

Minutes of the February 15, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the February 15, 2018 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 7:18 P.M.

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Rhonda Toquam, District IV Commissioner, Dodge County

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions to the February 15, 2018 agenda. A motion was made to approve the February 15, 2018 meeting agenda as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the January 18, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no corrections to the January 18, 2018 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the January 18, 2018 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's regular Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner, reported that the Dodge County Commissioners will be attending the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Day at the Capitol on February 28 – March 1, 2018. Dodge County will start advertising committee positions for the Planning and Zoning and Feedlot Committees in the future. Ordinance language is being revised.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) was unable to attend.

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, presented the January 2018 Balance Sheet, commenting on the deferred revenues, Revenues of \$41,504.23, Expenditures of \$54,459.43, and the Aging Summary, with a payables total of \$1,168.40. A motion was made to approve the January 2018 Treasurer's Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$1,168.40.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no other Unfinished Business.

New Business

2018 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Day at the Capitol

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the 2018 MASWCD Day at the Capitol will be held on March 12 – 13, 2018, with a registration fee of \$80.00. King, and Bill Thompson, District I supervisor expressed interest in attending. A motion was made to approve Adam King and Bill Thompson to attend the 2018 MASWCD Day at the Capitol, at a cost of \$80.00 each for registration.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE) 2018 Dues

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that 2018 MACDE dues are \$20.00 per employee. With four employees, 2018 MACDE dues total \$80.00. A motion was made to pay \$80.00 for 2018 dues to the MACDE for four employees.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

FY18 BWSR Conservation Delivery Grant (P18-1692) Close-Out

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that all funds for the FY18 BWSR Conservation Delivery Grant (P18-1692) have been exhausted, and the grant should be closed out. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager to sign the Financial Report for the FY18 BWSR Conservation Delivery Grant (P18-1692) and submit for close-out.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2016-14 (Henslin) Encumbrance

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Marie Henslin, of Ashland Township, is requesting District Cost-Share for a grassed waterway. The total estimated cost is \$12,137.19. Henslin is requesting 75 percent cost-share between state and federal sources, encumbering up to \$3,290.22 from the district cost-share fund. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share Contract 2016-14 for Marie Henslin for the installation of a grassed waterway, up to 75 percent of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$3,290.22.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2018-03 (Curlee) Payment

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that James and Kathleen Curlee of Pine Island, MN are requesting payment for District Cost-Share Contract 2018-03 for a well decommissioning. The total eligible cost of the well decommissioning is \$1,525.00, and the Curlees are requesting the maximum payment of \$500.00. A motion was made to approve the payment of \$500.00 for District Cost-Share Contract 2018-03 for a well decommissioning to James and Kathleen Curlee.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Clean Water Fund Cost-Share Contract CSA2016-01 (215 Garden St.) Payment

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the water and sediment control basins have been installed, but are still waiting to receive copies of the invoices, and the final signed certification and voucher form.

Sponsorship of the Ray Archuleta Program

Blaine Delzer, District Technician, has been assisting the Land Stewardship Project with putting on a presentation by Ray Archuleta. The Land Stewardship Project is looking for financial support of \$250.00 - \$500.00 to cover speaking costs. A motion was made to pay \$250.00 to the Land Stewardship Project to sponsor the Ray Archuleta Soil Health Program.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, presented the supervisors the letter from the MASWCD to Governor Dayton on the 25X25 meetings, the letter from the Minnesota State Auditor to the board of supervisors on the 2016 audit, and the notice from Meritain Health informing the district that there will be no increase in dental premiums in 2018.

Supervisor Reports

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending the Policy Committee meeting on January 22, 2018 where the Policy Committee approved the workplan, which included Riceford Creek projects, and wellhead protection in the Utica and Chatfield areas. Kernza is being planted in the Chatfield Wellhead Protection Area. A whole farm approach is being looked at in the small priority watersheds. There is a total of \$851,000 dedicated to the implementation of the 1W1P - Root River Watershed, with another \$500,000 dedicated in EQIP funds.

Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Committee – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that he has submitted his application to the Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Committee, but has not heard if he was accepted.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported attending the RC&D meeting, where they discussed planting Kernza for water quality, and trying to get Dr. Weiss to speak about Fugle's Mill.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that the next CRWD meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

Dodge County Parks Board – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the last Dodge County Parks Board meeting where they are working with the Dodge County Historical Society with a grant to study the seminary, and stabilize the structure.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported that he attended the MASWCD meeting, where he was informed that Cathee Pullman will not be returning as the NRCS State Conservationist, and Curtis Elke is the Acting NRCS State Conservationist for Minnesota. Currently the Minnesota NRCS is down 15 District Conservationists statewide, and are under a hiring freeze. They will hopefully be able to hire in the future. Currently contracts are being planned with SWCDs and Ultima. The legislative session may be a difficult one between the parties. It is a bonding year, with CREP included in the initial bonding proposal, and the MASWCD is looking for taxing authority.

Soil Health – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported that he would like to see an active soil health team in Dodge County. Thompson noticed the LCCMR grants are currently open and is interested in the office submitting a grant proposal for soil health, including field days, and data with fertilizer inputs and crop yields. There is a March 14th deadline.

Conservation Easement Lands – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented the BWSR Conservation Lands Summary from August 2017, comparing Dodge and Mower Counties.

Southeast Area Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the SE Area SWCD Technical Support JPB meeting where the officers were re-elected to their second terms, and kept the same committees. Grant reports and cell phone reimbursements were discussed.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on February 08, 2018 where Bill Thompson presented before the meeting. The board discussed Earth Fest at Rochester Community Technical College (RCTC) on April 21, 2018, and Women in Agriculture. The Annual Meeting will be held on March 08, 2018, where the bylaws will be modified/updated.

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – Cedar River Watershed – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that the next 1W1P – Cedar River Watershed will be held on March 07, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. in Austin.


Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, March 15, 2018 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 09:41 P.M.

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

Approved:  Date: 3-15-18 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Bruce Freerksen– Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn