

**DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT MINUTES**

Monday, January 8, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas County Commissioner's Room on Monday, January 8, 2024. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Rutten, and Froemming. Cleary was absent. Also, in attendance were NRCS, Kevin Behrens, Staff attending Haggemiller, Albertsen, Anderson, Arceneau and Olson.

Pledge was recited

Re-Organization of the Board of Supervisors. Motion by Rutten to have no change from 2023 in 2024 Officers, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried. Barsness-Chairman, Rutten-Vice-Chairman, Cleary-Treasurer, Dropik-Secretary.

Minutes of the regular December 15, 2023, meeting was discussed. Motion by Froemming to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read. Motion by Dropik to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Reports

- A. Coordinator's Report** – Haggemiller reviewed his monthly report.
- B. Pomme de Terre Update** – Barsness reported they will meet on Friday, January 12, 2024.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten reported they will meet on January 15.
- D. Chippewa River Report** – No Report was given.
- E. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – No Report was given.
- F. Douglas County Commissioner Report-** Commissioner Englund mentioned he attended the MN Rural Counties Conference, he will be on the radio on Monday, January 15. He will attend the Hospital Conference in February.
- G. Long Prairie Report** – Dropik reported they will meet on January 18, 2024.
- H. DCLA Report** – No Report.

Old Business

- A. Tree Cooler** – Haggemiller reported all is going well. Insulation will be sprayed this week.
- B. Strategic Planning with BWSR.** Jason Weinerman will be here March 11 after the Board Meeting.

New Business

- A. Field Office Update**– Kevin Behrens reported that Rich Giving will be retiring on the 29th of February, round one received 30 EQIP applications, round two approved 10 more applications, CSP 22 applications.
- B. 2024 Meeting Schedule** – Haggemiller handed 2024 meeting schedule Motion by Rutten to approve 2024 meeting schedule, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- C. Set Supervisors Compensation** Motion by Barsness to leave compensation at \$125, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

D. Set Mileage Rate Motion by Rutten to follow the Federal Mileage Rate of 67¢/mile for 2024, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried.

E. Designate Depositories Motion by Rutten to designate Bremer Bank as the Douglas SWCD depository, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

F. Assign Committees

1. **Chippewa River Watershed Group** – Cleary, Alternate - Froemming
2. **Pomme de Terre Watershed Group** – Barsness, Alternate-Cleary
3. **Sauk River Watershed Group** – Rutten, Alternate- Dropik
4. **West Central Area II Joint Powers** – Froemming, Alternate Barsness
5. **Long Prairie Watershed Group** – Dropik, Alternate Froemming
6. **Water Plan** –Rutten, Alternate-Barsness
7. **EQIP Local Work Group**–Barsness, Froemming
8. **Douglas Legacy Fund**-Froemming

G. Dues

- **National Association of Conservation Districts - \$774.00** Motion by Rutten to approve the National Association of Conservation Districts dues, seconded by Dropik Motion carried.
- **MN Assn of Conservation Districts - \$7,077.92** Motion by Froemming to approve the MN Assn of Conservation Districts - \$7,077.92 dues, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.
- **Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust - \$9,084.00** Motion by Dropik to approve the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust - \$9,084.00, seconded by Froemming. Motion Carried.

H. Soil Health Grant Motion by Rutten to approve the Soil Health Grant, seconded by Froemming Motion carried.

I. Tree Planter Motion by Rutten to approve the Tree Planter Grant, seconded by Dropik Motion carried.

J. Danielle Anderson 6th Year Review – The Board appreciates the good work, Motion by Rutten to increase wage by \$1.53 per hour, seconded by Barsness. Motion Carried.

K. Ian Olson 2 Year Review – Appreciates the good work. Motion by Rutten to increase wage by \$1.53 per hour, seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.

L. Jerome Haggemiller 35 Year Review - The Board appreciates the good work, Motion by Rutten to increase wage by \$2.42 per hour, seconded by Rutten. Motion Carried.

Bills to Pay. During the month of January, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11252-11280 for a total of \$79,033.08 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Froemming to pay the bills, seconded by Dropik Motion carried.

Adjournment. Motion by Barsness to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary