

**Minutes of the February 20, 2020 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 Vice-Chair, Bill Thompson at 7:24 P.M.

Members Present: Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary

Members Absent: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I

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; Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner; Nancy Peterson,
Dodge County Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions to the February 20, 2020 agenda. A
motion was made to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting agenda as presented.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the January 16, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no corrections to the
January 16, 2020 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the January 16, 2020
Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as
presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Nancy Peterson, Wasioja Township, Dodge County Resident, provided the supervisors with
handouts, and noted that she is continuing to work with the Journey to Growth program. Peterson
said she has attended the Kasson Economic Development Authority (EDA), and they have opened a
position on their EDA for surrounding townships, as well as attending the Kasson parks and
recreation meeting where they will be working towards saving a historic wall and pillars at Veterans
Park. Peterson has aligned with the Kasson newspaper for Minnesota Workforce Development, and

is working for disaster relief. Peterson is working with the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and will be doing the 90-day challenge, along with developing a community networking group on transportation issues. Peterson announced that Governor Tim Walz has \$30 million in his planned budget for emergency planning, and that she will be working for the 2020 census, with Dodge County being the poorest reporting county in Minnesota. Peterson is working for family, home, and sustainability, and notified the supervisors that there are no family services for those older than 60 years of age in Dodge County. Nancy announced that Mayo Clinic will attend the Dodge County Expo for their workforce development.

Partner Agency Reports

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner, reported that the Dodge County Commissioners have placed a moratorium on solar gardens installed in Dodge County. Toquam hopes the moratorium will end soon, with solar gardens incorporated into the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan. Toquam informed the supervisors that Melissa DeVetter will be implementing the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan, and Dodge County will be hiring a new Planning and Zoning Administrator. Toquam announce the Dodge County Commissioners will be going to the State Capitol next week, and that the Highway 14 project is getting started with clearing and grubbing.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), presented a written report, and reported that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up application deadline is Friday, March 13, 2020, with applications prioritized based on the Local Work Group priorities. Muzzy announced the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has sent out renewal letters for 2014, 2015, and 2016 contracts that are expiring, and can sign up for a 5 year renewal, and that the General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up runs through Friday, February 28, 2020, however Dodge County is not in the priority area. Muzzy provided the Local Work Group bulletin asking the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District to convene a Local Work Group before July 31, 2020. Muzzy informed the supervisors that as of March 01, 2020 Gary Kurer is the new Team Lead for Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, and Steele counties, that Luke Breitenbach is the Acting District Conservationist in Goodhue County, and that there is an all-employees meeting on February 25, 26, and 27, 2020.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the January 2020 Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$12,035.08, Expenditures of \$39,295.78, General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$2,778.88. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the January 2020 Treasurer's Report, approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$2,778.88.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business

New Business

2020 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol

Adam King, District Manager, presented the 2020 legislative priorities/platform. The 2020 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 24th and 25th. The cost of registration is \$90.00 per person. A motion was made to send any staff and supervisor that wishes to attend the 2020 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol at a cost of \$90.00 per person for registration.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Audit of 2019 Financials

Adam King, District Manager, presented a bid from the Peterson Company of \$2,657.00 to complete an audit of the 2019 financials. The supervisors discussed the bid and the audit of the 2019 financials. A motion was made to accept the bid of \$2,657.00 from the Peterson Company to complete the audit of the 2019 financials for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

Sub-Agreement between Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Technical Assistance and Promotional Funding

Adam King, District Manager, presented a sub-agreement between the Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Technical Assistance and Promotional Funding for up to \$2,500.00 expiring 12/31/2020. A motion was made to approve, sign, and submit the sub-agreement between Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Technical Assistance and Promotional Funding.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Sub-Agreement Amendment # IV Between the Area VII Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that there is a Sub-Agreement Amendment # IV between the Area VII Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management that would increase the amount

of the sub-agreement by \$46,984.22 to \$232,879.89. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager to sign and submit the Sub-Agreement Amendment # IV Between the Area VII Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management that increases the amount of the sub-agreement by \$46,984.22 to \$232,879.89 once received from the Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Cost-Share Contract RCPP2020-01 (Currier Bros) Encumbrance

Ben and Jay Currier of Currier Bros. Farm of Mantorville, MN are requesting financial assistance for RCPP Cost-Share Contract RCPP2020-01 for an Animal Waste Storage Facility in Section 12 of Mantorville Township. The total eligible cost of the Animal Waste Storage Facility is \$484,133.81, and Currier Bros. are requesting \$213,667.43 from state funding through the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of RCPP Grant funds for Cost-Share Contract RCPP2020-01 in an amount not to exceed \$213,667.43 for an Animal Waste Storage Facility for Currier Bros., and authorize Adam King, District Manager to sign Cost-Share Contract RCPP2020-01 after the Sub-Agreement Amendment # IV Between the Area VII Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management has been executed.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2020-13 (Henslin) Encumbrance

Tom Henslin of Dodge Center, MN is requesting financial assistance for District Cost-Share Contract 2020-13 for a well decommissioning in Section 9 of Ashland Township. The total eligible cost of the well decommissioning is \$1,680.00 and Henslin is requesting 50%, not to exceed \$840.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2020-13 in the amount of 50% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$840.00 for a well decommissioning for Tom Henslin.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2020-14 (Henslin) Encumbrance

Tom Henslin of Dodge Center, MN is requesting financial assistance for District Cost-Share Contract 2020-14 for a well decommissioning in Section 9 of Ashland Township. The total eligible cost of the well decommissioning is \$1,680.00 and Henslin is requesting 50%, not to exceed \$840.00. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2020-14 in the amount of 50% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$840.00 for a well decommissioning for Tom Henslin.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

There was no Other New Business

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported being involved with many meetings, including One Watershed One Plan meetings, and staff have been involved with feedlot meetings, and field work. King announced that he has a baby due at the end of April, and informed the supervisors that he will be taking leave, and will be back for the May meeting.

Supervisor Reports

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the February 19, 2020 board meeting, and that it was a short meeting. The managers authorized Justin Hanson, District Administrator, to sign all grants that come in. Hanson has met with the Mower County Commissioners, and would like to set up a meeting with the Dodge County Commissioners. Tim Ruzek, Mower County Water Planner/Outreach Coordinator, has put together the “Cedar Reader” that will be going out monthly. Livingston reported a chlorine issue from when the Austin YMCA drained its pool, melting ice covering a pond, and releasing a chlorine smell. Tom Cotter, Mower County Farmer, was recognized at Pheasant Fest. The CRWD grant reports have been submitted, soil health workshops have been held, and they are in the second year of a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG).

Cedar – Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 04, 2020

Root River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020.

Central Advantage Program – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending a program put on by the Freeborn Country Cooperative partnering with Land O’ Lakes and their TruTerra software that tabulates data directly from combines through the Central Advantage Program to help producers put the right amount of inputs in the right spot at the right time. Hahn presented the annual report.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Directors – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the MASWCD Directors meeting and provided a written report. Thompson presented the 2020 MASWCD legislative platform, and recommended appointments to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, including Kurt Beckstrom, Mark Zabel, and Jane Hagerty. Thompson informed the supervisors that the MASWCD committed providing funds to the State Envirothon, and that the Technical Service Areas (TSAs) were discussed, including conducting a workload analysis. Thompson conveyed that the TSA host District Managers feel overworked, and it is up to each TSA on how business is conducted, and a strategic planning session may be needed.

Southeast Minnesota Association Conservation Districts Employees (SE MACDE) Directors – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the SE MACDE meeting on February

20, 2020 where they planned for an employee meeting at a yak farm near Welch, MN on 3/31/2020. There will also be a SE District Managers Meeting on Tuesday, March 03, 2020.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

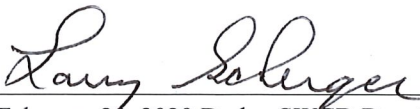
Adjournment

Hearing no further business, ^{13, 11 Thompson, Vice-Chair} ~~Larry Scherger~~, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 10:16 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:  Date: 3-17-2020 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Bruce Freerksen– Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn