Minutes of the March 21, 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 7:16 P.M.

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District;
Blaine Delzer, District Technician, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Rhonda Toquam,
Dodge County District IV Commissioner

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the agenda include a Review of 2018 Financials
under the Treasurer’s Report, and the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board (SEMWRB),
and the Legislative Citizen’s Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) soil health grant
application under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the March 21, 2019
meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the February 21, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes – Corrections to the February 21,
2019 board meeting minutes include changing “though” to “through” under Amendment to the Sub-
Agreement between the Southeast Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SE SWCD) Technical
Support Joint Powers Board (JPB) and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on
page 3, changing “though” to “through” under Cost-Share Contract RCPP2019-01 (Currier Bros)
Encumbrance on page 3. A motion was made to approve the February 21, 2019 Dodge Soil and
Water Conservation District’s regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as corrected.

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

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report
Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), was
unable to attend the meeting.
Dodge County Commissioner’s Report
Rhonda Toquam, Dodge County District IV Commissioner, reported having a Board of Commissioners retreat and discussing the new Dodge County Comprehensive Plan. The Dodge County Commissioners attended the Association of Minnesota Counties Day at the Capitol, meeting with all nine legislators. Dodge County roads are getting back in order after the blizzard and snowmelt. The Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board (SEMWRB) has voted to disband.

Treasurer’s Report

Approval of the Treasurer’s Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the February 2019 Balance Sheet, Revenues of $9,786.56, Expenditures of $30,209.18, and the Aging Summary, with a payables total of $861.69. A motion was made to approve the February 2019 Treasurer’s Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of $861.69.
Motion: Bruce Freerksen
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

Review of 2018 Financials – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, reviewed the 2018 final balance sheets, revenues, and expenditures.

Staff Presentation

Conservation Tillage Conference / Education and Outreach Update
Blaine Delzer, District Technician, discussed the keynote speaker at the Conservation Tillage Conference, and how he is from the Chesapeake Bay region where there are far more regulations and restrictions on farming, with reduced / no-tillage common, and at times required. Most learning at the conference is done at table talks, and rotating tables to get different points of view. Delzer discussed the “Profitable Farming in a Changing Climate” presentation. Delzer informed the supervisors he is working with a regional soil health group. With soil health field days happening in Freeborn, Rice and Dodge Counties all on the same day, it made sense to partner and start working regionally. Blaine has also been working with the Bryon Area Farmers, and starting to work with smaller groups in areas like Rock Dell. Delzer stated that he is working with producers that are using cover crops with 60 in. rows on conventional corn. The Southeast Area Environthon will be held on Wednesday, May 08, 2019 at the Bryon Sportsman’s Club. The Doge County Expo will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019, and we will continue to have a presence at the Dodge County Fair this summer. Delzer attended the area feedlot officers meeting where emergency management from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture spoke about animal diseases. Delzer has been following up with feedlot owners with damage from the blizzard last month.

Unfinished Business
There was no Unfinished Business

New Business

ESRI GIS License Purchase - Delzer
Adam King, District Manager, informed the Supervisors that the Buffer Law Grant Workplan includes a GIS license for Blaine Delzer, District Technician. King included a quote from ESRI for
a GIS License. A motion was made to approve the purchase of an ArcGIS Desktop Standard Single Use license from ESRI at a cost not to exceed $6,500.00.

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

Other New Business

Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board (SEMWRB)
Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, informed the supervisors that the SEMWRB has been active for over 30 years, and has completed many projects. Recently the Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Support Joint Powers Board has been providing funding through transferring grants to the SEMWRB to assist with paying for their staff and administration. The SEMWRB has voted to dissolve and current grants totaling $1,293,315 must be redistributed. Thompson presented a plan on how the grants may be redistributed.

Legislative Citizen’s Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Soil Health Grant
Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, informed the supervisors that the Southeast Soil and Water Technical Support Joint Powers Board applied for a soil health grant though the LCCMR last year to support regional soil health positions, including Dean Thomas from Fillmore SWCD. This year the Fillmore SWCD has Thomas’s position fully supported, and they are administering a regional soil health grant from the SEMWRB. Thompson said he received good feedback on the application last year, and expressed an interest in applying for the grant again.

Correspondence & Staff Report
Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, presented the “Application of Distributed, Physically-Based Model to Evaluate BMP Effectiveness Within the Dobbins Creek Watershed” along with information on the GSSHA model created for the Dobbins Creek Watershed in the Cedar River Watershed.

Adam King, District Manager, reported that the Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees held their spring meeting at the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, with a tour of the facility and presentations from many of the state agencies. King explained the NRCS Local Work Group process, and what the information is used for. The NRCS Local Work Group for Dodge County will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. before the April Dodge SWCD board meeting. King will provide information on the NRCS Local Work Group to review before the meeting.

Supervisor Reports

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – Bill Thompson, District I Supervisor, reported attending the board meeting on March 05, 2019 where they discussed the national fly-in to Washington D.C. and the Minnesota contingency. The MASWCD will be holding a Public Administrators Cohort, with 23 people signed up so far. NRCS is making their funds available through grants to government, non-government and private entities. Sarah Stroman, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Thom Peterson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, spoke at the meeting. Thompson and Adam King, District Manager, attended the Day at the Capitol, meeting with 8 of the 9 legislators, discussing with them the three bills dealing with SWCD issues.
Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Board – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that the David Schiek feedlot project has been changed, and will go through the hearing process again.

One Watershed One Plan – Root River Watershed – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending the Policy Committee meeting on February 28, 2019. The budget was reviewed, and Donna Rasmussen, District Administrator, Fillmore SWCD announced her retirement. Current projects were discussed, including the Chatfield and Utica Drinking Water Supply Management Area’s (DWSMA), and the Kernza field day in Chatfield. Watershed implementation funding is going towards 15% of a soil health position, 80% of a nutrient management position, a Crooked Creek Watershed District Capital Improvement Project, and farm walkovers in the field-to-stream watersheds. There will be project installations in the Riceford Creek Watershed, and support for the farmer let council in the Rush-Pine Watershed. They are anticipating $500,000 for project installation through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), but their Section 319 grant was not funded. Karin Sonneman, County Attorney, Winona County, reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that was signed by all entities.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported not being able to attend the Winter Goat Grazing Field Day on February 27, 2019.

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar River Watershed – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that he has the draft plan, and it is currently under review, and will be completed soon.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that he was unable to attend the February meeting. Livingston attended the March 20, 2019 meeting where a Red Rock Township Supervisor wasn’t happy with the CRWD because of the heavy equipment used for their projects damaging township roads. A CRWD manager spoke with the township supervisors, and didn’t attend the meeting. Paul Hunter, Mower SWCD, is getting drone certified. The CRWD received a Section 319 grant, and is requesting additional funds from the BWSR to continue installing projects until the Section 319 grant funds become available. The Northern Country Co-op is looking to partner with the CRWD on cover crops, and flooding on the Cedar River at Austin is minimal.

One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro River Watershed – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported that the next Policy Committee is Thursday, April 04, 2019. Adam King, District Manager informed the supervisors that proposals have been received and are being reviewed. A consultant recommendation should be made the week of March 25, 2019.

Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, April 18, 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, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 10:36 P.M.

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

Approved: 

Date: 4-18-19 
Recorder: Adam King

March 21, 2019 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting minutes

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