Weir with the Well Sealing costs, which were in excess of \$20,000, and were encountered during a county drainage project. The Well was unknown to the land owner and was inadvertently exposed during the drainage project on JD1F. Michele has been unable to find additional cost-share assistance to date to assist in the situation and has spoken with Mr. Weir about this. She will contact Ed Lenz from BWSR for other ideas or resources.

Nate and Michele updated the Board about the CD64 Landowner meeting that was recently held. The Board Chairman also attended the meeting and added that good follow through after these meetings is important.

3. GRANTS, POLICY, CONTRACT UPDATES –

2021 CREP Outreach & Implementation Grant - The Program Administrator had a copy of the 2021 CREP Outreach and Implementation workplan and grant agreement available that was executed with BWSR recently. This is a reimbursable grant and ends on 6/30/21.

Motion by Mathews to approve the 2021 CREP Outreach & Implementation Grant Agreement. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

Approve Strip Tillage Policies – The Conservation Technician provided a copy of the Brush Creek and Blue Earth River Sediment Reduction Strategy Strip Tillage Cost Share Policy, #604-A-2, which needed the maximum payment revised to \$4320. He also had a copy of the LeSueur River WRAPS Implementation Endeavor Strip Tillage Cost Share Policy, #605-A-2, available for review and approval.

Motion by Mensing to approve the LeSueur River WRAPS Implementation Endeavor Strip Tillage Cost Share Policy, #605-A-2. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson to approve the revision to the Brush Creek and Blue Earth River Sediment Reduction Strategy Strip Tillage Cost Share Policy, #604-A-2. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

4. SUPERVISOR UPDATES -

Board member Anderson reported on the recent TSA meeting. He said the staff has been busy with setting up interviews for the open TSA positions.

Board Chairman Bell said he attended the CD64 meeting earlier this week. Felt the meeting went well and said Commissioner Warmka did a good job addressing and encouraging the public to take advantage of funds available to them within this project.

A list of upcoming meetings Board members could consider attending were reviewed:

August 26 GBERBA Executive Meeting via Zoom (Neal)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Midwest IT Service Proposal

Amy & Michele provided documents with some estimated costs for continued IT Service with Midwest IT. Amy mentioned that in the past, these services were bundled and covered by the County and that may change for 2021, so they have begun to get cost estimates in case those costs are now passed along to the SWCD. No action required at this time.

The Board took a short recess for lunch at 12:07 and resumed the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

2. August 28th Board Meeting

Consideration of cancelling the August 28th Board meeting since the LeSueur 319 Grant was extended until 2021 was discussed.

Motion by Feist to cancel the August 28th Board meeting. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

3. Organizational Review Process/Timelines Proposed by Program Administrator

The Program Administrator provided a document to the Board which detailed her suggested timelines, priorities, and implementation to Dr. Mulder's recommendations.

The board decided to discuss the matter further at a Work Session/Special Meeting on August 24th to continue working on the Organizational Review process.

Motion by Feist to schedule a Board Work Session/Special Meeting on August 24th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

V. MEETINGS/EVENTS/TRAININGS FOR STAFF -

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

- August 11 MACDE Virtual Mtg., Michele
- August 13 Ag Drainage & Future of Water Quality, Session 1, Virtual – All Staff can attend
- August 20 Ag Drainage & Future of Water Quality, Session 2, Virtual – All Staff can attend
- August 25 Green CovR App Training to Collect Photo Data of Cover Crops, Virtual – Nate, Hadley
- August 25 Civic Plus Advanced Web Training, Virtual – Amy
- August 26 GBERBA Tech Meeting, Virtual – Michele, Nate

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 1:27 p.m.