



Minutes of the July 16, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the July 16, 2015 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Regular Board of Supervisor's meeting, conference room, USDA Service Center, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Larry Scherger at 7:25 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair
Don Hesel, PR&I
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary (late arrival 9:40)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions made to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the July 16, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Hesel

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the June 18, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes – There was one revision to the June 18, 2015 meeting minutes: on page 5, change dritless to driftless. A motion was made to approve the June 18, 2015 regular board meeting minutes as revised.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Don Hesel

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, was unable to attend.

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, was unable to attend.

There were no other partner agency reports.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, discussed and reviewed the June Balance Sheet and aging summary, cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures. There is a total of \$188,840.19 in our accounts, with \$451.60 coming in as revenues and \$15,347.09 going out as expenditures. Glenn and Adam have closed the Wells Fargo Checking and Savings accounts and have deposited all money into the savings account at Citizens State Bank. Glenn has also called New York Life Securities and has closed that account. We are still waiting for the \$25,036.72 check to arrive in the mail. There was discussion about where Blain's salary was being taken from on the expenditures report. There was also discussion on how much the copier contract is for. Adam said he would check into those issues. A motion was made to accept the financial report and pay all presented bills on the aging summary totaling \$368.45.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Cedar River Watershed District Raingarden Proposal

The Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) has approved the raingarden cost-share program proposal that Adam King had put together, with new cost-share program providing landowners with 50% cost-share not to exceed \$500 for installing a raingarden. Adam King has been working with Jim Hruska to organize a workshop. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at the Hayfield Township Hall at 7:00. The board asked Adam to keep track of all workshops that the district is partnering on.

Buffer Discussion

Adam King said he hasn't learned anything new about the new buffer laws. He also informed the board that there will be a saturated buffer field day on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. The flyer is included in the board folders.

2016 Grant Update

The FY16 CWF grant period is now open and will close on Friday, August 28, 2015. Adam King has been partnering with Dodge County and the Cedar River Watershed District on a saturated buffer grant. Another grant that Adam King is looking into is the top 50 critical source areas grant.

David Livingston entered at 9:40 P.M.

2016 Budget Approval

The board reviewed the proposed budget. The vehicle & No-Till Drill – Maintenance/Fuel was raised by \$500 to \$5,500, and the Cost-Share Projects was lowered by \$500 to \$33,500. A motion was made to approve the preliminary budget and send an allotment request of \$127,790.33 along with a memo, and the budget to Dodge County.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

FY2016 Minnesota Department of Natural Resource Groundwater Level Monitoring Contract

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources added two new wells to the Dodge SWCD contract for 2016. The contract allows for \$30/reading to be read once a month for eight months of the year, for a total of \$720 for FY2016. A motion was made to approve and sign the groundwater level monitoring contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Dodge SWCD/MASWCD 2015 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year

Adam King held a staff meeting with district and NRCS staff, and discussed possibilities for the 2015 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Staff recommends Lynn Schmeling of Blooming Prairie to be the 2015 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. A motion was made to accept the staff recommendation and nominate Lynn Schmeling of Blooming Prairie as the 2015 Dodge SWCD/MASWCD Conservationist of the Year.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) Employee Introduction

Krysta Hovendon, The MCC Apprentice serving at the Dodge SWCD was not present. Adam King informed the board that she has been doing an excellent job and is very happy with her work. She has almost completed digitizing the tile lines into GIS.

Correspondence

Adam King informed the board that he has been advertising the raingarden workshop and the saturated buffer field day through flyers and emails.

Don Hesper, District 2 Supervisor, shared an article in the Rochester Post Bulletin about the organizing of a group, Friends of the Root River.

Meeting Reports

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported that the lawsuit with Dodge County over feedlots is ongoing.

Root River One Watershed One Plan – Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, reported attending the policy committee meeting on July 06, 2015. At the meeting the issue of funding the plan came up, and what type of organizational structure would be best to fund and implement the plan. The policy committee voiced concern over another layer of government, but realized the need for consistency and uniformity in rules across the watershed, such as sinkholes and soil loss. The policy committee also voiced concern over not being able to see the plan at this stage.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD board meeting held on July 15, 2015. The CRWD board approved a motion to partner with the Dodge SWCD on the saturated buffer grant to provide 25% cost-share on projects in the CRWD. James Fett gave an update on the permits of the CRWD.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending a ZWP Board Retreat on July 9, 2015. There was a good turnout for the retreat, where they talked about the future of the ZWP, especially after the One Watershed One Plan process. Will they continue as a non-profit organization, or become a Joint Powers Board? There seemed to be no interest in turning into a watershed district. Next month they will be back to their regular meetings.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, notified the board that the 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 has been issued 2 recalls in the last month. He has taken the truck in to the dealer, but no parts were replaced. Replacement parts have been ordered and will take the truck back in once they arrive. He also expressed the need for another vehicle, especially with staff now having different responsibilities. He said that a truck would not be needed, and that a car would work. The board asked Adam to look into the costs of paying mileage vs. purchasing a car. Adam also informed the board that he will not be at the meeting in September. The board asked for a list of accomplishments in the last year from Adam.

Other New Business

Land Use Expo – the Land Use Expo on new rules on nitrogen application that will be held on Monday, July 20, 2015 in Blooming Prairie was discussed.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Larry Scherger called for a motion for adjournment at 11:41 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved:  Date: 8-20-15 Recorder: Adam King
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Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Hesper – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn