

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023**

Chairman Feist called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Feist
Michael Humburg
Bill Anderson
Neal Mensing
Jeff Bell

SUPERVISORS ABSENT:

None

STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:

Shane Johnson, Nate Carr, Hadley Mensing – SWCD Staff | Nicki Miranowski – FSA | Nick Segar – NRCS |
Dustin Anderson – Drainage Dept.

I. APPROVALS

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

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

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 11, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Action Item)

Motion by Anderson to approve the January 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Bell.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

3. APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT (Action Item)

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

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS (Action Item)

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

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

Motion by Humburg to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$45,000.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Bell.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

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II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Grievances / Other** – None

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. FSA, NRCS, and Drainage Update

- FSA:** Nicki M gave an FSA update.
- NRCS:** Nick S gave an NRCS update.
- Drainage:** Dustin A gave a Drainage Dept. update.

2. COST SHARE CONTRACT / VOUCHER SPREADSHEET

- A. Encumbering** (Action Item) – Shane updated the Board on the Cost Share Requests. Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Requests as presented for a total of \$500.00. Seconded by Bell. Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing. Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

- B. Voucher Payments** (Action Item) – Shane updated the Board on the Cost Share Payments. Motion by Bell to approve the Cost Share Payments as presented for a total of \$500.00. Seconded by Humburg. Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing. Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

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

A. Future Grants – Blue Earth 1W1P (Discussion Item)

Nate updated the Board on the meeting he had with Martin County SWCD in regard to the Blue Earth 1W1P planning process.

B. Current Grants –

1. Brush Creek 319 Reconciliation (Discussion Item)

Nate mentioned he is performing a reconciliation for the Brush Creek 319 grant. This is to ensure funding has been used for the grant’s intended purposes and been managed appropriately.

2. BWSR Incentive Policy 2023 (Action Item)

Nate went over the updated 2023 BWSR Incentive Policy. He mentioned with this policy, people would be eligible to receive funding for cover crops AND tillage management (no-till), which was not an option in the past. Following discussion, the Board recommended adding language into the policy stating which producers would be ineligible to receive this type of funding (new producers only).

Motion by Anderson to approve the 2023 BWSR Incentive Policy, with the addition of “Ineligible producers”, language into *Section 3: Incentive Based Contract Guidelines* of the policy. Seconded by Humburg.

Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing. Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

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C. BWSR Financial Reports (Discussion Item)

Nate went over the following financial reports with the Board, and mentioned that all the grants that ended, need to be submitted.

Multipurpose Drainage Management 2020 | Buffer Law 2021 | SWCD Local Capacity Services 2020 | Buffer Law 2020 | Conservation Delivery 2021 | Cost Share 2021

4. BOARD SUPERVISOR UPDATES

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

Board member Mensing gave a GBERBA, Policy meeting update.

Board member Feist gave a 1W1P meeting update.

Board members Bell and Mensing gave a Soil Health Team meeting update and mentioned the upcoming Soil Health Workshop on March 2nd, 2023.

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

Motion by Bell to approve attendance to the following:

March 2 nd	Soil Health Workshop; Delavan
March 3 rd	1W1P (Randy)

Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

The Board took a short recess from 10:30a.m. to 10:38a.m.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

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

SWCD staff members gave job and project updates to the Board. Chad was unable to attend, so a written report was submitted.

2. Supervisor Operating Rules & Guidelines – Cell Phone Usage (Action Item)

The following phrase was added to the *Supervisor Operating Rules & Guidelines* – “Board members shall refrain from using their cell phones unless it directly involves SWCD business.”

Motion by Bell to approve this cell phone usage update to the Supervisor Operating Rules & Guidelines.

Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

3. IRS Mileage Rate – 2023 (Action Item)

Nate mentioned the IRS Mileage Rate for 2023 was updated, and is now 65.5c/mile.

Motion by Humburg to approve the updated IRS Mileage Rate for 2023. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – Bell. Motion Carried.

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4. 2022 Audit (Action Item)

Motion by Bell to approve Peterson Company LTD to perform the District’s 2022 audit. Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

5. Bass Lake Letter (Action Item)

Nate mentioned he met with members of Bass Lake to speak to a Mankato, MN scientist. Test results showed high levels of bacteria in the lake, and it was recommended to treat the lake to control this bacteria. Nate mentioned writing a letter showing support towards improving the water quality of Bass Lake.

Motion by Bell to approve the Faribault County SWCD to write a letter in support of improving the water quality of Bass Lake. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

6. Soil Your Undies T-Shirts (Action Item)

Hadley got a quote from Blue Earth Custom Embroidery for Soil Your Undies T-Shirts. For a quantity of 25 shirts the total would be \$615.00

Motion by Humburg to approve the purchase of Soil Your Undier T-Shirts. Seconded by Mensing.

Voting in favor by were: Humburg and Mensing.

Voting against – Anderson and Bell. As a tiebreak vote, Chairman Feist voted against. Motion Failed.

7. LeSueur 1W1P (Discussion Item)

Nate gave the Board a handout of the 1W1P timeline and Joint Powers Agreement.

8. 2023 Supervisor Committee Assignments (Discussion Item)

Shane gave the Board a list of 2023 Supervisor Committee Assignments.

9. Polaris ATV (Discussion Item)

Shane reminded the Board that the Highway Dept. has been using the District’s ATV. He brought up the idea of selling the ATV to the Highway Dept.

10. March Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 8:30 a.m., Ag Center Conference Room

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

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

February 9 th	Huntly Sewer District – Chad
February 13 th	Cover Crop Termination, Webinar – Hadley
February 14 th	1W1P, Steering Team – Nate
February 15 th	Mini Pumper Course; Albert Lea – Chad
February 16 th	Sewer Meeting, Riverside Heights – Chad
February 21 st	Southern MN Septic Regulators Mtg; Mankato – Chad
February 21 st	Fertilization Strategies for Soil Health, Webinar – Hadley
March 2 nd	Soil Health Workshop; Delavan – Nate, Hadley
March 3 rd	1W1P; Waseca – Nate

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March 6th Septic Continuing Education; Belle Plaine – Chad

March 6th Cover Crop Training, Webinar – Hadley

Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

Chairman Feist adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 11:31 a.m.