



Minutes of the February 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the February 19, 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
David Livingston, Secretary
Don Hesel, PR&I

Members Absent: Glenn Hahn, Treasurer

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Two additions were made to the agenda, both in unfinished business: Raingardens/Bluethumb and the Dodge County Expo. A motion was made to approve the February 19, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Bill Thompson
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the January 15, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no revisions to the January 15, 2015 board minutes. A motion was made to approve the January 15, 2015 regular board meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Don Hesel
The motion carried unanimously.

Agency Reports

County Commissioner's Report

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

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, was not present

County Water Plan Report

Dean Schrandt, Water Program Manager, Dodge County, was not present.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments – Adam King, District Manager, discussed and reviewed cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures that occurred in January. METRO Sales 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 \$957.54.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Bill Thompson
The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Designate Financial Institution for 2015

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, went to Citizens State Bank in Dodge Center and talked with Brenda Ellingson. He looked at the Citizens Platinum Checking Account, and for that the SWCD would need \$900 to open the account, a \$900 daily balance or incur a \$5 fee for every day below \$900, a free debit card, and the account would have a variable interest rate. He also looked into the Money Market Savings Account which would require a \$2,500 deposit to open, a \$2,500 minimum balance or incur a \$3 fee if the average daily balance falls below \$25.00, and the account would have a 0.1% interest rate. Glen had also looked into Certificates of Deposit (CDs) which would give a 0.3% interest rate. The board asked Adam King to ask if Citizens State Bank would give a presentation and answer questions from the board. After discussion there was a motion to table designating a financial institution and try to get Citizens State Bank to present/talk with the board.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Bill Thompson
The motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Conservation Corps Academy Apprentice

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District was chosen to host a Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) Academy Apprentice. The MCC Academy Apprentice will be working on transferring the hard copies of the District's tile maps into GIS, working with Tom Johnston on surveying, designing and installing agricultural BMPs, and working with Blaine Delzer assisting with the MnFarm models and meeting on site with landowners. The board asked what will this cost and what would need to be provided. Adam King said that the MCC Academy Apprentice will be paid by the MCC, but the MCC Academy Apprentice will need access to a working computer with internet in order to work on GIS, to complete their timesheets and to attend webinar staff meetings. Adam King also informed the board that the District currently has a computer for the MCC Academy Apprentice, but there is no monitor. A motion was made to allow Adam King to purchase a computer monitor for the extra SWCD computer.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Bill Thompson
The motion carried unanimously.

Blue Thumb/Raingarden Update

Adam King, District Manager, reported not hearing anything back from the Rice Creek Watershed District or Metro Blooms about the Blue Thumb program, but spoke with Meghan Moller from the City of Rochester, and she has received a partner agreement and has emailed it. The Rice Creek Watershed District's Blue Thumb program and the Metro Blooms have now

merged under the name Blue Thumb. The Partner Agreement has changed, and the dues to a SWCD would be \$500/year, with an option to fulfill up to 50% of the dues with volunteer action hours (event volunteers, committee participation). The board wanted to know if the benefit is worth that amount and instructed Adam King to look into the program and others experiences with it.

Dodge County Expo

The Dodge Center Lions Club would like to give away 2 larger trees this year at the Dodge County Expo. The trees are a bare-root flowering Crab Apple tree for \$18 each. The winner would have to live in Dodge County and the Dodge Center Lions Club would plant the tree for the landowner. A motion was made to approve to spend \$18 for a bare-root flowering Crab Apple tree for a prize at the Dodge County Expo.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously

New Business

Correspondence

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board there will be a press release about the Minnesota Conservation Corps Academy Apprentice position opening.

Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, informed the board that Kevin Straus from the Zumbro Watershed partnership is working on a feedlot article and is looking for landowners to interview for the article.

Don Heser, District 2 Supervisor, presented an article about the City of Des Moines suing agricultural producers over too much nitrogen contribution in its drinking water supply, which is now costing the city about \$4,000 a day to treat and remove the nitrogen.

Meeting Reports

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Don Heser, District 2 Supervisor, reported attending the Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting in Rochester on January 26, 2015. It was their annual business meeting and John Bechwith will take over the accounting in 2015 to save money. The RC&D will be providing assistance to the nitrate testing program, and Rice SWCD has a 3 foot no-till drill to use with an ATV, and are gauging interest in an inter-seeder to seed cover crops on planted and growing fields.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on February 12, 2015. Ryan Buck from the Minnesota Corn Growers Association presented on his operation in Goodhue County. The board is looking for 2 more citizens to join the board, and Steven Gray, Dodge County Commissioner, is now on the ZWP Board. Paul Wotzka is working on the WRAPS and will first start with the Cannon River Watershed, then work on the Zumbro River Watershed. Kevin Straus is also writing an article on Crop Consultants and the services they provide to producers. The 10 Year Anniversary Celebration is going to be on March 12th and will include a wine tasting.

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Adam King, District Manager, reported for Glenn Hahn, on an email from the Dodge County Agricultural Producers and their response to the public meetings held by the Dodge County Concerned Citizens.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported on attending the CRWD meeting on February 18, 2015, and that it was Jason Weis's first meeting as Board Chair. Comments on the rule changes are to be in the office by March 13, 2015. The CRWD will incorporate/respond to the comments and hold a public hearing on the rule changes on March 25, 2015. They are taking enforcement action on permit violators and fining the contractor and landowner for violations. James Fett presented on the 2014 water monitoring data. The CRWD approved spending money on putting in a pier by the Old Mill.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported that Larry Scherger and he attended the Area VII Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting. The two new Nutrient/Nitrogen Management Specialists were introduced. Adam also attended the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALLM) meeting. Handouts from Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, about the Minnesota Discovery Farms, Nitrates in Drainage Water in Minnesota from the University Extension, and the Minnesota Buffer Rule were provided to the board in their folders. Adam King discussed the Farm to Stream Report from the Freshwater Society and informed the board of a presentation of the report at the Watershed Summit on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Adam shared his experiences at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Day at the Capital. The One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) is also moving forward with Adam attending Planning Workgroup meetings to get organized for the next Policy Committee Meeting and prepare for the Public Kickoff Meeting to be held at the end of March. Adam presented his Workload Estimator to the board and answered questions.

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Larry Scherger called for a motion for adjournment at 10:59 P.M.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

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, March 19, 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: 3-19-15 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Hesel – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn