



Minutes of the June 15, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the June 18, 2017 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 7:25 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
David Livingston, Secretary
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (in at 8:51)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Blaine Delzer, Conservation Technician, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the agenda include: District Cost-Share 2016-06 (Remold) Payment, 2018 Health Insurance, 2017 Conservation Farmer of the Year, Resolution for the MASWCD, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan. A motion was made to approve the June 15, 2017 meeting agenda as revised.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the May 18, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no corrections to the minutes of the May 18, 2017 board meeting. A motion was made to approve the May 18, 2017 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service, reported being busy with EQIP, and ACEP monitoring. The FY18 EQIP deadline is in August, and is trying to get surveys and designs completed. There is a soil health training at Tom Pyfferoen's. DeVetter is on the training committee for employees to gain experience and Job Approval Authority (JAA) for practices. Currently grassed waterway and grade stabilization trainings are being planned.

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner, was unable to attend.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Adam King, District Manager, presented a revised Revenue sheet for the Treasurer's Report. Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, reported and presented the May 2017 Revenues, noting the received income from the tree sale, water plan duties, and state grants, with \$13,069.34 of incomes in May. The Expenditures in May were \$19,222.11. The Balance Sheet, Grant Expenditures, and Aging Summary were discussed. Frontier Precision Inc. for \$24,561.05, TechRight Services, Inc. for \$565.20, TechRight Services, Inc. for \$1,869.84, TechRight Services Inc. for \$28.00, Claremont Service Center for \$81.03, Wells Fargo Visa for \$238.12, and D.C. Hardware LLC. for \$9.07 were added to the Aging Summary, for a total of \$27,754.88. A motion was made to approve the May 2017 Treasurer's Report.

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

A motion was made to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$27,754.88.

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

Unfinished Business

Resolution 02-2017 – "Other Waters" Designation

Adam King, District Manager, presented an updated version of Resolution 02-2017 to the supervisors. King said that he has reviewed the revised amendment with Dodge County Environmental Services staff, and the Dodge County Attorney. Neither had any issues with the proposed resolution. There was discussion on the resolution. An amendment was proposed on the fifth paragraph to include "and downstream water resources" at the end of the paragraph. A motion was made to approve the resolution 02-2017 with the added amendment to adopt the "Other Waters" and send the "Other Waters" to Dodge County Environmental Services to be included into the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Plan as an addendum.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Bill Thompson
Approve: Thompson; Scherger; Livingston; Hahn
Disapprove: none
Absent: Freerksen

Discussion continued on the Buffer Law, and what it means for the Dodge SWCD if Dodge County elects to accept enforcement of the Buffer Law. King stated that Dodge County is currently enforcing its Shore Land Ordinance, and that the Buffer Law is less restrictive than the Shore Land Ordinance. King indicated that the Dodge SWCD must implement the less restrictive Buffer Law, allowing for a 30 foot minimum/50 foot average and alternative practices, but are able to inform the

landowner that they would still need to meet the requirements for the Shore Land Ordinance, which is set at 50 feet. King said that if Dodge County elects to enforce the less restrictive Buffer Law, Dodge County would receive approximately \$79,000 for the first year and approximately \$99,000 the following year, and the Dodge SWCD may be busy working with landowners and producers on alternative practices to the 50-foot buffer, that could change year to year. A motion was made to recommend that Dodge County not accept funding to enforce the Buffer Law due to the loss of the current Shore Land Zoning Ordinance.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded:

Motion died for lack of a second.

Bruce Freerksen entered at 8:51 P.M.

New Business

2018 Preliminary Budget

Adam King, District Manager, presented a draft preliminary 2018 budget. King informed the supervisors that some items will be updated. FY18 Capacity Funds were discussed.

FY18 MN Department of Natural Resources Groundwater Level Monitoring Agreement

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Groundwater Level Monitoring Agreement and Professional and Technical Services Contract between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. A motion was made to approve and sign the FY2018 Professional and Technical Services Contract to monitor groundwater levels in three wells in Dodge County for a total of \$480.00.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Sub-agreement between the Southeast Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota

The sub-agreement, and feedlot projects were discussed. Dodge SWCD has one planned project for a Certified Nutrient Management Plan and CAP plan so far. A motion was made to approve the sub-agreement between the Southeast Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for entering into cost-share contracts for eligible projects for the Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously

Cost-Share Contract RCPP 2017-01 Currier Brothers

Blaine Delzer, District Technician, informed the supervisors that the Currier Brothers are requesting cost-share through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) through the Southeast Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a manure storage project. The RCPP grant will cost-share the project, up to 90%. A motion was made to approve the payment of RCPP Cost-Share Contract RCPP 2017-01 for the Currier Brothers feedlot manure storage project.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Feedlot Cost-Share Contract 2014-02 Nolt

Blaine Delzer, District Technician, informed the supervisors that Warren Nolt is requesting Cost-Share through the Feedlot Cost-Share Fund. The Feedlot cost-share fund will cover 75%, not to exceed \$150,917.00. The total estimated cost of the project is \$276,100.00, and Nolt is requesting to encumber the entire \$150,917.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of Feedlot Cost-Share Contract 2014-02 for 75% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$150,917.00 for the Warren Nolt feedlot project.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2017-02 Nolt

Blaine Delzer, District Technician, informed the supervisors that Warren Nolt is requesting Cost-Share through the District Cost-Share Fund. District cost-share will cover 65%, not to exceed \$10,000.00. The total estimated cost of the project is \$276,100.00, and Nolt is requesting to encumber the maximum of \$10,000.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2017-02 for 65% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the Warren Nolt feedlot project.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-12 Blazek

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Michael and Jeri Blazek are requesting Cost-Share through the District Cost-Share Fund for a well decommissioning. District cost-share will cover 50%, not to exceed \$500.00. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,000.00 and are requesting to encumber the maximum of \$500.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-12 for 50% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$500.00 for the Michael and Jeri Blazek well decommissioning project.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-13 Reis

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Luthera Reis is requesting Cost-Share through the District Cost-Share Fund for a grassed waterway. District cost-share will cover 65% not to exceed \$10,000.00. The total estimated cost of the grassed waterway is \$9,300.00, and is requesting to encumber 65% of the total estimated cost, \$6,045.00. A motion was

made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-13 for 65% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$6,045.00 for the Luthera Reis grassed waterway project.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2017-01 Stroebel

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Don Stroebel is requesting Cost-Share through the District Cost-Share Fund for a grassed waterway. District cost-share will cover 65%, not to exceed \$10,000.00. The total estimated cost of the grassed waterway is \$9,100.00, and is requesting to encumber 65% of the total estimated cost, \$5,915.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2017-01 for Don Stroebel for 65% of total eligible cost, not to exceed \$5,915.00 for the Don Stroebel Grassed Waterway project.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-06 Remold Payment

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Randy Remold of Remold Farms has now completed his grassed waterway project, and is requesting his cost-share payment. Total eligible expenses were \$4,185.00, and is requesting \$2,720.25, 65% of the total eligible expenses for District Cost-Share Contract 2016-06. A motion was made to approve the payment of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-06 of \$2,720.25 to Randy Remold of Remold Farms for the grassed waterway project.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Cooperative Working Agreement Between the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Cooperative Working Agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). King informed the supervisors that he had sent the Cooperative Working Agreement to the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) for review, as well as the Dodge County Attorney. MCIT expressed concern over the coverage of sharing equipment, and that the Dodge SWCD may not have coverage if equipment is damaged through negligence. The Dodge County Attorney saw no issues with the agreement. King informed the supervisors that the Cooperative Working Agreement is not to be changed. A motion was made to approve and sign the Cooperative Working Agreement between the USDA NRCS and Dodge SWCD.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Operational Agreement Between the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

Adam King, District Manager, presented a draft Operational Agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. King indicated that he wanted to keep the operational

agreement as simple as possible. King will continue to work on the operational agreement with Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, and will present the final operational agreement for approval at the July 20, 2017 meeting.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Health Insurance

Adam King, District Manager, presented the new Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Health Insurance premium quotes. The supervisors discussed the new premium quotes, and looked at alternative plans. A motion was made to renew the existing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Health Insurance “Gold 641” plan.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously

2017 Conservationist of the Year – Thomas Pyfferoen

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Dodge SWCD and NRCS staff have discussed potential nominees for the 2017 Conservationist of the Year. Staff have decided to recommend that the supervisors nominate Thomas Pyfferoen as the 2017 Conservationist of the Year. Thomas Pyfferoen has used cover crops on much of his land, and has held soil health events promoting cover crops and soil health. A motion was made to nominate Thomas Pyfferoen of Pine Island, MN for the 2017 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Outstanding Conservationist of the Year.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Resolutions

Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented a resolution for the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) resolution process. Thompson said he had learned from the resolution process last year, and indicated that many questioned where the funding for the resolution would come from, and they felt it would compete against other projects. Thompson has altered the resolution to focus on merging conservation and public drainage. A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented and move the resolution to Area VII for approval.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

The resolution moves on to the Area VII MASWCD for approval.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan

Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, informed the supervisors that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is currently taking comments on the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP). MDA will also be holding public meetings throughout Minnesota. The plan lists vulnerability by soil types.

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Draft Future Technical Service Area (TSA) Management and Structure Analysis by the Freshwater Society, and informed the board that there will be a SWCD Governance 101 course put on by the MASWCD, and MASWCD Leadership classes. King also informed the board that he had spoken with Mark Symes, Sales, Krejci Ford of Blooming Prairie, about the new car. Symes told King that it is on its way, and should be in any day.

Supervisor Reports

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that there was a Public Kick-Off meeting held on Thursday, June 01, 2017 at the Hormel Nature Center in Austin. Jennifer Ronnenberg, Minnesota Department of Health, spoke at the last Policy Committee Meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. at the Austin Public Library.

Cedar River Watershed District – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that there will be public hearings on some of the capital improvement projects (Hull, Peterson, Peck, and Dobbins I) on June 21st at 6:00 P.M.

One Watershed One Plan – Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on June 19, 2017.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the meeting on May 23, 2017 where they received a legislative update, and learned about an NRCS study on economics of conservation. There is also going to be a town hall meeting put on by the governor's office about the 25 by 25 initiative in Rochester on July 31, 2017.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on June 08, 2017. Meghan Gallagher is a new citizen board member, and was elected the secretary of the board. They are still working on trying to receive funding from the counties in the watershed. A float down the Zumbro is being planned, and Becca Johnson spoke about the Stewards of Hope, and a planned conservation trail on church property in Rochester.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:57 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____ Recorder: Adam King