Minutes of the April 18, 2019 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s
Regular Board of Supervisor’s Meeting
Dodge Center USDA Service Center Conference Room
Dodge Center, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Larry Scherger at 7:38 P.M.

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District;
Mike Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the April 18, 2019 meeting agenda as presented.

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

Approval of the March 21, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes – Corrections to the March 21, 2019 board meeting minutes include changing “on” to “are” under Legislative Citizen’s Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Soil Health Grant on page 3, changing “Tom” to “Thom” under the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Report on page 3, and changing “Schiec” to “Scheick” under Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Board Report on page 4. A motion was made to approve the February 21, 2019 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Bill Thompson
The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report
Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), provided a written report. There were five applications, with two funded, in the first round of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Round two ends on Friday, April 19, 2019, and five applications have been received so far. The Feedlot Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) sign-up also ends on Friday, April 19, 2019, with one application received. New
staff contracted through SINEW have started, and are still looking for retired employees for the ACES program. There is a new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up with a thirty-year contract (CLEAR30) option, and CRP will be lowering its soil rental rates. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has a sign-up deadline of Friday, May 10, 2019, and has three applicants so far.

**Dodge County Commissioner’s Report**
Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner, was unable to attend the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Approval of the Treasurer’s Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills** – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the March 2019 Balance Sheet, Revenues of $10,099.51, Expenditures of $26,207.17 and the Aging Summary, with a payables total of $1,347.79. The supervisors asked about the FY14 Feedlot Grant. Adam King, District Manager, reported that the district has received the final ten percent, that it should be in the financial report, and he will check on it. The supervisors also asked about the Dodge County Water Plan Duties, and King said that he will check on that as well. A motion was made to approve the March 2019 Treasurer’s Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of $1,347.79.

- Motion: David Livingston
- Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
- The motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business

**New Business**

**District Cost-Share Contract 2019-01 (Laue) Encumbrance**
Adam King, District Manager, informed the Supervisors that Steve Laue of Concord Township is requesting District Cost-Share for a well decommissioning. The total estimated cost is $1,500.00, and would have a 50% cost-share rate, for a total of $750.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2019-01 for a well decommissioning for Steve Laue not to exceed 50% of total eligible costs up to $750.00.

- Motion: David Livingston
- Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
- The motion carried unanimously.

**Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-03 (Edgar) Cancelation**
Adam King, District Manager, informed the Supervisors that Dale Edgar is canceling Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-03 for a saturated buffer. The supervisors discussed canceling the contract. A motion was made to cancel Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-03 for Dale Edgar to install a saturated buffer.

- Motion: Bruce Freerksen
- Seconded: Glenn Hahn
- The motion carried unanimously.
2019 Dodge County Free Fair Booth
The cost of a booth at the 2019 Dodge County Free Fair is $150.00, and another $100.00 deposit that will be handed back at the end of the fair. A motion was made to approve to spend $150.00 for a booth at the Dodge County Free Fair, and to place a $100.00 deposit for the booth.
  Motion: Glenn Hahn
  Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
  The motion carried unanimously.

Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Verification of Termination of Public Employment
Tom Johnston, District Technician, has submitted the Verification of Termination of Public Employment form from the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and a letter announcing that he will be retiring effective Friday, June 28, 2019. A motion was made to accept the retirement of Tom Johnston, District Technician, effective Friday, June 28, 2019, and sign and submit the Verification of Termination of Public Employment to the Public Employees Retirement Association.
  Motion: David Livingston
  Seconded: Bill Thompson
  The motion carried unanimously

Job Approval Authority (JAA)
Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented information on the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board’s cover crops for drinking water grant, and provided a list of area staff’s Job Approval Authority (JAA). The supervisors discussed the plan, and the district’s capacity, after Tom Johnston, District Technician, retires. Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that current staff will continue to seek, and work towards JAA.

Political Action Request From Producers
Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, discussed that there have been multiple political action requests from the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) calling for districts to contact their legislators asking for their support on particular bills. The district should have some producers lined up to contact legislators on our behalf.

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Correspondence & Staff Report
Adam King, District Manager, reported that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) have put out their call for resolutions. King presented the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 2018 Annual Report, and gave an update on the One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed.

Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented graphs of cropping history in some watersheds in Minnesota. The graphs show that the amount of corn planted has stayed consistent, while the amount of soy beans has gone from none and increased significantly, replacing many of the small grains. Thompson presented a flyer announcing Donna Rasmussen’s retirement party on April 25, 2019, and informed the supervisors that the We Are Water Minnesota Exhibit is at the Hormel Nature Center in Austin starting April 27, 2019.

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

Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Board – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that there was no Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Board meeting last month.

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that there was no 1W1P – Root River Policy Committee meeting last month.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that he was unable to attend the Wednesday, April 17, 2019 meeting.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that the RC&D is continuing to seek grant opportunities.

One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro River Watershed – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending Policy Committee on Thursday, April 04, 2019, where they choose Barr Engineering to write the plan. The public kick-off meeting is being planned for mid-June.

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that he has the draft plan, that is currently under review, and will be completed soon.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the board meeting where Paul Sweeney, Ecosystem Services Exchange, spoke and informed the board that they have received a grant to design drainage projects in southern Minnesota. The board also heard from Renville and Redwood SWCD’s that are in the process of establishing a Soil Health Coalition in Minnesota, and are requesting $5000.00 in start-up seed money from the MASWCD.

Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported not re-applying for the soil health grant through the LCCMR.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, May 16, 2019 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 9:50 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: [Signature]  Date: 5-16-17  Recorder: Adam King

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