



**Minutes of the June 18, 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 7:22 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair (late – 7:35 P.M.)
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (late – 7:50 P.M.)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District;
Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County
Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the June 18, 2020 agenda include two Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Resolutions, FY2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Letter of Support, the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, and District Cost-Share Contract 2019-13 (LMN) Payment. A motion was made to approve the June 18, 2020 meeting agenda as amended.

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

Approval of the May 21, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no additions or corrections to the May 21, 2020 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the May 21, 2020 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Board 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 Dodge County has approved their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, and has not given property tax relief or an extension to pay due to COVID-19. The Dodge County Commissioners will be working on the 2021 budget

soon, and the new sales tax has brought in more than was estimated. Dodge County is open and servicing citizens, with limited services offered at the transfer station.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Gary Kurer, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), was unable to attend the meeting.

Larry Scherger entered the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the May 2020 Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$51,607.89, Expenditures of \$26,851.65, the General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$3,217.10. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report, including the Accounts Receivable, and Accrued Salaries Payable. A motion was made to approve the May 2020 Treasurer's Report, and approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$3,217.10.

Motion: Larry Scherger

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business

New Business

Bruce Freerksen entered at 7:50 P.M.

2021 Draft Preliminary Budget

Adam King, District Manager, presented the 2021 Draft Preliminary Budget for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. The supervisors discussed the 2021 Draft Preliminary Budget, and a Finance Committee meeting was set for July 08, 2020 at 7:30 A.M.

Grant Agreement Amendment II between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the FY17 Middle Fork Zumbro River Critical Source Area (CSA) Section 319 Grant

Adam King, District Manager, presented the second grant amendment for the FY17 Middle Fork Zumbro River CSA Section 319 grant that would extend the expiration of the grant by one year, from September 30, 2020 to August 31, 2021. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager to sign and submit the Amendment II between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the FY17 Middle Fork Zumbro River Critical Source Area Section 319 Grant extending the grant from September 30, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Larry Scherger

The motion carried unanimously

Contract between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Groundwater Level Monitoring

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Contract between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Groundwater Level Monitoring. King explained that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources added three additional well monitoring locations across the county, with payment continuing at \$30.00 per well measurement. King estimated that it will take closer to 4 hours to read all wells, and will total nearly 24 hours over the year. At Blaine’s hourly rate, it would total over \$1,500.00, and the contract has a maximum payment of \$780.00. The supervisors discussed the contract. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager request the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to remove the wells at the Tri Cooperative WMA and the McMMartin WMA, and continue to monitor the wells at the Wasioja WMA, Pheasants Forever WMA, and Wasioja Township for a total of \$480.00.

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

Independent Contractor Agreement

Adam King, District Manager, presented an Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Timothy Moenning. The contract would be retroactive to June 10, 2020, with Timothy Moenning using his own tractor and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District paying the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry’s prevailing wage of \$47.70 per hour. A motion was made to sign and approve the Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Timothy Moenning for installing cover crops at an hourly rate of \$47.70 retroactive to June 10, 2020.

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

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota 2021 Benefit Plan Coverage

Adam King, District Manager, presented options from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota for 2021 health insurance. The “BlueAccess Silver \$3,675 plan 642” has increased the deductible to \$3,750, and there is about a 6 percent increase in premiums. One staff member has indicated that they are happy with the current plan, and is OK with the increased deductible. A motion was made to choose the “BlueAccess Silver \$3,750 Plan 642” for employee health insurance including contributing \$1,000 towards the employee’s Health Savings Account, contingent on the other employee being OK with the current plan and increased deductible.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Larry Scherger
The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

FY2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Letter of Support

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is preparing a FY2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota grant, and presented a Letter of Support for that effort. The letter says that the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District will provide \$3,000 in-kind

match for the grant. A motion was made to sign and submit the Letter of Support providing \$3,000 of In-Kind Match over the timeframe of the FY2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota grant.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Larry Scherger

The motion carried unanimously.

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

Adam King, District Manager, presented a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. King used the template from the state, and covers identification and isolation of sick people, and ensuring sick staff stay home, social distancing, staff hygiene and source controls, workplace building and ventilation, workplace cleaning and disinfection, drop-off, pick-up, and delivery practices, and communications and training practices. A motion was made to approve and adopt the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2019-13 (LMN Family Farms) Payment

LMN Family Farms c/o Jennifer Johnson of Hayfield, MN is requesting payment for Cost-Share Contract 2019-13 for installing a grassed waterway in Section 07 of Vernon Township. The total cost of the grassed waterway was \$12,325.00 and LMN Family Farms c/o Jennifer Johnson is requesting the amount encumbered of \$7,934.70. A motion was made to sign the certification and voucher, and approve the payment for Cost-Share Contract 2019-13 in the amount of \$7,934.70 for installing a grassed waterway in Section 07 Vernon Township for LMN Family Farms c/o Jennifer Johnson.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) 2020 Resolutions

Support for Regional Training Events for SWCDs on Multi-Purpose Drainage Water Management

Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented the Support for Regional Training Events for SWCDs on Multi-Purpose Drainage Water Management resolution. The supervisors discussed the resolution. Thompson stated that this would be a regional approach to conducting training and partnering with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resource, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A motion was made to approve the resolution to go to the SE MASWCD for approval.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Strengthen and Expand Partnerships for Application of MASWCD Guiding Principles

Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented the Strengthen and Expand Partnerships for Application of MASWCD Guiding Principles resolution. The supervisors discussed the resolution. Thompson felt that this resolution will position the MASWCD to fund and better carry out their mission. A motion was made to approve the resolution to go to the SE MASWCD for approval.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported that all staff are now working in the office / field, and are trying to get projects in the ground.

Supervisor Reports

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that the next RC&D meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2020 via Zoom.

One Watershed One Plan – Root River – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2020 via Zoom.

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar – Wapsipinicon – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor reported that the Policy Advisory Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 via Zoom, but had issues connecting. Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Policy Advisory Committee reviewed the FY20-21 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) workplan. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 via Zoom.

One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor reported that the Policy Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 via WebEx, and the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) gave a presentation on organizational structures, reviewed draft maps of targeted areas and the draft goals table.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported he was unable to attend the CRWD Board meetings held via Zoom on June 17, 2020. Adam King, District Manager, watched a portion of the meeting and informed the supervisors that the CRWD is paying \$10,000 for gravel and regrading some of Red Rock Townships roads.

Southeast Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SE MASWCD) Directors – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported that the next SE MASWCD meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 via Zoom.

Public Comment

Nancy Peterson, Wasioja Township, Dodge County Resident, informed the supervisors that all of the events she was planning on attending (Dodge County Expo, Dodge County Fair, etc...) has been canceled. She has been working for relief from flooding disasters, COVID-19, civil unrest, and presented a poem. She has engaged the community and working for workforce, cooperative

education, and sustainability. She has worked with NAMI and went to the State Capitol to promote the organization. She will be working with small farmers and trying to figure out how to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is hoping to continue to work with government agencies and non-profits and the Destination Medical Center (DMC).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota, with an option to participate remotely.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 10:30 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: Larry Scherger Date: 7-23-2020 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Bruce Freerksen– Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn