



## **Minutes of the May 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the May 19, 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 7:26 PM.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS  
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – There were no additions to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the May 19, 2016 meeting agenda as presented.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the April 21, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes** – The board discussed revisions to the April 21, 2016 meeting minutes, which included: changing the job title of "Soil Conservationist" to "Resource Conservationist," changing the misspelled word "Olmstead" to "Olmsted," and inserting the word "temporary" before cover crops in the NRCS report on page 2; changing the misspelled word "intragryal" to "integral" in the One Watershed One Plan report on page 2; changing the misspelled word "treasure's" to "treasurer's" in the treasurer's report on page 3; inserting "manner" after timely in the cover crop program recommendations 3), on page 3; and changing the misspelled word "Olmstead" to "Olmsted" in the ZWP report on page 4. The errors were corrected. A motion was made to approve the April 21, 2016 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as revised.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Hesper

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Partner Agency Reports**

### **District Conservationist's Report**

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported that an Altima employee will be stationed at the Dodge Center Agricultural Service Center, and she will start on May 31, 2016. The staff have been busy doing CRP checks on the CRP contracts that expire on September 31, 2016 and are currently up for re-enrollment. The EQIP sign-up deadline is August 19<sup>th</sup> and the NRCS is using conservation planning when enrolling applicants. CRP native seeding is currently being planted. Some of the corn in the county has frozen out and many producers may replant.

Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, presented a presentation by Brad Redlin of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the Farm Bill.

### **County Commissioner's Report**

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported that Dodge County will have a booth at the Dodge County Fair, and that there is a new fair building where the petting zoo was. The county will interview the top 5 applicants for the County Administrator position, and the open house is being pushed back into August so they can introduce the new County Administrator at that time. The budget will be looked at in August. The judge of the feedlot lawsuit against Dodge County has ruled in favor of the Dodge County, but the ruling could still be appealed. Nitrate testing of wells is going well. Dodge County has raised about \$90,000 from the license tab tax with the funding dedicated to Non-State Aid county roads. The county hasn't looked at a wheelage tax, but may look into it.

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 that there were a total of \$11,992.66 in total revenues for April, of which \$6,343.53 were from tree sales. There were \$17,008.36 in expenditures. A total of \$385,158.96 is in our account, of which \$303,865.87 is considered unearned. \$290.82 from the Dodge County Highway Department, \$19.17 from the Dodge Center Hardware Hank, \$64.62 from the Claremont Service Center, \$3,754.20 from Schumacher's Nursery and Berry Farm, and \$110.35 from the Minnesota Ag. Group Inc. were added to the aging summary, for a total of \$4,559.88 in payables. A motion was made to approve the April Treasurer's Report, and to pay the bills on the aging summary for a payables total of \$4,559.88.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Community Education** – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported that the timing of the class was off, with the newspaper reporting that the class started at 7:00 P.M., and the community education booklet stating that it started at 6:00 P.M. There were five attendees at the May 17<sup>th</sup> class, with Adam King giving an overview of conservation practices in the county, and Dean Schrandt presenting on the county's water quality. There were good discussions on river flows, and storing water on the land. We will look into putting an ad or press release in the local newspapers

for the next class. The MN DNR is to present at the next class, and possibly a historian. The next class will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. at the Kasson-Mantorville Community Education Room in Kasson.

## **New Business**

### **2017 Draft Preliminary Budget Review**

Adam King, District Manager, presented the 2017 Draft preliminary Budget. Without the county allocation, the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District 2017 budget is at -\$45,893.08. If Dodge County continues support the SWCD at the same level, there would be around a \$45,000 surplus, and possibly enough funding for an additional employee. There were discussions on other options in the event of a budget surplus.

### **Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Outreach**

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that he had asked the surrounding SWCDs if they would be interested in partnering to put out ads on the radio. Goodhue, Olmsted, Freeborn, and Rice agreed to provide \$1,000, Steele agreed to provide \$2,000, and because all stations reach portions of Dodge, we would provide \$3,000 to promote the program through radio ads. Blaine Delzer, District Technician, contacted area radio stations and has put the ad on eight local stations (KAUS-AM, KAUS-FM, KATE-AM, KOWZ-FM, KRUE-FM, KCUE-AM, KDHL-AM, and KWWK-FM). A motion was made to pay the radio station invoices of up to \$9,000 when they came into the office.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

### **District Cost-Share Contract 2016-03 (Hodgman)**

Donald Hodgman is requesting District Cost-Share Assistance for sealing an abandoned well on his property. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,500, with a cost-share amount requested of the maximum \$500. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-03 for a well sealing/decommissioning for Donald Hodgman at 50% of the cost of the project, not to exceed \$500.00.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement #:20-01-16-06 (Leslie Kunz)**

Leslie Kunz has applied for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) 2014 Flood Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program administered through the Dodge SWCD, and has been accepted and approved by the BWSR. The easement is for a total of 34.5 acres, of which 10.9 are considered cropland, for a total payment of \$97,226.41 by the BWSR. A motion was made to approve the 2014 Flood RIM Easement #: 20-01-16-06 (Leslie Kunz)

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution # 01-2016: Support of the One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed**

The board reviewed and discussed Resolution # 01-2016 to support a One Watershed One Plan for the Cedar River Watershed. A motion was made to approve resolution # 01-2016 to partner for the purposes of a One Watershed One Plan in the Cedar River Watershed.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution # 02-2016: Support of the One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro River Watershed**

The board reviewed and discussed Resolution # 02-2016 to support a One Watershed One Plan for the Zumbro River Watershed. A motion was made to approve resolution # 02-2016 to partner for the purposes of a One Watershed One Plan in the Zumbro River Watershed.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Don Hesar

The motion carried unanimously.

The board also reviewed and discussed the Joint Powers Agreement for the One Watershed One Plan – Root River Watershed.

**Board of Water and Soil Resources FY17 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Phase XVI**

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the FY17 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Phase XVI is currently open, and that he has put an application together. The grant is to fund a 0.5 FTE or 1040 staff hours. The total amount of the grant applied for is \$32,500, of which there is a required 10% local match: 5% (\$1,625) from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District, and 5% (\$1,625) from the Dodge County Pheasants Forever that has been confirmed, and the remaining \$29,250 coming from the BWSR. This grant funding provides technical assistance on the promotion and design of conservation practices with a wildlife habitat benefit component. A motion was made to approve the FY17 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Phase XVI.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Don Hesar

The motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Adam King, District Manager, presented a brochure from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on Cropland Conservation Practices for Protecting Groundwater, and the brochure for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Summer Tour in Winona, MN. The board was reminded that it is an election year, and that filing started on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, and will be ending on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

**Meeting Reports**

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD meeting on May 18, 2016, where the the watershed district boundary was changed to include a whole parcel instead of cutting it in half. State bonding is unclear and the watershed district is making alternative plans if bonding is not approved. A public hearing is set for June 15, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. They are also working on saturated buffers, and a permit coming in on a county road project that will be partially filling a floodplain.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP Board Meeting on May 12, 2016 where the ZWP discussed plans to raise \$60,000 by asking for an allocation from each county in the watershed. The allocation request would be about \$6,000 from Dodge County. Laurie Svien is leaving at the end of May and they are hiring his replacement. Their partnership with Cascade Meadows may be ending, as St. Mary's University increases the number of classes held at the facility. The education sign projects were discussed along with the purchase of picnic tables for the sites. They will not be conducting a tillage transect survey this year in the Zumbro River Watershed.

Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported attending the county feedlot committee, and Jennie-O has submitted a permit for turkey barns. There would be no change in animal units on the site, but they would be ~~adding~~ <sup>replacing</sup> buildings/barns to the site. They are also moving away from curtain sided turkey barns to prevent the spread of diseases, and are also trying to get salmonella free eggs.

### **Buffer Law Map Review**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released their preliminary map of waters that will require a buffer according to the Buffer Law. Adam King, District Manager, reviewed those areas with the board.

### **Managers' Report**

Adam King, District Manager, had no report.

### **Other New Business**

There was no other new business

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:56 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Don Haser

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, June 16, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved: Larry Scherger Date: June 16-16 Recorder: Adam King  
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**Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Hesar – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn**

