

DODGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

916 2nd Street SE
Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927
Phone: 507-374-6364 ext. 3

Minutes of the March 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the March 16, 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 7:18 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
David Livingston, Secretary
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer (in at 7:34)
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I

Members Absent: None

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the agenda include additional training requests, Dodge County Fair Booth, and clothing purchase, under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the February 16, 2017 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the February 16, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes – Corrections to the minutes of the February 16, 2017 board meeting include replacing "Rodney Peterson" with "Rhonda Toquam" under "Others Present" on page 1, and replacing "written report" with "list of topics to be covered," and inserting "planning" after "reported" and before "attending" under the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Supervisors Report on page 4. A motion was made to approve the February 16, 2017 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as amended.

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

Partner Agency Reports

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

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

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service provided a written report breaking down the federal conservation programs EQIP, CSP, CRP, and ACEP. DeVetter is still splitting time with Mower County, and will be getting a Soil Conservationist to assist with the workload in Mower County. There will be a soil health field day in Fillmore County on Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. The NRCS Area Office is looking into moving.

Glenn Hahn entered at 7:34 P.M.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, reported and presented the February 2017 Revenues, Expenditures, Balance Sheet, Grant Expenditures, and Aging Summary. Hahn noted that the incomes were less than the expenditures. Dodge County Highway Department for \$148.72, Khimaira Green Earth Host for \$120.00, and Claremont Service Center for \$393.70 were added to the Aging Summary. A motion was made to approve the February 2017 Treasurer's Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$1,282.26.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

New Employee Introduction

Adam King, District Manager, introduced Jessica Bakken, Conservation Technician, to the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors introduced themselves, and welcomed Bakken to the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

New Vehicle Discussion

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that he spoke with Mark Symes at Krejci Ford in Blooming Prairie, and received a quote for a Ford Focus S of \$15,286.00, and Ford Focus SE for \$16,221.00. The quote from Nelson Auto Center for a Ford Focus S of \$14,342.88 was for a manual transmission. The supervisors expressed interest in keeping the purchase local. A motion was made to purchase a Ford Focus S from Krejci Ford in Blooming Prairie.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Buffer Law: Other Waters Discussion

Adam King, District Manager, presented the staff recommendation of "Other Waters" to be included in the Dodge County Water Plan as a priority for the Buffer Law. The reaches include: The Middle Fork Zumbro River from the Dodge-Goodhue County Line to the NW ¼ of Sec. 2 Ellington Township, the Unnamed Tributary of the South Branch Middle Fork Zumbro River from NW ¼ Sec. 25 Wasioja Township to SW ¼ of Sec. 19 Mantorville Township, Salem Creek from SE ¼ Sec. 26 Ashland Township to SE ¼ Sec. 30 Canisteo Township, and the Cedar River from NW ¼ Sec. 34 Hayfield Township to NE ¼ Sec. 29 Hayfield Township. King informed the board that

these are the areas with Public Waters downstream and upstream, but these areas were not considered Public Waters. The Supervisors felt that gap filling was a good start, but questioned if there are other areas that should be looked at. A ditch going through Hayfield that has been undermined, and is eroding away was discussed. The discussion was tabled, to be brought up at any future meeting.

New Business

Employee Training Request: MCIT Effective Performance Management

Adam King, District Manager, requested to attend the MCIT Effective Performance Management on April 12, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. Registration for the training is \$60.00. A motion was made to send Adam King to the MCIT Effective Performance Management training at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud at a cost of \$60.00 for registration.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously

Employee Training Request: Agricultural Drainage and Future of Water Quality Workshop

Jessica Bakken, Conservation Technician, requested to attend the Agricultural Drainage and Future of Water Quality Workshop in Willmar on Monday, March 27, 2017. Registration for this workshop is \$30.00. A motion was made to send Jessica Bakken to the Agricultural Drainage and Future of Water Quality Workshop in Willmar, MN at a cost of \$30.00 for registration.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees Dues and Registration

Dues for the Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (SEMACDE) is \$10.00 per employee for 2017. Dodge SWCD has 4 employees, totaling \$40.00. Registration for the SEMACDE Spring Meeting is \$12.00 per employee, with 3 employees able to attend the meeting, totaling \$36.00. The total for registration, and dues for the Dodge SWCD totals \$76.00. A motion was made to approve \$76.00 for 2017 dues for the SEMACDE, and registration for the SEMACDE Spring Meeting.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

2016 Year-End Financial Report

The Supervisors discussed the 2016 Year-End Financial Report submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. It was noticed that the change in net position was different in the 2016 Year-End Financial Report and the February 2017 financial report. King said he was contact Deb at Accounting Plus for an explanation.

Other New Business

Dodge County Fair Booth

Information on the Dodge County Fair has been released. The cost for a booth inside the one of the buildings is \$150.00 for 2017. A motion was made to approve payment of \$150.00 for a fair booth at the 2017 Dodge County Fair.

Motion: Burce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

Clothing Purchase for New Staff and Supervisors

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that new staff and supervisors don't currently have any identifiable Dodge SWCD clothing. A motion was made to approve the order of clothing that identifies the Dodge SWCD for the new Conservation Technician, Jessica Bakken, and new District II Supervisor, Bruce Freerksen.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously

Correspondence

Adam King, District Manager, presented "The Dirt on SWCD's," and the governor's office press release on the Buffer Law. King also presented the network proposal from Techright Services from November 2016, with an email stating that the quote was still good. King discussed with the board that he has been told by Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, that he was informed by Tim Wilson, Acting Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, that the Dodge SWCD would not be able to add an additional computer seat to the USDA computer network. King stated that this was expected, and is the reason we have received a quote for our own system. The quote includes two new computers, a server, and associated licenses and programs. There was discussion on the Operational Agreements between the Dodge SWCD and NRCS, and how that may affect computer seats. King expressed his concern that the Operational Agreements were not coming out any time soon, and that there is currently an employee without a computer. King also stated that this needs to be done sooner than later, and that the costs are included our 2017 budget, and has been accounted for in our Capacity Funding Grant workplan. There was additional discussion on the cost of installation. A motion was made to approve the network proposal from Techright Services with King inquiring about the cost of installation, and the development of an IT plan for the future.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Supervisor Reports

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the Durst Dairy project will be changing. Ryzebol purchased Durst Dairy, and are planning on changing the manure pit design. The project will need to go through the permitting process.

Soil Health Field Day – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending a soil health field day in Zumbrota, where there were presentations on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. Tom Pyfferoen and Tom Cotter spoke on their experiences with cover crops. There will be another field day on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

One Watershed One Plan – Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 20, 2017 where they will be approving the Joint Powers Agreement, and discussing the Watershed Block Grants for implementation of the plan.

City of West Concord – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported meeting with officials from the City of West Concord, and informing them that he is representing that area on the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that the first Policy Committee meeting was held on March 2, 2017, and that Sue Olson is chair for the Policy Committee. Overall the meeting went well.

Manure Management Workshop – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending a Manure Management Workshop in Blooming Prairie. Tony Schmidt spoke on farm families, and how to deal with trusts.

Cedar River Watershed District – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District Meeting on March 15, 2017 where Aaron Gamm gave a presentation on the Buffer Law, and how much of Mower County, and the Mower County portion of the Cedar River Watershed District is compliant with the Buffer Law. Mower County has 445 miles of streams in the county, and 280 acres out of compliance in Mower County, and 134 acres out of compliance in the Cedar River Watershed District that lies within Mower County. Currently there are 8 bills on the Buffer Law at the legislature. There is a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Austin, and the Cedar River Watershed District that will be extended for a flood wall. The Year-End Financial Report was presented. A legislative update was given, and the Cedar River Watershed District will seek bonding dollars again this year. The Board of Managers discussed the Buffer Law enforcement, and will try to stay away from any enforcement of the law. The Board of Managers extensively discussed the Minnesota Agricultural Certification Program, and agricultural crediting by Hormel.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts meeting where the Governor's Watershed Summit in Morris, MN was discussed, and was said to be well attended. The Board of Water and Soil Resources spoke on funding for SWCD's, and "Fund the Plan" block grants for One Watershed One Plan implementation. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is in need of about \$150 million. Currently 4 other states have a CREP. The Governors 25 by 25 initiative was covered.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on March 09, 2017, where the officers were re-elected, except for the secretary.

Next Meeting

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

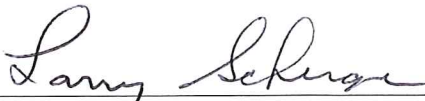
Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:16 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:  Date: 4-20-17 Recorder: Adam King
March 16, 2017 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting minutes Page 6 of 6

Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Bruce Freerksen– Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn