



Minutes of the January 15, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the January 15, 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 7:24 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
David Livingston, Secretary
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
Don Hesper, PR&I

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS
Lawrence Svien, Executive Director, Zumbro Watershed Partnership

Oath of Office – Re-elected supervisors Larry Scherger and David Livingston took the oath of office.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – The one addition to the agenda included the Dodge County Business Expo. A motion was made to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.
Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the December 18, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no revisions to the December 18, 2014 board minutes. A motion was made to approve the December 18, 2014 regular board meeting minutes as presented.
Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, discussed and reviewed cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures. The district had gone over budget on insurance (MCIT and life) by paying later/earlier than in the past. A motion was made to approve the payment of the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) invoice for \$4,577.00.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay all presented bills totaling \$2,408.74.

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

Agency Reports

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported that Dodge County had ended up with a 9% tax levy increase. The construction on the Dodge County Courthouse should be completed in May of 2015. Dodge County is having upcoming staff retirements, and the Dodge County Human Services Department have recently combine with three other counties to form Minnesota Prairie. The Troms have filed suit against Dodge County for a second time over the Masching feedlot.

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reviewed the Civil Rights Policy, the Anti-Harassment Policy, and a press release on the funded projects of the new innovative RCPP program. In total the RCPP Program received 600 applications, and requesting 200 of those applications to submit a full proposal. The Ag Water Quality Certification Program (AWQCP), a forest health initiative, and the Red River Retention Authority were ultimately funded in Minnesota.

The AWQCP will be going state wide, and does not have a payment to the producer associated with the program, but is considered a certification, with a separate Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding pool to help producers financially with required conservation practices to reach certification. There will be training and licensing to certify producers for the AWQCP.

Brian also reported on attending an EQIP training in Mankato. The cutoff date for EQIP was December 19, 2014, and anything received after that date will be placed in the 2016 funding pool.

There will potentially be a larger focus on Conservation Plans with resource concerns on the farm for 2016, and a producer would need a compliant Conservation Plan to be eligible for financial assistance.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership Report

Lawrence Svien, Executive Director, Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP), gave an update on the 50 sites project and reported that the final report has been submitted. The sign project, that placed signs at road crossings that label the river, was a success and the signs are up.

The ZWP is currently working on an education project funded through an LCCMR grant. This project would put up eight educational signs on parks and public spaces along the Zumbro River.

The ZWP has a signed contract with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to write the Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategy (WRAPS) for the Zumbro and the Cannon River Watersheds. The ZWP has hired on staff to complete the plan.

The ZWP also has a contract with the MPCA for pollutant load monitoring with samples being taken during events, instead of on pre-determined days, to get a more accurate record of water quality.

The ZWP is working on a history project that would include traveling displays of pre-settlement land uses.

The tillage survey was conducted this spring, with the results showing declining rates of fields considered under conservation cover. A total of 17% was considered to be in conservation cover, and 9% has been converted into non-ag use.

The ZWP 10 year anniversary will be celebrated on March 12 with wine tasting at Cascade Meadows in Rochester.

There was one resignation from the board last month, making two board positions currently open. There has been an increase in diversity of landowners on the board recently, bringing more rural landowners and agricultural producers to the board.

County Water Plan Report

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

Unfinished Business

Meeting Scheduling for 2015

Adam King, District Manager, presented the board with a list of government agencies and non-government organizations in Dodge County, the frequency of those meetings and staff and/or supervisors assigned. The board discussed the list and instructed Adam King to include the Water Planning Committee, the Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Committee, the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota, the Local Workgroup for farmbill programs, and the Dodge Townships Association. Adam King will update the list and will include the list in each of the member's folders.

Blue Thumb/Raingarden Update

Adam King, District Manager, reported not hearing anything back from the Rice Creek Watershed District or Metro Blooms. Adam King also reported that Jim Hurska is interested in partnering with the Dodge SWCD and the ZWP on a series of raingarden workshops. The workshops will be held at 7:00 on March 23, 2015 in Kasson at the Community Center, March 25, 2015 in Dodge Center at the City Hall, and March 26, 2015 in West Concord at a location to be determined. Flyers for the events have been made. The board asked Adam to look into advertising on the Dodge Center Cable Access station.

New Business

2015 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Day at the Capitol

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the 2015 MASWCD Day at the Capitol will be held on January 26 and 27, 2015. The cost for the two-day registration is \$75. A motion was made to send Adam King to the MASWCD Day at the capitol.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

Board of Water and Soil Resources Easement Implementation Grant

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the Board of Water and Soil Resources has a Grant Agreement Amendment for Easement Implementation for \$2,000. A motion was made to accept the FY2014 and 2015 SWCD Program and Operations Grant Agreement Amendment for Easement Implementation.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Board of Water and Soil Resources End of Year Reporting

Adam King, District Manager, reported that end of year reporting for BWSR grants are due February 1, 2015. The reports are mostly complete and ready for board approval. A motion was made to approve and sign the reports due to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Review of Personnel Committee Recommendations

Adam King, District Manager, reported that he had conducted annual reviews with the staff. The Personnel Committee had met with Adam to review and make recommendations to the board. All staff had favorable reviews and recommendations were made according to the employee handbook, and previous board actions. A motion was made to approve the Personnel Committee recommendations.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously

Payment of Supervisor Vouchers

A motion was made to approve and pay the supervisor's vouchers.

Motion: Larry Scherger

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Election of Officers

After discussion, a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot to re-elect all officers. The officers are as follows:

Chair – Larry Scherger
Vice-Chair – Bill Thompson
Treasurer – Glenn Hahn
Secretary – David Livingston
Public Relations – Don Heser

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

Committee Assignments

After discussion, a motion was made to keep the same committee assignments with the addition of a finance committee and a One Watershed One Plan for the Root River Watershed representative. The committee assignments for 2015 are as follows:

Finance Committee – Glenn Hahn, Don Heser
Personnel Committee – Larry Scherger, David Livingston
Southeast Area VII Joint Powers Board – Larry Scherger
Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development – Don Heser
Dodge County Water Plan Committee – Don Heser (Dave Livingston as alternate)
Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Board – Glenn Hahn
Cedar River Watershed District – Dave Livingston (Glenn Hahn as alternate)
Zumbro Watershed Partnership – Bill Thompson (Larry Scherger as alternate)
One Watershed One Plan for the Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn (Dave Livingston as alternate)
RIM/LWG – Glen Hahn (Larry Scherger as alternate)

Motion: Don Heser
Seconded: Larry Scherger
The motion carried unanimously

Set 2015 Supervisor Mileage and Per Diem Rates

A motion was made by Larry Scherger to accept the 2015 IRS rate of \$0.575/mile. Larry Scherger withdrew his motion. After discussion a motion was made to accept the 2015 IRS rate of \$0.575/mile and \$70.00 per diem.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously

Designate Financial Institutions for 2015

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District is currently paying \$100/year fee to Wells Fargo on the investment account, and that is no interest earned on that account. After discussion the board tabled designating a financial institution while other options can be investigated.

Set Regular Board Meeting Dates and Times for 2015

There was a motion to keep the regular board meeting dates on the third Thursday of the month at 7:15 P.M. at the USDA Service Center in Dodge Center, MN.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Correspondence

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the Winter Newsletters have gone out, and Church Offset Printing had contacted him because they wanted to use the newsletter in an advertisement. After discussion the board instructed Adam King inform Church Offset Printing that it is okay to use the newsletter in their advertisement.

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) sign-up. There has been interest in the program, and Adam has sent a press release to the Bryon Review, Dodge County Independent, and the West Concord/Claremont newspapers.

Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, presented the board information on precision farming and the Tommer Method of identifying and targeting areas to set as priorities.

Meeting Reports

Zumbro Watershed Partnership – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, Reported that the ZWP meeting was canceled due to weather.

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported that Dodge County is being sued over the proposed Masching feedlot again.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported on the income that the No-Till Drill Program had generated in 2014. After discussion a motion was made to keep the No-Till Drill rates the same as last year.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Adam King informed the board that the NRCS is upgrading their phone system and the office will be getting new phones. He also informed the board that he will be presenting to the Dodge County Commissioners Committee of the Whole on February 24, 2015.

Other New Business

David Livingston, informed the board that the Dodge Center Lions Club is interested in sharing a booth at the Dodge County Expo on Saturday, March 28, 2015. The cost is \$75 for the booth, which would be split with the Lions Club making it \$37.50. Last year there were 3,000 that attended the Dodge County Expo and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District gave away 2 bundles of trees. A motion was made to partner with the Dodge Center Lions Club for a booth at the Dodge County Expo.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Larry Scherger called for a motion for adjournment at 11:47 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, February 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: 2-19-15 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Hesper – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn

