



**Minutes of the September 19, 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 7:17 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (in at 7:25 P.M.)

Members Absent: Bill Thompson, Vice-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 Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions or corrections to the agenda include. A motion was made to approve the September 19, 2019 meeting agenda as presented.

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

Approval of the August 15, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes – There were no additions or corrections to the August 15, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made to approve the August 15, 2019 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.

Bruce Freerksen entered at 7:25 P.M.

Public Comment

Nancy Peterson, Wasioja Township, Dodge County Resident, reported attending and speaking at many of the Economic Development Authority meetings regarding flood disaster relief, and stated that the state has declared Dodge and Olmsted Counties a disaster area. Peterson reported being put out of her home, and is afraid that the residents of Kasson will be in the same situation that she is in because of the septic sewer back-up into homes. Many are going through the Southeast Minnesota Community Action Center (SEMCAAC) to help those in Kasson to replace their furnaces if needed,

with information being provided at KMTelecom, banks and others places around the community. \$1 million in flood disaster relief is going to Dodge and Olmstead Counties each, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), also has a community facility grant available. Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) completed the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan, and Dodge County, along with Steele and Waseca Counties, is a partner in the Minnesota Prairie County Alliance for health and human services. Peterson has been working on a suggested new front cover of the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan, and disaster relief did not make it into the plan. There will be a benefit for Paul and Carla Fischenich at Holy Family Catholic Church in Kasson on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Michael Muzzy, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), provided a written report, and informed the supervisors that contracts have been slow in getting approved due to the new farm bill. In Dodge County there were three cropland contracts that were funded in the last round, including one fallow field cover crop (prevent plant), while six applications remain unfunded. There was one RCPP-EQIP feedlot contract funded, and three Conservation Stewardship Program applications were extended for one year. One forestry application was canceled, and there were fifteen Conservation Reserve Program contracts determined for eligibility, resulting in thirteen re-enrollments of filter strips and grassed waterways. There were nine new requests for wetland determinations, with about ten additional requests in the queue. There are also eight pending requests for assistance including one grazing plan. Muzzy reported attending the Working Effectively with American Indians training in Walker, MN, and will be working with the Prairie Island Indian Community, as they have purchased land near Pine Island, MN. New staff in the area include Kelly Burke, Soil Conservationist, NRCS out of Owatonna, and Barbara Marshall, ACES Employee out of Albert Lea, both will be assisting at the Dodge Center Service Center.

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 August 2019 Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$6,647.33, Expenditures of \$19,350.23, and the Aging Summary with a payables total of \$931.30. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the August 2019 Treasurer's Report, and to approve payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$931.30.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business

FY2020 Board of Water and Soil Resources Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services and Buffer Law Grant Agreement

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has released the FY2020 Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services and Buffer Law Grant Agreement. The FY2020 Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services Grant totals \$130,332.00, and the FY2020 Buffer Law Grant totals \$25,000.00, for a grant agreement total of \$155,332.00. A motion was made to approve, sign, and submit the FY2020 Board of Water and Soil Resources Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services and Buffer Law Grant Agreement for a total of \$155,332.00.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

FY2020 Board of Water and Soil Resources Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services and Buffer Law Workplan

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that a workplan must be completed before funding from the Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services and Buffer Law Grants are received. King recommended \$45,000 for a Conservation Planner position, \$40,000 for District Cost-Share, \$20,332 for Technical Assistance, \$15,000 for Education and Outreach position, \$6,000 for Water Monitoring Staff Time, \$2,000 for Water Monitoring Sample Analysis, and \$2,000 for One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro Staff Time, for the Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services Grant totaling \$130,332.00, and \$25,000.00 for Buffer Law Implementation Staff Time. The supervisors discussed the proposed workplan. A motion was made to approve \$45,000 for a Conservation Planner position, \$40,000 for District Cost-Share, \$20,332 for Technical Assistance, \$15,000 for Education and Outreach position, \$6,000 for Water Monitoring Staff Time, \$2,000 for Water Monitoring Sample Analysis, and \$2,000 for One Watershed One Plan – Zumbro Staff Time for the Soil and Water Conservation District Local Capacity Services Grant totaling \$130,332.00, and \$6,500.00 towards the purchase of an ATV/UTV, and \$18,500 for Buffer Law Implementation Staff Time.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously

FY2020 District Cost-Share Program

Adam King, District Manager, presented the FY2019 District Cost-Share Program. The supervisors discussed the program. A motion was made to approve the FY2020 District Cost-Share Program as follows:

Financial Assistance provided through additional funding sources will have different policies (Special Clean Water Fund Projects).

- Maximum cost-share rate of 65% not to exceed \$10,000 for practices with a pollution load reduction.
 - Well sealing – maximum cost-share rate of 50% not to exceed \$1,500 per well.
- District Cost-Share funds used in conjunction with federal funds will have a total cost-share rate of 75%, not to exceed \$10,000 of district funds.
- Inspections will be conducted according to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Requirements.

- Financial Assistance for Non-structural Land Management Practices will follow the FY20 Non-Structural Land Management Practices Request Form.

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

FY2020 Non-Structural Land Management Practices Cost-Share Program

Adam King, District Manager, presented the FY2020 Non-Structural Land Management Practices Request Form with no changes from the FY2019 program. The supervisors discussed the program. A motion was made to approve and sign the FY2020 Non-Structural Land Management Practices Cost-Share Program with no changes from the FY2019 program.

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

State Conservation Cost-Share Contract 2019-13 (LMN Family Farms) Encumbrance

LMN Family Farms of Hayfield, MN are requesting State Conservation Cost-Share for a grassed waterway in section 07 of Vernon Township. The estimate to install the grassed waterway is \$11,097.50, and LMN Family Farms are requesting 65% up to \$7,934.71. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of State Conservation Cost-Share funds for State Conservation Cost-Share Contract 2019-13 in the amount of 65% of total eligible costs not to exceed \$7,934.71 for a grassed waterway for LMN Family Farms.

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

Training Request – 2019 Board of Water and Soil Resources Academy

Jessica Bakken, District Technician, and Blaine Delzer, District Technician, are requesting to attend the Board of Water and Soil Resources Academy on October 29-31, 2019 at Breezy Point Resort. Cost for registration is \$45.00 per day, and two nights lodging would be needed. A motion was made to send Jessica Bakken and Blaine Delzer to the Board of Water and Soil Resources Academy at a cost of \$45.00 for registration, two nights stay at Breezy Point Resort and meals.

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, presented the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) 2018 Annual Report, and the 2019 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Resolutions.

Supervisor Reports

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported the next RC&D meeting is on Monday, September 23, 2019.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD board meeting held on August 21, 2019 it was announced that Wolf Creek is now a designated trout stream, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be stocking about 600 trout in the stream at Todd Park in Austin, and an additional 300 trout about 3 weeks later. The 2020 budget hearing was held, and the Board of Managers approved a levy of \$250,000, and the 2020 budget. A cross-road pipe was approved near in the Blooming Prairie / Hollandale area, and the Red Rock Township does not like a project with a large berm in their township. Red Rock Township feels that the berm is too high and is worried about drifting snow and snow removal. Livingston also attended the September 18, 2019 meeting where the CRWD Board of Managers were presented with an agreement between the CRWD and Red Rock Township for snow removal costs up to a cost of \$10,000 annually, and to post reflective signs where the berm meets the road. Red Rock Township feels that the reflective signs are not enough, and wants the CRWD to pay Mower County for staff to snow blow, plus doesn't want any culverts to be downsized in the township ever, and no tall grasses planted on the project. Red Rock Township invoiced CRWD \$3,000 for dust control during project installation. Drone footage of the project during a storm event was shown. Flooding has shut down Interstate – 90 again. Hormel, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and additional partners are planning a dinner and a tour of projects. The 2019 Governor's Pheasant Opener will take place in Mower County within the Cedar River watershed, and the Mower Soil and Water Conservation District has received a grant funding through the Fish and Wildlife Service.

One Watershed One Plan – Cedar – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the One Watershed One Plan – Cedar Policy Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 04, 2019 where they reviewed comments from state agencies that were made during the 60-day review period, and approved the responses to the comment letters. A public hearing was set for Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Adam King, District Manager, reported that one member of the public showed up at the public hearing, and spoke. The Policy Committee approved the plan to be submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for 90-day review and approval.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, October 17, 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 10:04 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:  _____ Date: 10-17-19 Recorder: Adam King

