Minutes of the July 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the July 21, 2016 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s 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 7:16 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair  
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair  
Don Heser, PR&I  
David Livingston, Secretary

Members Absent: Glenn Hahn, Treasurer

Others Present: Tom Johnston, District Technician, Dodge SWCD  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS  
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were three additions to the agenda under New Business: Cost-Share Contract 2016-01 payment approval; FY 2016 Local Capacity Service Grant Amendment, and the FY 2017 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement. A motion was made to approve the June 16, 2016 meeting agenda as amended.

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

Approval of the June 16, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes – The board discussed revisions to the June 16, 2016 meeting minutes, which included: deleting the word “the” in the 2017 Draft Budget Review on page 3 and correct spelling error “Haser” to “Heser” in Adjournment on page 6. The errors were corrected. A motion was made to approve the June 16, 2016 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as revised.

  Motion: Bill Thompson  
  Seconded: Don Heser  
  The motion carried unanimously.
Partner Agency Reports

District Conservationist’s Report
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported on the following:
- Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE), which are component of ACEP, sign up
deadline is October 1st.
- CRP – Still busy with contract re-enrollments.
- RIM/WRP – DeVetter was detailed to Freeborn County to monitor easements.
- EQIP – Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development signup deadline is August 19th.
- Brian gave the Board a brief tour of a native grass demonstration planting behind the
  office building.

County Commissioner’s Report
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported on the following:
- The commissioners are working on the county budget. They would like to see a
  minimal increase as they feel the agricultural community’s income is hurting.
- The Trom lawsuit is still active.

Treasurer’s Report

Approval of the Treasurer’s Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – The Board
reviewed and discussed the treasurer’s financial statement. Three additional bills were added to the
aging summary: Wells Fargo -$139.03; Dodge County Hwy. Dept. -$390.53; and the Dodge
County Independent - $31.00, for a total of $905.96. Also submitted for payment were supervisor’s
vouchers. A motion was made to approve the June financial report, approve all the payment of all
bills presented in the payables, and approve the payment of the supervisor’s vouchers.

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

Unfinished Business

Community Education – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported on the class Tuesday,
June 21, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. at the Kasson-Mantorville Community Education Room in
Kasson. 8 people attended the class. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR)
did a presentation on stream health and Bill demonstrated a stream channel model.

New Business

Contribution Agreement between the SE SWCD Technical JPB and the Dodge SWCD
A motion and a second was made that the Dodge SWCD approve a contribution agreement with the
SE SWCD Technical JPB that would provide cost-share funds for the establishment of cover crops
with reimbursement on the amount spent coming from the SE SWCD Technical JPB.

  Motion: David Livingston
  Seconded: Bill Thompson
  The motion carried unanimously.
JPB Cover Crop Contracts: D-LCCMR 16-01, 16-02, 16-03
Tom Pyfferoen is requesting cost-share funds for the installation of cover crops at a rate of $49.12/acre. Pyfferoen will install cover crops on 47.64 acres – $4,680.16; 53.89 acres – $5,294.16; and 49.26 acres – $4,839.30. A motion was made and seconded to approve the encumbrance of cost-share contracts D-LCCMR 16-01, 16-02 and 16-03 for the installation of cover crops not to exceed a total of $14,813.59
   Motion: Dave Livingston
   Seconded: Bill Thompson
   The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued about who is or will be monitoring the results of cover crop planting as far as increases in organic matter are concerned.

Conservation Farmer Selection
A motion was made that the Dodge SWCD board of supervisors nominate Mark and Lisa Finstuen as the 2016 Dodge Outstanding Conservationists.
   Motion: Dave Livingston
   Seconded: Bill Thompson
   The motion carried unanimously.

Health Insurance Premium
After review of health insurance information, a motion was made and seconded to stay with the health insurance coverage of Blue Cross-Blue Shield’s Plan 641- Blue Access Gold $750.
   Motion: Dave Livingston
   Seconded: Bill Thompson
   The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondences

Nonstructural Land Management Practice
The Board reviewed information from the BWSR about the new cost-share policy/requirements for nonstructural land management practices (i.e. cover crops). Starting in FY 2017 an “Implement Plan Request Form” needs to be filled out and approved in order to use the conservation cost-share base grant for nonstructural practices. After discussion, a motion and a second was made to authorize Adam King to fill out and sign the request form on behalf of the Dodge SWCD supervisors.
   Motion: Dave Livingston
   Seconded: Bill Thompson
   The motion carried unanimously.

Other correspondences from the BWSR include a Buffer Program Update, Erosion Control and Water Management Program & program policies.
MASWCD Report – Summer Addition.

Other New Business

Zumbro Watershed Partnership – The ZWP will be soliciting counties within the watershed for financial assistance in the near future.
**District Cost-Share Contract #2016-01 Payment**
A motion and second was made to approve final payment of cost-share contract #2016-01 in the amount of $1,174.97 for the installation of a grassed waterway.

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

**Amendment to the 2016 BWSR Local Capacity Services Grant**
The Dodge SWCD will be receiving an additional $20,337.00 to its 2016 BWSR Local Capacity Services Grant. If this additional funding will be spent on something other than items spelled out in the original work plan, an amendment to the work plan will be needed. Johnston reported that staff has talked about the need for an additional vehicle, and this would be a good opportunity to purchase one. Adam King has indicated the he will check with the County to see if a vehicle could be purchased through their state contract. A motion and second was made to authorize Adam King to sign the amendment agreement.

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

**FY17 BWSR Farm Bill Assistance Grant**
Motion and second to approve the FY17 MN Farm Bill Assistance Program Grant with the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the amount of $29,250 and authorize Adam King, District Manager to sign and submit the grant agreement.

   Motion: Dave Livingston  
   Seconded: Don Heser  
   The motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Reports**

**Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD)** – Livingston, District 4 Supervisor reported on the following subjects from the July 20th meeting he attended:

   - The Directors discussed a possible special assessment levy for matching the Hormel grant they received.
   - The Hayfield Boy Scout troop performed a river clean-up.
   - Monitoring sites in the Dobbins Creek watershed have been showing higher than normal E.coli levels.
   - Discussion about whether monitoring is being done on the Cedar River below Austin. Thompson indicted MPCA has been doing monitoring below Austin and will bring information to the next meeting.

**Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP)** – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported on the following subjects from the meeting on July, 2016:

   - There is a new owner of the Cascade Meadows building. The ZWP office will remain housed there.
   - The ZWP will be soliciting funding from the counties in the watershed.
   - Provided Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) information.
   - Upcoming WRAPS meetings: Aug. 9th in Wannimigo and Aug. 10th at Cascade Meadows in Rochester.
Adjournment
Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chairman, called for a motion for adjournment at 10:15 p.m.

    Motion: Don Heser
    Seconded: David Livingston
    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, August 18, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.