

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
FARIBAULT COUNTY AG CENTER  
VIA SWCD AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM & TELECONFERENCE  
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 10, 2020**

**Chairman Bell called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 8:34 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:**

Ciara Ahrens, Nate Carr, Myles Elsen, Amy Huber, Shane Johnson, Dustin Anderson, Michele Stindtman, Chad Viland, and Henry Berghoff.

**I. APPROVALS**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS**

Motion by Feist to approve the Agenda with the addition of item III.4b, approve the extension of the LeSueur 319 grant from August 2020 to August 2021, and the Program Administrators request to approve the Pledge Agreement with the University of Illinois. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Anderson to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 SWCD Board meeting. Seconded by Feist. 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 Mathews to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

**5. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BILLS**

Motion by Mensing to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$55,500.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. GRIEVANCES/OTHER – None**

**III. NEW BUSINESS –**

**1. FARIBAULT COUNTY DRAINAGE DEPT. –** Dusty Anderson met regarding Drainage Dept. business. He discussed recent meetings and projects they are working on as well as weed control in the ditches.

**NRCS** – Ciara Ahrens and Myles Elsen met regarding NRCS business. They also introduced a new NRCS employee that will be stationed in Faribault County, Henry Berghoff. Ciara mentioned that her Supervisor is still drafting the Memorandum of Understanding with the Faribault County Soil and Water Conservation District. Ciara said she has been in contact with Michele regarding the need to have a local working group meeting in conjunction with the SWCD which is mandatory for both organizations and due by July 31st. She will be in touch with Michele to get this done and said this is our local landowner's opportunity to be a voice on what to spend money on.

It was suggested that NRCS, Shane, Nate, and Dusty should set up a technical committee and meet monthly. The Board Chairman suggested it does not have to be a lengthy meeting, but did ask that this group report back to the Board next month.

## **2. COST-SHARE CONTRACT/VOUCHER SPREADSHEET**

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

### **ENCUMBERING –**

Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Encumbering Requests as presented for a total of \$9,405.00. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

### **VOUCHER PAYMENTS –**

Motion by Mathews to approve the Cost Share Payments as presented for a total of \$1,700.00. 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 –**

Shane Johnson provided an updated Project Log for the Board to review. The Program Technician also provided a copy of the County Rainfall data through May.

## **3. STAFF PROGRAM UPDATES –**

Chad Viland, Water Resource Technician/Septic Inspector discussed and provided documents and data regarding projects he has recently been working on to include Faribault County Well Mapping. He also mentioned that the DNR OB Well contract for the 2020-2021 monitoring year is up for renewal.

Motion by Mensing to approve the Program Administrator to digitally sign/renew the 2020-2021 DNR OB Well contract. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

## **4. GRANTS, POLICY, CONTRACT UPDATES –**

**Brush Creek 319 Field Assessment** - The Water Resource Technician and Conservation Technician recently completed a field assessment of the Brush Creek Watershed. They reviewed crop, tillage, and erosion data. Nate prepared a chart of data from their assessments along with some goals. He also mentioned they would like to send a letter to those affected in the Brush Creek area.

**LeSueur 319 Grant Extension** – The Program Administrator mentioned that the MPCA has approved the extension of the LeSueur 319 Grant from August 2020 to August 2021.

Motion by Mensing to approve the extension of the LeSueur 319 Grant from August 2020 to August 2021. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

**Pledge Agreement with University of Illinois** – The Program Administrator said she was contacted yesterday afternoon by Gary Feyereisen about a funding opportunity to continue work on the Mensing Bioreactor via the University of Illinois. There will be a Cash pledge of \$3,000 from the Faribault County Soil and Water District as well as an In-kind pledge of \$17,170 from the Faribault County Soil and Water District. The grant is an Innovation grant for \$10,000.00/year for three years.

Motion by Feist to approve the In-kind and Cash Pledge agreement with the University of Illinois as presented. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

The Board Chairman asked if they could get some information on how the Bioreactor project is working.

## **5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES -**

There were no meetings this past month that Board Supervisors attended.

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

June 12	GBERBA Executive Mtg., via Teleconference (Neal)
June 16	TSA Mtg. via Zoom (Bill)

## **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **1. Contract for Services**

The Board discussed the Contract for Services.

Motion by Feist to wait until the Consultant work is complete before finalizing the Contract for Services. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

### **2. SWCD COVID-19 Response Update**

The Program Administrator presented a document that was a combination of what the County was doing, along with timelines, in response to COVID-19 as well as a few items she has added to it.

Motion by Mensing to approve the updated COVID-19 Plan as presented, contingent upon amendments or changes that may arise. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

### **3. Review/approve Proposal for a Seasonal/Temporary Position**

The Program Administrator proposed hiring a Seasonal/Temporary Outreach Technician position for 67 Days between July 2020 and December 2020 with listed job responsibilities.

Motion by Feist to approve the proposed Seasonal/Temporary Outreach Technician position as submitted. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

### **4. Approve Repair Quote from Hanson Auto Body for the Ford Escape**

Michele said Chad obtained a quote from Hanson Auto Body to repair the hood of the Escape. It is undetermined what happened to it. The amount to repair it is less than the deductible, so it will not be covered by insurance.

Motion by Mathews to approve the repair quote from Hanson Auto Body for the Ford Escape. Seconded by Feist. After further discussion, the motion failed.

Motion by Mensing to obtain a 2<sup>nd</sup> repair quote and approve repair of the Ford Escape to the lowest repair bid. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

## **5. July Board Meeting**

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 8:30 a.m., in the Ag Center Conference Room and or via Teleconference. There will be a SWCD & NRCS Work Group meeting following the regular board meeting.

## **V. MEETINGS/EVENTS/TRAININGS FOR STAFF -**

Motion by Anderson to approve attendance to the following:

June 11	Civic Plus Advanced Web Training - Amy
June 16	TSA via Zoom – Michele, Shane
June 18	TAP Meeting, St. Paul - Chad
June 23	MACDE Zoom Meeting – Michele
June 23	Dr. Mulder Staff Meetings – All Staff
June 24	GBERBA Tech – via Zoom, Michele
June 25	Dr. Mulder Staff Meetings – All Staff
June 25	BE Civic Engagement – Michele
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Office Closed in Observance of 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday

Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT –**

Motion by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.  
Chairman Bell adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.