Minutes of the September 22, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the September 22, 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 2:04 PM.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There was one addition to the agenda under Old Business: Additional Vehicle. A motion was made to approve the September 22, 2016 meeting agenda as amended.

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

Approval of the August 18, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes – There was one correction to the minutes of the August 18, 2016 board meeting: on page 3 under the FY17 BWSR Programs and Operations Grant, changing “coved” to “covered.” The changed was made to the August 18, 2016 board minutes. A motion was made to approve the August 18, 2016 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as amended.

  Motion: David Livingston  
  Seconded: Glenn Hahn  
  The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

District Conservationist’s Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported on the CRP workload, and that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has funds available for forestry practices with 50% cost-share up to $10,000.00. Expiring CRP contracts needed a site visit for re-enrollment, and the contracts were due September 9, 2016. The Dodge office also assisted with the re-enrollments in Fillmore County. Payments are able to be made on CSP after October 1, 2016. The EQIP
eligibility deadline is November 30, 2016. One RIM-WRP project needed a cultural review, which is conducted on any project that is disturbing soil. The site went through the review, and it was determined that an additional review was needed. DeVetter had his annual review with Tim Wilson, Acting Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations for Area VI. Wilson would also like to meet with the Dodge SWCD board.

**County Commissioner’s Report**

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, was unable to attend the meeting.

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 Revenues, Expenditures, Balance Sheet, Grant Expenditures, and the Aging Summary for August 2016. Innovative Office Solutions for $6,77, Claremont Service Center for $468.74, Dodge County Highway Department for $237.33, and Innovative office Solutions for $17.20 were added to the Aging Summary, for a total payables of $1,072.50. A motion was made to approve the August Treasurer’s Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of $1,072.50.

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

**Unfinished Business**

**New Vehicle Discussion** – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported being in West Concord and stopping by Bo’s. There was a Chevy Impala for $13,900 on the lot. David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported searching online for vehicles, and there are some out there in our price range.

**New Business**

**FY14 State Cost-Share Feedlot Fund Grant Agreement Amendment**

  Adam King, District Manager, discussed with the board that the FY14 State Cost-Share Feedlot Fund grant that was originally for Lewis Fort, and is now for Mike White. The White feedlot project is designed and moving forward, but White is having trouble finding contractors to complete the work by the end of the year. King has requested a one year extension from the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the White feedlot project to be completed. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has approved the request, and has sent a grant agreement amendment for the Dodge SWCD board to sign. A motion was made to approve and sign the FY14 State Cost-Share Feedlot Fund Grant Agreement Amendment to extend the grant for one year, ending 12/31/2017.

  Motion: Glenn Hahn
  Seconded: Don Heser
  The motion carried unanimously.
District Cost-Share Contract 2016-08 (Livingston)

David Livingston is requesting District Cost-Share for the installation of a Heavy Use Cattle Lane. The estimated cost of the practice is $13,538.46, with the requested cost-shared amount of 65%, or $8,800.00. Currently there is $13,540.03 in the district cost-share fund remaining to encumber, and if approved, there will be $4,740.03 remaining. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-08 for the installation of a Heavy Use Cattle Lane for David Livingston, not to exceed 65% of the cost of the entire project, or $8,800.00, whichever is less.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried with Thompson, Heser, Scherger, and Hahn voting yea and Livingston abstaining.

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-09 (French)

Jason French is requesting District Cost-Share for a Well Sealing / Decommissioning. The estimated cost of the practice is $1,500.00, with the requested cost-shared amount of 50%, not to exceed $500.00. Currently there is $4,740.03 in the district cost-share fund remaining to encumber, and if approved, there will be $4,240.30 remaining. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-09 for a Well Sealing / Decommissioning for Jason French, not to exceed 50% of the cost of the entire project, or $500.00, whichever is less.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously.

FY2015 Board of Water and Soil Resources Conservation Cost-Share Grant Close-Out

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the FY15 BWSR Conservation Cost-Share grant has been exhausted with all funds being spent on technical assistance. King is requesting approval to sign and submit the Close-Out Financial Report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. A motion was made to approve Adam King, District Manager, to sign the Close-Out Financial Report for FY2015 Board of Water and Soil Resources Conservation Cost-Share (P15-0320) Grant, and submit the form to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to close out the grant.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-06 (Remold Farms) Extension

Remold Farms is requesting a one year extension for District Cost-Share Contract 2016-06 to install a grassed waterway. The original contract expired on 9/1/2016, and the project was not able to be installed because of the heavy rains. A motion was made to approve and sign the District Cost-Share Contract 2016-06 Amendment to extend the grant for one year, ending on 09/01/2017.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.
Correspondence

Adam King, District Manager, informed the board that the One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed is moving forward, and that it is planned to have the Dodge SWCD be the Day to Day Contact for the grant. That would involve setting up and facilitating the meetings for the watershed. King also informed the board that the Board of Water and Soil Resources Operational Grant funds have been deposited into our account, and there will be a FY17 Buffer Law grant coming shortly.

Meeting Reports

One Watershed One Plan – Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported attending the public hearings on the plan held on September 07, 2016 at 6:30 in Stewartville, MN, and on September 08, 2016 at 6:30 in Caledonia.

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported that there was no Dodge County Feedlot Committee meeting last month.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD meeting and public hearing on September 21, 2016, where the board held 2 separate public project hearings for 2 separate projects, the Dobbins 1, and Red Rock 23 projects. Cody Fox did a good job with the hearings, and the board approved both projects. The CRWD appointed Sue Olson to the One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed Policy Committee, and Mike Jones as the alternate. Tim Ruzek presented on the districts education/outreach efforts, and the district may not do the Austin Home Show this coming year. Access points on the Cedar River were also discussed.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP Board Retreat on September 08, 2016 where the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies for the Zumbro River watershed were discussed. All board members got to know each other better, and the board got to know the new Executive Director, Sarah Middleton, more. They discussed the dues structure and the possibility of having supporters that would volunteer instead of paying dues. Different governance structures were discussed: Joint Powers Agreements, Joint Powers Boards, and Watershed Districts. The Watershed Management Plan was reviewed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, October 20, 2016 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 3:58 P.M.

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

Approved: Larry Scherger
Date: 10-20-16
Recorder: Adam King