

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023**

Chairman Feist called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:30 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 | 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 JUNE 14, 2023, BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Action Item)

Motion by Anderson to approve the June 14, 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 Bell to approve the June 2023 Treasurer’s Report as presented and to file it subject to audit.
Seconded by Humburg.
Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing.
Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS (Action Item)

Motion by Bell 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 Mensing to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$40,000.00 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** (Discussion Item) – None.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. FSA, NRCS, and Drainage Update

-FSA: No update.

-NRCS: Nick S gave an NRCS update.

-Drainage: Dustin A gave a drainage update.

2. COST SHARE CONTRACT / VOUCHER SPREADSHEET

- A. Encumbering** (Action Item) – Hadley & Shane updated the Board on the Cost Share Requests. Motion by Bell to approve the Cost Share Requests as presented for a total of \$15,294.00. Seconded by Humburg. Voting unanimously in favor by were: Anderson, Bell, Humburg, and Mensing. Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

B. Voucher Payments (Action Item)

Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Payments as presented for \$1,000.00. Seconded by Bell.

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 – CD52 BWSR Grant Application (Discussion Item)

Nate updated the Board on an easement on CD52 & some possible improvements.

B. Current Grants – 2023 CREP (Discussion Item)

Shane & Nate mentioned the CREP Grant is finished.

C. BWSR Incentive Policy (Action Item)

Nate informed the Board that there has been a fair amount of interest in our cover crop programs, including fields that are small in size (< 20 acres). However, he mentioned our current policy has a minimum of 20 acres to be eligible for funding. Instead, he mentioned changing the policy to allow fields of smaller size to be eligible for funding.

Motion by Bell to approve the following: The minimum number of acres required to receive cover crop funding will remain 20 acres. However, if funding will be on an entire field which is less than 20 acres, it will be eligible. Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

4. BOARD SUPERVISOR UPDATES

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

-Bill gave an Area 6 MASWCD and TSA meeting update.

-Randy gave a 1W1P meeting update.

-Jeff & Neal gave a Soil Health Team and SWCD Budget Committee meeting update.

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

Motion by Bell to approve attendance to the following:

July 14th GBERBA, Policy/Technical Joint Meeting (Neal)

July 28th ~~1W1P (Randy)~~ **CANCELLED**

Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

The Board took a short recess from 9:40a.m. to 9:48 a.m.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

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

SWCD staff gave job and project updates. Chad submitted a written report for the Board.

2. SWCD Budget & County Budget (Action Item)

Nate went over the preliminary 2024 SWCD Budget and the proposed 2024 County Budget.

Motion by Bell to approve the preliminary 2024 SWCD Budget and the proposed 2024 County Budget.

Seconded by Anderson.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

3. Tree Planter Rental (Action Item)

Hadley mentioned our current tree planter rental agreement is \$100.00/day. Instead, she mentioned changing the agreement to require a \$100.00 deposit, which will be returned to the customer when they return the tree planter. A question regarding the SWCD planting trees for people was also brought up.

Motion by Bell to table this item until the August 9, 2023, Board Meeting where two draft agreements will be written up. Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

4. Rainbarrels (Action Item)

Hadley & Shane mentioned there has been interest in rainbarrels lately. They came up with a couple of options and asked the options from the Board:

1. Provide rainbarrel kits (no barrel included)

2. Provide complete rainbarrels and sell they for a discounted price

After some discussion, it was decided to get quotes on both options before deciding.

Motion by Bell to table this item until the August 9, 2023, Board Meeting. Seconded by Mensing.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

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5. August 2023 Field Day (Action Item)

Hadley handed the Board flyers of the field day the SWCD will be hosting on August 23, 2023, in Blue Earth. She also mentioned purchasing new “EVENT” flags to mark the field day, along with a bouncy house for the day. The Board agreed to order new flags and check on bouncy house prices.

Motion by Mensing to approve the purchase of 2 new “EVENT” flags for field days. Seconded by Humburg.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

6. Supervisor Clothing (Discussion Item)

Shane told the Board they can get customized SWCD clothing if they’d like. They can either purchase through catalogs or bring in their own clothing.

7. SWCD Aid Money (Action Item)

Shane updated the Board on the new SWCD Aid Money.

8. Conservationist of the Year (Discussion Item)

SWCD staff & Board members all submitted names to be nominated for Faribault County’s ‘Conservationist of the Year’ award. After some discussion, Dale Stevermer of Trails End Farm was chosen.

9. August Board Meeting – Wednesday, August 9, 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:

July 25th BWSR Southern Regional, 1W1P; Mankato – Nate

July 26-29th Faribault County Fair – Hadley

August 8th 1W1P, Steering Team – Nate

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 Bell.

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

Voting against – None. Motion Carried.

Chairman Feist adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 10:57a.m.