

**Minutes of the July 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 Vice-Chair, Bill Thompson at 7:22 P.M.

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

Members Absent: Larry Scherger, Chair

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the agenda include: Staff Training Request – Delzer
Cover Training, District Cost-Share Contract 2019-08 (Boysen) Encumbrance, District Cost-Share
Contract 2019-09 (Boysen) Encumbrance, District Cost-Share Contract 2019-10 (Boysen)
Encumbrance under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the July 18, 2019
meeting agenda as amended.

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

Approval of the June 20, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes – The supervisors discussed the May 16,
2019 meeting, and corrections include changing “Bryon” to Byron” on page 4 under the 2019
Conservationist of the Year, and changing “annual rye blend” to “cereal rye blend” on page 6 in the
last sentence under University of Minnesota Cover Crop. A motion was made to approve the June
20, 2019 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.

Public Comment

Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Citizen – Peterson attended the One Watershed One Plan –
Zumbro Kickoff Meeting, and is trying to tie the planning effort to her Bench³ initiative. Peterson
took well water samples to the kickoff meeting to get analyzed for nitrates, with some of the results
considered high. Peterson is working with Community and Economic Development Associates
(CEDA) on her doctorate using Dodge County as a pilot site for Cradle to Career. Peterson had a

booth at the 2019 Dodge County Free Fair, participated in the Civil War reenactment, and attended a presentation on the reenactment. Peterson stated that she is getting her property surveyed for the proposed Stagecoach State Trail, and is working with the City of Dodge Center Administrator attending the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities (SEMLM) meetings, trying to get \$25 Million for the Journey to Growth project.

Bruce Freerksen entered at 7:30 P.M.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), reported that the special prevent plant Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up has closed, with 5 applications received in Dodge County, and 1,900 applications received across Minnesota. A special waiver was in place for those that bought seed and have installed the cover crop, with information on selected applications will be available next week. Three projects were funded through EQIP in the last round, and one Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) feedlot was funded in Dodge County. Muzzy has been working on 1026 wetland inventories, educational events, easement inspections, attended the Woodchip Bioreactor Field Day, and attended a cover crop inter-seeding field day at Ed McNamara's. The cover crops are looking good with the excessive precipitation received. Kelly Burke is the new NRCS Soil Conservationist in Owatonna, and will be coming to Dodge Center a few days a week. Nathan Paul has been hired as the new NRCS Forester.

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 June 2019 Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$140,585.66 noting that the county allocation has come in, Expenditures of \$34,020.42, and the Aging Summary with a payables total of \$34,405.09. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the May 2019 Treasurer's Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$2,194.98.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

2020 Preliminary Budget

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Finance Committee's recommendation of the 2020 preliminary budget. The supervisors discussed the budget. A motion was made to approve the 2020 preliminary budget, and request \$121,500.00 for a 2020 allocation from Dodge County.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Sub-agreement between the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Reducing Bacteria from Southeast Minnesota Feedlots (Feedlot VII) Section 319 Grant

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Sub-agreement between the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Reducing Bacteria from Southeast Minnesota Feedlots (Feedlot VII) Section 319 grant. The supervisors discussed the sub-agreement. A motion was made to approve, sign, and submit the Sub-agreement between the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Reducing Bacteria from Southeast Minnesota Feedlots (Feedlot VII) Section 319 grant.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-01 (Laue) Payment

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Steve Laue of Dodge Center, MN is requesting final payment of District Cost-Share Contract 2019-01 for a well decommissioning. Total eligible expenses came to \$1,465.00, and total financial assistance of 50% totals \$732.50. Payment will be made from the FY18 Local Capacity Services Grant. A motion was made to approve a final payment in the amount of \$732.50 for District Cost-Share Contract 2019-01 to Steve Laue for the installation of a well decommissioning.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerkson

The motion carried unanimously

ESRI Maintenance Renewal Quotation

Adam King, District Manager, presented the quote from ESRI for the GIS license maintenance providing the district with GIS support and license upgrades. The quote includes maintenance for 1 year on the first license, and half of a year on the second, in order to get them both on the same schedule. The supervisors discussed the quotation. A motion was made to authorize payment of \$1,515.00 for the first license, and \$523.21 for the second to ESRI for GIS license maintenance.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Training Request – Adam King – 2019 SWCD Leadership Conference

Adam King, District Manager, is requesting to attend the 2019 SWCD Leadership Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, August 13-14, 2019. Registration for the conference is \$85.00, and lodging is needed. The supervisors discussed the conference. A motion was made to approve Adam King, District Manager, to attend the 2019 SWCD Leadership Conference in Sioux Falls, SD August 13-14, 2019 at a cost of \$85.00 for registration and one nights lodging.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-08 (Boysen) Encumbrance

Nathan Boysen is requesting District Cost-Share for a grassed waterway in section 28 of Vernon Township. The estimate to install the grassed waterway is \$9,570.00, and Boysen is requesting 65% up to \$6,220.50. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of district cost-share funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2019-08 in the amount of 65% of total eligible costs not to exceed \$6,220.50 for a grassed waterway for Nathan Boysen.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-09 (Boysen) Encumbrance

Nathan Boysen is requesting District Cost-Share for a grassed waterway in section 28 of Vernon Township. The estimate to install the grassed waterway is \$8,150.00, and Boysen is requesting 65% up to \$5,297.50. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of district cost-share funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2019-09 in the amount of 65% of total eligible costs not to exceed \$5,297.50 for a grassed waterway for Nathan Boysen.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-10 (Boysen) Encumbrance

Steve Boysen is requesting District Cost-Share for a grassed waterway in section 36 of Hayfield Township. The estimate to install the grassed waterway is \$10,915.00, and Boysen is requesting 65% up to \$7,094.75. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of district cost-share funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2019-10 in the amount of 65% of total eligible costs not to exceed \$7,094.75 for a grassed waterway for Steve Boysen.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Training Request – Blaine Delzer – Cover Crop Planning

Blaine Delzer, District Technician, is requesting to attend the 2019 Cover Crop Planning training in Morris, Minnesota, August 15, 2019. There are no registration costs for the training, but lodging is needed. The supervisors discussed the training. A motion was made to approve Blaine Delzer, District Technician, to attend the 2019 Cover Crop Planning training in Morris, MN August 15, 2019, and one nights lodging.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, presented a report on cover crop economics by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, and provided an update on the One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro. King informed the supervisors that staff have put together a woodchip bioreactor field day and a soil health field day in the last month.

Supervisor Reports

Assignment of Duties – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, – The supervisors discussed Scherger’s duties, and potential alternates for them. A motion was made to appoint Bill Thompson as the alternate for the Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board, and to appoint Bruce Freerksen as the alternate for the One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro Policy Committee.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported attending the RC&D meeting on Monday, July 22, 2019, and went to the Fugle’s Mill site where it was discussed what should be done with the building.

Soil Health Field Day at Ed McNamara’s – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported attending the soil health field day at Ed McNamara’s farm in Goodhue County, and learned about his inter-seeding equipment.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD board meeting on July 17, 2019, where the staff presented temperature data on Wolf Creek showing that it is cool enough to support trout. The hope is to get Hormel and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to make the area accessible to the public. The district is applying for a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) totaling \$1.5 Million to develop a tool to quantify soil health. A public truth and taxation hearing has been set for Wednesday, August 21, 2019. The audit of the 2018 financials was reviewed and approved, and received a \$30,000 grant with multiple partners, including the Freeborn Country Co-op, the Corn Growers Association, USDA NRCS, Riverland College, Mower SWCD, and more to sample groundwater. About 2,000 people went through the “We Are Water Minnesota” display in Austin, MN. The managers increased their per diems from \$75.00 to \$125.00.

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that the comments from the 60-day review period are in, and there will not be a Policy Committee meeting in August, and are in the process of planning a public hearing on the plan.

Southeast Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SE MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported that the next Local Government Roundtable is looking at watershed-based funding and how to account for how the funding is spent. Rick Berscheid, Southeast Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations, NRCS, spoke at the summer resolutions meeting about the new staff coming on board, and gave an update on their reorganization plan. Berscheid also reported the results of the Local Work Groups that were conducted in the spring. Jim Fritz, NRCS, Aaron Peter, BWSR, and Chris Nelson, SE SWCD Technical Support JPB, spoke about Job Approval Authority (JAA), and upcoming trainings. In total, there were eight resolutions, with four of them passing to the state level.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the MASWCD Directors meeting where funding the new Minnesota Soil Health Coalition was voted down 5-4.

2019 Dodge County Free Fair – Many supervisors reported attending the 2019 Dodge County Free Fair, and stopping by the Dodge SWCD booth. The Dodge SWCD Conservationist of the

Year Award was presented to the Byron Sportsman's and Conservation Club at the awards ceremony on Sunday.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, August 15, 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, Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:10 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____



Date: 8.15.19

Recorder: Adam King

July 18, 2019 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting minutes

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