



916 2nd Street SE
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Minutes of the April 16, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the April 16, 2015 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Regular Board of Supervisor's meeting, conference room, USDA Service Center, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Larry Scherger at 7:19 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Don Hesel, PR&I
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary (late arrival 8:25)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS
Gerald Fahning (Jerry), CLU, Registered Representative, New York Life Insurance Company
Judy Ringler Mountain, LUTCF, CLTC, Financial Services Professional, Mountain Financial Group LLC.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – No additions were made to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the April 16, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the March 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes – Revisions to the March 19, 2015 board minutes include clarifying the motion to designate a financial institution, and on the bottom of page 3, change that Don will be attending a presentation on the Emerald Ash Bore from Don attended a presentation on the Emerald Ash Bore. A motion was made to approve the March 19, 2015 regular board meeting minutes as revised.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported that the NRCS is posting for the Acting Assistant State Conservationist position in Rochester. The position will last for 90 – 120 days until the new State Conservationist can hire a permanent Assistant State Conservationist in Rochester. The NRCS is working on CRP compliance checks for reenrollment. There are about 30 CRP contracts set to expire on September 30, 2015. EQIP applications are in for the ranking period that expired April 10th with applications to be ranked by April 26th. There are three animal mortality facilities to be installed this year. The NRCS is also working on three RIM-WRP contracts, completing inspections and staking easement boundaries.

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, was not present.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Special Presentation

New York Life Securities (Dodge Center Location) – Gerald (Jerry) Fahning, CLU, Registered Representative of the New York Life Insurance Company, and Judy Ringler Mountain, LUTCF, CLTC of Mountain Financial Group LLC, informed the board that New York Life has been in business since 1845, with Jerry Fahning being an Authorized Representative for 53 years and Judy Ringler Mountain for 23 years. The funds that the Dodge SWCD currently hold with New York Life were transferred into the money market account in 2010 when the SWCD had Principle Life Insurance, and when Principle Life changed to stocks the SWCD had to cash out the stocks, which worth around \$75,000. The Dodge SWCD put it in a New York Life Mainstay Money Market fund to be used as reserve funds. Judy brought up alternative options for the current money market account. New York Life offers Certificates of Deposit (CD's), with varying interest rates from 0.2-0.6% depending on the length of time the money will be there. All of their CD's are insured though FDIC and have a \$1,000 minimum. Another option would be a Complete Access Annuity. It has more risk, but has averaged 2-6% on their portfolios and is backed by New York Life. The board asked what it would cost to close the account, and Judy informed the board that there may be a small fee.

David Livingston entered at 8:25 P.M.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of the New Bills – Glen Hahn, Treasurer, discussed and reviewed the March Balance Sheet and Aging Summary, cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures. Expenditures of District Operations in March was \$6,848.79. There was discussion on what the SWCD can actually invest in and the board asked Adam King to look into that. There was a motion to transfer all assets held at New York Life Securities to Citizens State Bank of Hayfield.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

There was additional work put in by Accounting Plus for the Year-End Report in March, and Deb from Accounting Plus has asked for an additional \$150.00. The \$150.00 to Accounting Plus was added to the list of bills to be paid. A motion was made to accept the financial report and pay all presented bills totaling \$1,022.99.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

One Watershed One Plan Update

A public kickoff meeting was held on April 8, 2015 at the Community Center in Fountain, MN. 85 people registered at the door and were asked to rank the priority concerns that were most important to them by placing a dot next to the concern. The concerns that raised to the top were flooding and groundwater quality. A presentation on the planning process was given by Mark Deutschman of Houston Engineering Inc.

Blue Thumb/Raingarden Update

The Dodge SWCD has partnered with the ZWP and Jim Hurska to put on three raingarden workshops in Dodge County, one in Kasson, one in Dodge Center, and one in West Concord. There were 7 in attendance in Kasson, 2 in Dodge Center, and 5 in West Concord. These workshops have been used to introduce people to raingardens and urban infiltration practices that can be installed on their property, and to gauge the interest of the citizens of Dodge County to see if funding should be sought for financial and technical assistance. There has been one site visit to come out of the workshops so far, and one asked to have a workshop in Mantorville. Adam King has talked with Bev Nordby of the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) inquiring about partnering for a raingarden workshop in Hayfield, MN. She said she has concerns regarding the practice, specifically being correctly designed and maintained, but to come up with a proposal addressing those issues for the CRWD board to consider.

Dodge County Business Expo

The Dodge County Business Expo was held on Saturday, March 28, 2015, and had a very good turnout. The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with the Dodge Center Lions Club, sharing a booth with them and giving away two flowering crabapple trees, one for each organization. The winner of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts flowering crabapple tree was Harold Buck. Adam King has called and he has accepted the tree. The tree will be planted later this spring.

New Business

Minnesota Farm Bill Assistance Grant

The Board of Water and Soil Resources has opened their Minnesota Farm Bill Assistance Grant opportunity. Blaine Delzer has put together the grant application. The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District will be asking for a 0.5 FTE/\$25,000 to assist with the installation of wildlife habitat practices through programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program. If rewarded, these funds would start July 1, 2015 and run through June 30, 2016, and be used to fund a portion of Tom Johnston's position in 2015, and a portion of Blaine Delzer's position in 2016. There is a 10% match needed for the grant and the

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) asks 5% to come from the soil and water conservation district and the other 5% to come from a non-profit such as Pheasants Forever. Adam King will verify the match coming from Pheasants Forever. A motion was made to approve the Minnesota Farmbill Assistance Grant Application.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (SEMACDE) Dues

The SEMACDE dues are \$10 per employee. There was a motion to pay the SEMACDE dues for the 3 employees, up to \$30.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

- The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Adam King, District Manager, completed the annual report and made it available at the Dodge County Business Expo.

There have been comments made about the side of our website being out of date. Adam King said he will try get a hold of Poulton Web Design and get them to change it.

Adam King had also sent out press releases for the One Watershed One Plan Public Kickoff Meeting.

Meeting Reports

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported that the ZWP newsletter has gone out and Jim Hurska is the Featured Board Member. Fran Minnick, the charitable gambling manager from the Rivers Bend Nature center in Faribault, Minnesota talked about charitable gambling and the effort needed to make money. Sue Kruger also spoke to the ZWP board about an Ag Star Grant that would cover a \$2,000-\$3,000 project. There are several new board members, and at the next ZWP meeting on May 14, 2015 Kevin Kuehner will be presenting on the Field to Stream Partnership with partnering local governments and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Don Hesar, District 2 Supervisor, reported attending the Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting in Rochester where they discussed a \$430,000 grant for assisting women in woodlands given to the Minnesota Womans Woodlands Network. The Invasive Species Surveys that were sent out to area SWCDs were discussed, as was removing non-paying board members, record retention, a review of the bylaws, and the Ag Water Quality Certification Program.

One Watershed One Plan for the Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District 4 Supervisor, reported previously on the public kickoff meeting.

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 4 Supervisor, reported that a feedlot has moved out of committee and a public hearing being planned. Glenn also gave an update on the lawsuit against Dodge County, and an update on the Westfield Township moratorium on feedlots.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported on attending the CRWD meeting on March 18, 2015. Bev Nordby, District Administrator, will be retiring this coming November, with Justin Hanson being planned to take over, and Cody Fox being promoted as well. The new watershed district rules were approved, and will be sent out to all contractors. The Capital Improvement Plan is completed and will be taken to the Austin Vision 2020 and Hormel Foundation committees for funding of the capital improvement projects identified. Some of the identified projects are in Dodge County, and if future projects are found, they can be added to the list and ranked with the current list. The board approved spending \$2,700 to hire a halftime staff person for implementing the Conservation Reserve Program. Adam King, District Manager, is also partnering with the Cedar River Watershed District for upcoming grant opportunities on saturated buffers.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts ~~are~~ have put a call out for and are seeking soil health champions. Krysta Hovendon was announced as the Minnesota Conservation Corps Academy Apprentice for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. Adam King attended a meeting on the Governors Buffer Proposal in Owatonna and discussed what had happened at the meeting. The board was informed that the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has sent out the call for resolutions, and that the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the MDA is now going through the rulemaking process to start implementing the plan. Adam King is also working with Dodge County on a Soil Loss Ordinance. Dodge County has agreed to purchase a refrigerator for water sample storage.

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Larry Scherger called for a motion for adjournment at 11:51 P.M.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved:  Date: 5-21-15 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Heser – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn