Minutes of the December 19, 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 7:20 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary (in at 7:25 P.M.)
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (in at 7:30 P.M.)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District;
Mike Muzzy, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources
Conservation Service; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the agenda include, District Cost-Share Contract
2019-14 Encumbrance, Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract SB16-05 Encumbrance, Clean
Water Fund Cost-Share Contract SB16-06 Encumbrance, Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract
SB16-07 Encumbrance. A motion was made to approve the December 19, 2019 meeting agenda as
revised.
    Motion: Bill Thompson
    Seconded: Glenn Hahn
    The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the November 21, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes – Corrections to the November 21,
2019 board meeting minutes include removing the word “to” after “work” and before “on” under
FY2018 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement Amendment II on page 3, and add the word “their”
after “for” and before “feedlot” under the Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Committee on page 7. A
motion was made to approve the November 21, 2019 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s
Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as revised.
    Motion: Glenn Hahn
    Seconded: Bill Thompson
    The motion carried unanimously.

David Livingston entered at 7:25 P.M.
Public Comment

Nancy Peterson, Warioja Township, Dodge County Resident, reported that the Dodge County Economic Development Authority (EDA) has been dissolved, and she is still participating in the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities meetings, and that the Olmsted County Commissioners have raised their per diems. Peterson continues to work with businesses and nonprofits during the Red Kettle Campaign, and the Salvation Army is working on bringing a branch to Dodge County. Peterson is working with the United Way to bring funds into Dodge County, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is a good resource for those having mental health issues.

Bruce Freerksen entered at 7:30 P.M.

Partner Agency Reports

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

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report
Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), presented a written report. Muzzy is working on getting payments out to producers, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is seeking public comment on new rules. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign-up is currently ongoing, with payments being made. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up will go through February 28, 2020. Luke Bowe is a new Soil Conservation Technician in Austin, MN, and Teddy Moreno, a Soil Conservationist in Austin, MN is detailed to the Wetland Team in Waseca, MN through September 2020. The Supervisory District Conservationist (Team Lead) for this service team has been posted, but the hiring process is slow.

Treasurer’s Report

Approval of the Treasurer’s Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the November 2019 Balance Sheet, Revenues of $28,196.46, Expenditures of $37,609.97, the ledgers, and the Aging Summary with a payables total of $955.61. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer’s Report. A motion was made to approve the November 2019 Treasurer’s Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of $955.61.

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

Unfinished Business
2020 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Final Budget
Adam King, District Manager, presented the Finance Committee’s 2020 Final Budget Recommendation. The supervisors discussed the 2020 final budget. A motion was made to set and approve the Finance Committee’s 2020 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Final Budget as presented.

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

New Business

FY2020 Conservation Delivery Grant Close-Out
Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that all funds from the FY2020 Conservation Delivery Grant totaling $19,343.00 have been expended, and the grant should be closed out. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, to sign and submit the Final Financial Report for the FY2020 Conservation Delivery Grant, and close the grant out with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

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

2020 Cost of Living Increase
Adam King, District Manager, presented scenarios of the district’s wage scale with different cost of living increases, and informed the supervisors of the cost of living increase for Dodge County, and the Social Security increase. The supervisors discussed a cost of living increase for 2020. A motion was made to approve a cost of living increase of 3 percent for all employees.

  Motion: Larry Schberger
  Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
  The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2018-14 (Hodgman) Amendment
Dan Hodgman of Mantorville, MN is requesting an amendment to District Cost-Share Contract 2018-14 that would extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020. This will allow for delays in construction. A motion was made to amend District Cost-Share Contract 2018-14 for Dan Hodgman to extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

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

District Cost-Share Contract 2018-15 (Hodgman) Amendment
Dan Hodgman of Mantorville, MN is requesting an amendment to District Cost-Share Contract 2018-15 that would extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020. This will allow for delays in construction. A motion was made to amend District Cost-Share Contract 2018-15 for Dan Hodgman to extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

  Motion: David Livingston
  Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
  The motion carried unanimously.
District Cost-Share Contract 2018-16 (Hodgman) Amendment
Dan Hodgman of Mantorville, MN is requesting an amendment to District Cost-Share Contract 2018-16 that would extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020. This will allow for delays in construction. A motion was made to amend District Cost-Share Contract 2018-16 for Dan Hodgman to extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.
   Motion: David Livingston
   Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
   The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-02 (Pyfferoen) Amendment
Aaron Pyfferoen of Pine Island, MN is requesting an amendment to District Cost-Share Contract 2019-02 that would extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020. A motion was made to amend District Cost-Share Contract 2019-02 for Aaron Pyfferoen to extend the expiration date by one year, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.
   Motion: Glenn Hahn
   Seconded: David Livingston
   The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-14 (Murray) Encumbrance
Ruth Murray of Claremont, MN is requesting financial assistance for District Cost-Share Contract 2019-14 for a grassed waterway in section 33 of Claremont Township. The total eligible cost of the grassed waterway is $5,912.83, and Murray is requesting 65%, not to exceed $3,843.34. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2019-14 in the amount of 65% of total eligible costs, not to exceed $3,843.34 for a grassed waterway for Ruth Murray.
   Motion: Glenn Hahn
   Seconded: Bill Thompson
   The motion carried unanimously.

Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-05 (Underwood) Encumbrance
Dale Underwood of Blooming Prairie, MN is requesting financial assistance for Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-05 for a saturated buffer in section 08 of Westfield Township. The total eligible cost of the saturated buffer is $4,510.00, and Underwood is requesting 75%, not to exceed $3,382.50, with the Cedar River Watershed District providing the additional 25% match, totaling $1,127.50. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of Clean Water Fund Dodge Saturated Buffer Implementation Grant funds for Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-05 in the amount of 75% of total eligible costs, not to exceed $3,382.50 for a saturated buffer for Dale Underwood.
   Motion: David Livingston
   Seconded: Glenn Hahn
   The motion carried unanimously.

Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-06 (Underwood) Encumbrance
Dale Underwood of Blooming Prairie, MN is requesting financial assistance for Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-06 for a saturated buffer in section 08 of Westfield Township. The
total eligible cost of the saturated buffer is $4,460.50, and Underwood is requesting 75%, not to exceed $3,345.38, with the Cedar River Watershed District providing the additional 25% match, totaling $1,115.13. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of Clean Water Fund Dodge Saturated Buffer Implementation Grant funds for Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-06 in the amount of 75% of total eligible costs, not to exceed $3,345.38 for a saturated buffer for Dale Underwood.

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

Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-07 (Underwood) Encumbrance
Dale Underwood of Blooming Prairie, MN is requesting financial assistance for Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-07 for a saturated buffer in section 08 of Westfield Township. The total eligible cost of the saturated buffer is $4,519.90, and Underwood is requesting 75%, not to exceed $3,389.93, with the Cedar River Watershed District providing the additional 25% match, totaling $1,129.98. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of Clean Water Fund Dodge Saturated Buffer Implementation Grant funds for Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract FY16SB-07 in the amount of 75% of total eligible costs, not to exceed $3,389.93 for a saturated buffer for Dale Underwood.

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

Correspondence & Staff Report
Adam King, District Manager, presented the Audit of the 2018 Financials, a letter from the Office of the State Auditor, and a letter from the Peterson Company. King also presented a letter from the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board.

Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented an article on the Field to Stream Partnership in the Root River Watershed, and a program on Farm Business and Cover Crops. Thompson also presented information from the State Climatology Office.

Supervisor Reports

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported attending the RC&D meeting that was held on Monday, November 25, 2019, and that George Poch is looking for a replacement. John Beckwith will be retiring within the next year, and discussions included dissolving the organization.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the December 18, 2019 board meeting where Dale Krystosek, Performance Review and Assistance Program Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Recourses reviewed the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) for the CRWD, and said the CRWD was preforming well. David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, gave an update on the One Watershed One Plan – Cedar, and announced that the Cedar - Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. Red Rock Township has signed an agreement with the CRWD, and a Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) report was
given. The CRWD is working with partners in Iowa on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to install projects, and Tim Ruzek, Water Plan and Outreach Coordinator, CRWD, has been working with the schools and looking at brookside projects with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A $250,000 administrative, and $100,000 project levy was passed. Staff are in the process of setting up a joint Mower Soil and Water Conservation District / CRWD board meeting.

Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Committee – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that they are still working on the Currier Bros. feedlot project.

One Watershed One Plan – Root River – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 09, 2020.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the MASWCD Annual Convention on December 08-10, 2019. The convention hosted a Leadership Summit, with a common theme coming from it being stable funding. The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s Conservationist of the Year, the Bryon Sportsman’s Club, was presented their award, and the Minnesota Conservationist of the Year was the Linder Family Farms. Chris Wagener, Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District, was recognized. Thompson attended a session on Job Approval Authority, and another on the future of Technical Service Areas that included a panel of host managers. The message received was that the host mangers felt overworked. All but one resolution passed.

One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the Policy Committee meeting on Thursday December 12, 2019, where they approved invoices, and received input from the Waterside Chats on the priorities of the watershed. Jennifer Ronenberg, Minnesota Department of Health, gave a presentation on groundwater.

Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, January 16, 2020 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 10:50 P.M.

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

Approved: Larry Scherger
Date: 1-16-20
Recorder: Adam King

December 19, 2019 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting minutes
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Bruce Freerksen – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn