



Minutes of the December 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the December 17, 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 7:20 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Don Hesel, PR&I
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary (late arrival 9:28)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There was one addition to the agenda: a resolution to adopt the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Plan. A motion was made to approve the December 17, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Hesel

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the November 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no revisions to the November 19, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the November 19, 2015 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Don Hesel

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported that there were no additional EQIP applications since the November 19, 2015 meeting with the sign-up deadline of November 20, 2015. The EQIP eligibility deadline is December 18, 2015. There have been many new CRP contract sign-up's providing upland and pollinator habitat. The new ranking tool for CSP has been delayed and the NRCS will continue to use the Conservation Management Tool. There will be a Driftless Area Symposium in La Crosse, WI, the cost will be \$90. A final design has been

completed for the RIM-WRP easement south of Claremont, and another RIM-WRP easement in a floodplain will be closing in the next few weeks.

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported attending the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual convention. There were good breakout sessions on a website showing the measures of different farm scenarios, the new buffer law, and One Watershed One Plan/working with all entities in the watershed. Peterson also reported attending the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) annual convention that also offered good information. The Dodge County Commissioners will finalize their budget and hold their truth in taxation hearing on Tuesday, December 22, 2015.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, reported that the \$3,000.00 added to the designated vehicle fund has not yet been added. The overall report will show a loss for 2015. \$6,000.00 for the Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program and \$25,000.00 for the Buffer Law came through and is shown in deferred revenue. There was total of \$8,952.03 in revenues, much coming from water plan duties, and \$16,685.77 in expenses. \$4,350.00 from the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust, and \$290.69 from the Claremont Service Center were added to the Aging Summary for a total of \$5,003.71. A motion was made to approve the treasurers report and pay the bills totaling \$5,003.71.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

FY16 Clean Water Fund Grants Update

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that at the December 16, 2015 meeting of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved competitive Clean Water Funds Grants. There were a total of 94 applications submitted for FY16 Projects and Practices, with 70 applications ranked, and fully funding the top ranked 33 applications (with exceptions). The Dodge SWCD submitted two FY16 Projects and Practices grant applications, which ranked #18 (Dodge Saturated Buffer Project Implementation for \$50,625), and #32 (Middle Fork Zumbro River Critical Source Area Restoration for \$140,925), both receiving full funding. There were 12 applications submitted for the FY16 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant, with 9 applications ranked, and fully funding the top ranked 5 applications (and partially fund the 6th). The Dodge SWCD submitted one FY16 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant, which ranked #5 (Ripley Nitrogen Reduction Implementation for \$36,675) and received full funding. A total of \$228,225 in BWSR FY2016 Clean Water Funds were approved for funding to the Dodge SWCD.

New Business

Personnel Committee Recommendations

Larry Scherger reviewed the personnel committee recommendations with the board. Recommendations include a step increase (from step 6 to step 5) for Blaine Delzer, a step increase (from a negotiated step to step 6) for Adam King. A motion was made to accept the personnel committee recommendations of the step increases.

Motion: Don Heser

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

2016 Cost of Living Increase

Adam King presented the board with the current wage scale, and the wage scale at a 1%, 2%, and 3% increase along with total salary figures. Dodge County has decided on a 2% cost of living increase for 2016. After discussion a motion was made to set the cost of living increase at 2%, adjust the wage scale for the increase, and update the employee handbook with the new wage scale adjustments.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Livingston entered at 9:28 P.M.

2016 Final Budget Approval

The board reviewed the 2016 preliminary budget. After discussion, the board decided to raise employee expenses \$500, from \$750 to \$1,250, and office supplies \$250, from \$250 to \$500. A motion was made to approve the final 2016 budget as amended, with \$349,988 in total expenditures.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

2016 District Conservation Cost-Share

The board discussed the district cost-share policy. A motion was made to keep the district cost-share policy the same: a maximum cost-share rate of 65% except for well sealing which will be 50% cost-share not to exceed \$500 per well. District cost-share funds used to piggy-back on EQIP projects will be set at 75%. A district cost-share maximum will be set at \$10,000.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

2016 Dodge County Water Plan Duties Contract

The board discussed the contract with Dodge County for water plan duties. A motion was made to sign the Dodge County Water Plan Duties Contract for \$20,000 with a set hourly rate of \$41.00/hr.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #1-2015 to adopt the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Plan

At the August 21, 2008 meeting, the board passed a resolution to adopt the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Plan as the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Plan for the calendar years of 2008 - 2015. A new resolution is needed to adopt the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Plan as the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Plan for the future. A motion was made to approve resolution #1-2015 adopting the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Plan as the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Comprehensive Plan from December 17, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously and all supervisors signed the resolution.

Correspondence

Adam King presented the no-till drill year-end summary from Blaine Delzer, District Technician, and an article on the new CREP III proposal. Adam also shared the MASWCD Leadership Institute for Problem Solving notice and a letter from the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board.

Meeting Reports

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the MASWCD Convention on December 7-8, 2015 and a session on the new Buffer Law/State Soil Loss Ordinance. The SWCD will take the lead, but not be the enforcement, and the SWCD can include “other waters” that are not included in public waters or public ditch systems. Landowners will also be able to have alternative practices approved by the SWCD.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on December 10, 2015, and that the Olmsted SWCD will be moving in with Olmsted County before the end of the year. Kevin will be moving with them. The One Watershed One Plan was discussed and some entities are more interested in a Memorandum of Understanding than a Joint Powers Board or Agreement. Lake Zumbro will be holding a fundraiser for the dredging project.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Don Hesper, District 2 Supervisor, reported attending the RC&D meeting, where they gave an overview of the goat grant, and may possibly use the goats to control garlic mustard. The City of Rochester has announced they will become energy independent, and the RC&D is looking for ways to contribute towards that goal. They discussed the future of One Watershed One Plan and their role in it. Supervisor Hesper shared an article about the use of Kernza as a crop.

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported that Dodge County has approved the Conditional Use Permit for the new Masching feedlot. New technologies will lead Dodge County into updating their requirements for new feedlots.

Root River One Watershed One Plan – Root River – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported that the policy committee has reviewed the draft Joint Powers Agreement, which will allow for grants to be applied for as a group. Staffing and what can be accomplished with what funds are available is being determined.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD meeting on December 16, 2015, where they certified the \$250,000 levy, and finalized the 2016 budget. The CRWD has hired Tim Ruzik and he will start January 04, 2015. Two cost-share projects, Tapp, and Boles, were approved, and they have over 50 projects planned for next year. The CRWD was approved for \$600,000 in Clean Water Funds, which will be used as match for the Hormel Foundation funds. They did not receive the habitat funding they applied for, and felt that the application was more technical than the committee wanted. They discussed their six month buffer plan. This year has been their busiest year for permits, and expect 2016 to be busy as well.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported attending multiple meetings, conducting employee reviews, has put together the final draft budget, and potential wage scale increases.

Other New Business

There was no other new business


Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:49 P.M.

Motion: Dave Livingston
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, January 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: 1-21-16 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Hesser – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn

