



Minutes of the March 17, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the March 17, 2016 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 7:17 PM.

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

Members Absent: Glenn Hahn, Treasurer

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS
Jim Hruska (in at 9:06)

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There was one addition to the agenda, District Cost-Share Contract 2016-02 (Bill Smith). A motion was made to approve the March 17, 2016 meeting agenda as presented.

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

Approval of the February 18, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes – Revisions to the February 18, 2016 meeting minutes included: changing the spelling of “deaccession” to “discretion” under Small Educational Workshop/Field Day Purchases on page 4, change “contract” to “contract items” under the NRCS Report on page 2, and place the city presentations on their own and broken away from the community education report on page 3. The errors were corrected. A motion was made to approve the February 18, 2016 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as revised.

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

Partner Agency Reports

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported that the Local Work Group meeting information deadline is July 1st. The meeting date must be publicly advertised for two weeks. The Local Work Group provides the NRCS with input on resource concerns and priorities on how to spend farm bill dollars. The Local Work Group will be evaluating all federal

conservation programs. DeVetter attended a cover crop presentation, and is partnering with Blaine Delzer, SWCD District Technician, on the soil health team. Dean Thomas, Soil Health Specialist, Area VII Joint Powers Board, is looking for a producer in the county to install cover crops over two years for an LCCMR grant. DeVetter also attended a cover crop presentation by the University of Minnesota on the study of residual chemicals on cover crops and the effects of those residuals on haying and grazing, as well as a nitrogen smart training. DeVetter attended a meeting of the Freeborn Soil Health Team, where they have some “shop talk” meetings, and others are field days. DeVetter presented information from the Shell Rock Watershed District that was discussed at the meeting. The NRCS currently has a position at the state office to assist with soil health teams getting organized. DeVetter discussed soil tests to determine soil health improvement called PFLA. The NRCS Area VI Soil Conservation Technician positions that were posted will not be filled, and current Soil Conservation Technicians will be serving multiple counties. Tim Wilson is the current Acting Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations for NRCS Area VI, and will be serving in that capacity for the next two years. A Soil Conservationist will be placed in the Dodge Center office and will be serving Dodge, Olmstead, and Rice counties. His name is Jim Jirik and was previously the District Conservationist in Waseca County.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Treasurers’ Report

Approval of the Treasurer’s Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Adam King, District Manager, reported on the January 2016 financials, which showed \$318,076.53 in total current assets, \$862.70 in revenues, and \$25,920.51 in expenditures. A motion was made to approve the January Financial Report.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

King continued with the February Treasure’s Report, showing \$397,069.91 in total current assets, with \$11,625.87 coming in as revenues, and \$20,161.29 going out as expenditures. \$348.72 from Hayfield T-Shirt Etc. was added to the aging summary. The board discussed the Hiawatha Valley RC&D Due. King informed the board that he had contacted Dodge County, and that Mark Gamm had told him that Dodge County had not yet paid the Hiawatha Valley RC&D dues. A motion was made to approve the February Treasure’s Report, and to pay the bills on the aging summary, except for the Hiawatha Valley RC&D Dues of \$300.00, for a payables total of \$829.02.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Community Education – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, informed the board that the planned community education course will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, and Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at the Kasson-Mantorville Community Education Room in Kasson. Supervisor Thompson also presented a summary of topics that would be covered in the Community Education course. The topics and presentations will not be too technical, and we will work with the MnDNR. Not only

presentations will be given, but discussion is also wanted. The course is not to decide anything. The cost of the course will be free.

New Business

Board of Water and Soil Resources FY2016 Competitive Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Agreement for the Ripley Nitrogen Reduction Implementation

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the BWSR has released the grant agreement for the FY16 competitive Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management grant, (C16-9453) Ripley Nitrogen Reduction Implementation, which was awarded to the Dodge SWCD totaling \$36,675.00. King also informed the board that he has submitted the workplan for the grant and the BWSR has approved them. A motion was made to approve, sign and submit the FY16 Competitive Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management grant agreement for the Ripley Nitrogen Reduction Implementation grant (C16-9453) totaling \$36,675.00.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees Dues

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees dues are \$10.00 per employee, and an upcoming meeting has a \$15.00 registration per employee, for a total of \$30.00 in dues and \$45.00 in registration costs for the district. A motion was made to approve the payment of \$30.00 for employee dues, and \$45.00 for meeting registration to the Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Digital Camera Purchase

Adam King, District Manager, presented a request from staff to purchase a digital camera to document district events and the installation of conservation projects. A motion was made to authorize the purchase a digital camera worth up to \$150.00.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Jim Hruska entered at 9:06 P.M.

2016 Dodge County Fair

Adam King, District Manager, has requested approval from the board to have a booth at the 2016 Dodge County Fair. The Dodge County Fair runs from July 13 -17, 2016 and the cost of a fair booth is \$150.00. There was discussion on whether a booth at the Dodge County Fair is worth the time for staff to man the booth. A motion was made to approve \$150.00 for a booth at the Dodge County fair.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

King also discussed purchasing advertising space in the paper for the Dodge County Fair and the Dodge County Expo. The board expressed that participating in the events is good, but didn't see a need to purchase advertising in the papers since the district will be in the event brochure.

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-02 Smith

Adam King, District Manager, presented District Cost-Share Contract 2016-02 to the board for William Smith. The cost-share will be used for a Water and Sediment Control Basin at an estimated cost of \$14,500, with a cost-share amount of \$9,425. If approved there would be a total of \$22,788.00 remaining in District Cost-Share to encumber. There was discussion on the NRCS Standards and Specs of the project, as well as the location of the project. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of district cost share contract 2016-02 (William Smith) for 65% of the cost of the Water and Sediment Control Basin, up to \$9,425.00, whichever is less.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Adam King, District Manager, also informed the board there was a landowner that has come in inquiring about using District Cost-Share funds for cover crops. King explained that the District Cost-Share program is traditionally set-up for structural practices, and not practices applied to the land, but those practices still provide a pollution reduction benefit. The board instructed King to bring a proposal from the Dodge Soil Health Committee on how to address cover crops with District Cost-Share.

Correspondence

Jim Hruska informed the board that there was a good turnout at the Hayfield Raingarden Workshop. 10 people from the hayfield Garden Club attended the raingarden workshop in Hayfield, a larger turnout than any one raingarden workshop from last year.

Adam King, District Manager, presented a letter to the board from Boe's Auto in West Concord with rough estimates of used trucks and cars. King shared that staff is starting to conduct outreach to landowners for the Saturated Buffer Clean Water Fund the district has received. King also shared the 2015 Dodge SWCD year in review sheet that will be presented to legislators at the MASWCD Day at the Capitol. King informed the board that he was not able to meet with Representative Duane Quam on March 22, 2016 in St. Paul, but Rep. Quam has agreed to meet at the Dodge SWCD office on Friday, March 25, 2016 and encouraged the board to attend and speak with the representative. Newspaper articles on the presentations given to the Dodge County Commissioners and the Kasson City Council were also presented.

Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, informed the board about a Climate Change and Health in Minnesota meeting that will be held on April 26, 2016.

Meeting Reports

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP annual meeting on March 10, 2016, and there were citizen board members that were replaced.

Governor Dayton's Water Summit – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the Governor's Water Summit on February 27, 2016, where Governor Dayton spoke with protesters interrupting him. The summit had breakout sessions where suggestions were taken. Supervisor Thompson attended the ~~rural water sessions~~, where green cover, and the need for food, water, and energy to be looked at together were discussed.

Water in the Rural Environment, and Living Cover

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD meeting on March 16, 2016, where they covered their 2015 year-in-review. The drone that they approved purchase of is in, but haven't had a chance to test it out. The CRWD will be at the Austin Home and Garden show. The CRWD is working hard on receiving bonding funds from the legislature.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported on giving presentations to the Dodge County Commissioners and the Kasson City Council. King also worked on and submitted a 319 grant that would be used to match the FY16 Middle Fork Zumbro Critical Source Area Restoration Clean Water Fund Grant and install an additional 10 projects. An extension of the End-of-Year financial report has been granted by the BWSR Board Conservationist until March 30, 2016. There have been questions on the PERA portion of the End-of-Year financial report, and will be submitted once those questions have been answered.

Other New Business

There was no other new business

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:07 P.M.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Don Heser

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, April 21, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved:  Date: April 21-16 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Heser – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn

