



Minutes of the October 15, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the October 15, 2015 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 7:15 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Don Hesper, PR&I
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer (late arrival 8:48)
David Livingston, Secretary (late arrival 9:23)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner
Steven Gray, Dodge County District 5 Commissioner

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions made to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the October 15, 2015 meeting agenda as presented.

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

Approval of the September 17, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no revisions to the September 17, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the September 17, 2015 regular board of supervisors meeting minutes as presented.

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

Partner Agency Reports

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported that the lawsuits against Dodge County are ongoing and moving forward. The move into the new administration building is nearly complete and currently on time and on budget. The Dodge County Commissioners have approved a preliminary levy at 5.5% in their preliminary budget. State aid funding for transportation has been decreased again. The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District should be receiving around \$100,000 for their allocation.

Steven Gray, Dodge County District 5 Commissioner, reported sitting on the Zumbro Watershed Partnership board and having conversations with members from Olmstead County. Steven discussed his concerns, and the concerns of others, about the water quality of Dodge County, how they can be incorporated in the One Watershed One Plan for the Zumbro Watershed, and the role that the Board of Water and Soil Resources would play.

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported having a teleconference with Gary Watson, Acting Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, and that they will be receiving an employee that will be working on administrative duties and GIS work, but will not be able to work on technical field work. Minnesota has about 15,000 acres left to enroll into the CP-38E (pheasant habitat) program, and there are 3 new CP-38E (pheasant habitat) applicants in Dodge County. CRP Soil Rental Rates are currently averaging around \$300 per acre. NRCS staff are working on CSP payments, getting the required signatures, certifications, and asking if the producer would like to get paid in 2015 or 2016. EQIP will have one sign-up for fiscal year 2016, and the sign-up deadline is 11/20/2015. There was one CSP contract holder that did a Soil Health enhancement by planting a cover crop of radishes, rye and crimson clover on 8/12-8/13/2015 following peas. The radishes are now 3 inches in diameter and soil tilth has improved. Every office should have a Soil Health Team comprised of Co-ops and seed dealers (not all agency representatives). Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that Blaine will be taking the lead on this next year. Brian DeVetter informed the board that all NRCS employees in the Dodge Center Field Office are Certified Conservation Planners, and need to re-certify every three years, which includes 60 hours of education. The client gateway is up and running with 3 producers signed up in the state, including one in Dodge County.

Brian DeVetter presented the Memorandum of Understanding between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA signed by LeRoy Paulson on 9/25/1996, the "In Justice for All" poster, the Civil Rights Statement, and the Anti-Harassment Policy statements. The 36 NRCS programs and initiatives were shared with the board.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Glenn Hahn entered at 8:48 P.M.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, reviewed the August financials and informed the board of the corrections that have been made to the \$4,314.24 of supervisor's expenditures that had been put into employee expenses. Glenn also explained the reason that not all bills are on the aging summary is because the aging summary only includes those bill that were dated before the end of the month.

Glenn discussed and reviewed the September balance sheet, aging summary, cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures. There is a total of \$255,588.99 in our accounts, with \$663.00 coming in as revenues from drill charges and interest, and \$13,245.05 going out as expenditures. VISA was added to the aging summary, for a total of \$362.09. A motion was made to accept the financial report and pay all presented bills on the aging summary totaling \$362.09.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Larry Scherger

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Grants Update

Adam King, District Manager, has applied for 2 Clean Water Fund grants through the Board of Soil and Water Resources Projects and Practices program. Adam is currently working on another grant to install nitrogen reducing practices in the Ripley Ditch system.

New Business

FY2016 Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Intent to Partner Agreement

Adam King, District Manager, and Dodge County Environmental Services staff have been working together on a FY2016 Board of Water and Soil Resources Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant to install at least 6 nitrogen reducing practices in the Ripley Ditch System. The grant requires a partnership between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Dodge County to be in writing and in place as a part of the grant application. A motion was made to approve and sign the Intent to Partner Agreement with Dodge County.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

David Livingston entered at 9:23 P.M.

National Association of Conservation Districts Dues

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sent out their invoice for dues. Their dues structure has changed this year, with 6 different tiers (\$1-\$100; \$101-\$500; \$501-\$774; \$775-\$1,775; \$1,776-\$3,000; \$3001+). \$225 was paid in dues last year to the NACD. A motion was made to raise the amount paid from last year, from \$225 to \$250.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be holding their annual convention on December 6, 7, and 8, 2015 at the Doubletree Hotel Bloomington-Minneapolis South. Registration is \$220 for 2-days, or \$145 for 1-day, and \$27 for a Luncheon. A motion was made to send Adam King, and Larry Scherger for both days and 1 luncheon each, Bill Thompson for December 7th and Dave Livingston for December 8th each with 1 luncheon each, and Lynn and Brenda Schmeling for the December 8th luncheon.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Hesper

The motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2015 Resolutions

The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors discussed and voted individually on each of the 14 MASWCD 2015 Resolutions.

Correspondence

Jeff Hastings from Trout Unlimited sent a letter requesting a letter of support from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for their Driftless Area Restoration Effort grant through the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The board discussed the letter and noticed that there are no cold water streams in Dodge County. A motion was made to sign the letter with language added saying that they realize there are no cold water trout streams in Dodge County, but support this effort and projects that work to lower our stream temperatures.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Reports

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Don Hesper, District 2 Supervisor, reported attending the Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting in Rochester on September 28, 2015 where they discussed the resource and development from Enbridge in the Duluth area. They have spent \$17,000 of the \$52,000 of the LCCMR grant and will come in under budget because the use of chemicals have been limited. The Minnesota Invasive Species Council toured the River Bend Nature Center Buckthorn Control Site. Improvements are being made to the Fugles Mill site and they revised and approved the attendance policy. They discussed biofuels and shared ways they can be involved, including being a clearing house of new ideas for people.

Root River One Watershed One Plan – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported that the October Policy Committee meeting was canceled, and are going to look closely at section III of the plan at the November meeting.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on October 08, 2015. They have reapplied for a load monitoring grant, and Paul Wotzka gave a presentation on how the Cannon River Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategies (WRAPS) is going. There was a meeting in Mantorville on the educational signs that will be going in the park, and there was an article on the Minnesota Discovery Farms in the Dodge County Independent.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported attending multiple meetings, and has been working on updating employee job descriptions and workloads.

Other New Business

There was no other new business

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Larry Scherger called for a motion for adjournment at 12:54 A.M.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:  Date: 11-19-15 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Hesper – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

