

**FARIBAULT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
FARIBAULT COUNTY AG CENTER  
VIA SWCD OFFICE & TELECONFERENCE  
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 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

**SUPERVISORS ABSENT:**

P/R – BILL ANDERSON

**STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ciara Ahrens, Nate Carr, Miles Elsen, Amy Huber, Shane Johnson, Merissa Lore, and Michele Stindtman.

**I. APPROVALS**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS**

Motion by Mensing to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion by Feist to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and to file it subject to audit. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

**4. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

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

Motion by Feist to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$31,550.00 from Savings to Checking to pay the bills. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. GRIEVANCES/OTHER – None**

**III. NEW BUSINESS –**

- 1. NRCS** – Ciara Ahrens and Miles Elsen attended the meeting and introduced themselves as the new NRCS staff. They discussed the various programs they are working with right now and are working on trying to catch up on work due to not having a full staff at the local NRCS level in recent months. They also discussed their meeting with Michele, Amy, and Shane a couple weeks ago where they proposed partnering with the SWCD to contract for staff time to help them with their projects going forward. Ciara also mentioned they could partner with the SWCD on conferences/workshops if the SWCD was interested in doing this.

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

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

### **ENCUMBERING –**

Motion by Mensing to approve the Cost Share Encumbering Requests as presented for a total of \$36,737.50. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

### **VOUCHER PAYMENTS –**

None this month.

The complete and detailed list of Encumbering requests are attached to the official minutes and are available in the SWCD office.

### **PROJECT LOG –**

No update this month.

## **3. GRANT(s), POLICY, CONTRACT UPDATES –**

The Program Administrator discussed and had hand-outs available regarding the Grants, Policies, and Contract Updates.

### **A. Future/Current Grants**

MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Request for Interest: Motion by Feist to approve the MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Request for Interest. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

MDM Grant for CD64: Motion by Mensing to approve the MDM Grant for CD64 Brush Creek Sediment Reduction Strategy in the amount of \$61,600.00. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

### **B. Policy Updates**

Amend Policy #604-A: The Board reviewed the changes to the policy. Motion by Feist to amend the CD64 Brush Creek and Blue Earth River Sediment Reduction Strategy, Program Policy #604-A. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

### **C. Contracts**

Update on MDM Agreement with the County: The Program Administrator said that there will not be an additional MDM grant agreement/contract with the County as it is not necessary. Merissa Lore stated the Drainage authority can sign the existing contracts as a landowner within the 16 ½' – outside of that, the landowner needs to sign the contract.

MPCA Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Subcontract with Faribault County: Motion by Feist to approve the MPCA Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Subcontract with Faribault County. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

The Program Administrator stated that she sent the Subcontract to MCIT for final review and she stated that they still have lots of concerns, but agreed it was time to move on.

LeSueur 1 Watershed 1 Plan Memorandum of Agreement: Motion by Mathews to approve the LeSueur 1 Watershed 1 Plan Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

Resolution 02-20: Member Mathews introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**Resolution to Support a Le Sueur River Watershed - One Watershed, One Plan Project, #02-20**

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103D.401, Watershed Management Plan, authorizes Minnesota Watershed Districts to develop and implement a watershed management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Le Sueur River Watershed, HUC 01020011, and watershed number 26 as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Faribault County SWCD recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Faribault County SWCD welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Le Sueur River Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Faribault County SWCD supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Le Sueur River Watershed, to collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Mensing. Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Mathews, Feist, Bell, and Mensing.

Those voting against: none

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

**4. STAFF PROGRAM UPDATES –**

**NRCS' Proposed Contractual Work with the SWCD:** Discussion was held in regard to the SWCD partnering with NRCS to hold conferences/workshops and assist them with some work. The addition of an intern to help with some of the SWCD workload was also discussed.

Motion by Mathews to engage in contractual work with NRCS contingent on staff availability and with the specifics of that relationship to be negotiated by staff. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

Motion by Mensing to allow the SWCD to partner with NRCS for conferences and workshops when deemed feasible. Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

Board Chairman Bell asked that the Board be kept current with the integral work of the SWCD/NRCS.

**Health/Dental Insurance Renewal from MN PEIP:** Amy discussed the new rate proposal from PEIP, which on average is a 10.7% increase.

Motion by Mensing to approve the Health/Dental Insurance Renewal with MN PEIP effective July 1, 2020. Seconded by Mathews. Motion carried.

**COVID-19 Response Update:** The Program Administrator mentioned we are still following the March 27<sup>th</sup> Plan until further notice. She is working on a plan with the county on when and how to re-open to the public.

**Drainage Department Update:** Merissa Lore, Drainage Manager, met regarding Drainage business.

#### **5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES -**

Board member Mensing stated he was unable to virtually attend the last GBERBA meeting.

Board Chairman Bell asked that the SWCD vehicles be maintained with more frequent washes.

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

May 19 – June 2<sup>nd</sup>                      Filing period for SWCD Board Supervisors District #1 & #4

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **1. June Board Meeting**

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 8:30 a.m., in the Ag Center Conference Room and or via Teleconference.

##### **2. Board I-pads**

The Program Administrator brought up the idea of purchasing I-pads for the Board. There was discussion on the pros and cons of getting I-pads for each Board member. No action was taken.

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

Motion by Mensing to approve attendance to the following:

April 27	MASWCD & Dept. of Labor – Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Amy
April 30	NRCS/FSA Meeting – Michele, Amy, Shane
May 4	MASWCD/NRCS/BWSR COVID-19 Impact Conf. Call – Michele, Amy
May 5	State of MN Budget Update – Michele, Amy
May 18	Budgeting for Local Governments in a Crisis – Amy
May 27	GBERBA Tech – Michele
June 9	Huntley Sewer District Mtg. - Chad

Seconded by Feist. Motion carried.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT –**

Motion by Feist to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mensing. Motion carried.

Chairman Bell adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.