



Minutes of the August 21, 2014 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the August 21, 2014 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 Chairman Larry Scherger at 7:20 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chairman
Bill Thompson, Vice-chairman
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
Don Hesel, PR&I

Members Absent: David Livingston, Secretary

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS

Approval of Meeting Agenda

There were three additions made to the agenda under New Business: update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant, Community Education Program on Rivers (Masten Creek) and review policies on compensation time. A motion was made to approve the August 21 2014 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the July 17, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

Revisions to the minutes included "by" not "my" at the top of page 3, and "farrowing barn" not "fallowing barn" on page 4. A motion was made to approve the July 17, 2014 regular board meeting minutes as revised.

Motion: Bill Thompson
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments

After discussion and review of incomes, cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures, four bills were added: Dodge County Highway Department for \$643.25, Wells Fargo VISA for \$211.90, Claremont Service Center for 51.52, and Metro Sales Inc. for \$192.00. A motion was made to approve the July 2014 treasurer's financial statements as amended and to pay all of the presented bills, totaling \$1,498.67

Motion: Larry Scherger
Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Agency Reports

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, was not present.

County Water Plan Report

Dean Schrandt, Dodge County Water Program Manager, was not present.

District Conservationist's Report

Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS, reported that there is a \$12,000 grant available for small feedlot fixes for up to 50% cost-share. Brian informed the board of a cover crop seeding demo on Friday, August 22, 2014, using a robot for seeding, at the Dean Thomas farm in Fillmore County. The need for cover crops following soybeans and canning crops was expressed. Brian also informed the board of a new USDA North Central Region Partnership Grant to partner with landowners (at least 3), and the EQIP for up to \$30,000, with a deadline of October 30, 2014. The EQIP has funded 3 producers, with one that was pre-approved and has canceled. There is still money available for the EQIP, but time is running out with a September 30, 2014 deadline. The CRP currently has 9-12 renewals and has a September 19, 2014 deadline. The CP-38E (Pheasant Habitat) still has 3,500 acres available for enrollment, but must have 10 contiguous acres of habitat. The CSP is currently re-enrolling producers for a 5 year contract. Brian also presented on the back to school conservation educational program for school kids. He also represented the NRCS Area VI in a meeting with national staff on what is working and what could be improved.

Unfinished Business

Conservation Landowner Selection

Rodney Jorgenson was nominated as the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservationist of the Year for 2014. A motion was made to approve Rodney Jorgenson for Conservationist of the Year for 2014.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

One Watershed One Plan Update

Information was given to the board about the timeframe/planning process of the One Watershed One Plan grant. Example draft bylaws and an example draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) were provided. Winona SWCD is the fiscal agent; Fillmore SWCD is the day to day contact for the grant. The grant will include a Policy Committee made up of one (1) SWCD Supervisor and one (1) County Commissioner from each county, and one (1) manager from the watershed district, meeting five (5) to seven (7) times over the next two (2) years. The grant will also include a Technical Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to the Policy Committee. Dodge County/Dodge SWCD is not required to participate in the plan because the amount of the Root River Watershed is less than 5% of the county. The board expressed interest in participating in the Policy Committee, but would like to see the final versions of the MOA and bylaws before deciding.

New Business

Approval of Supervisor Vouchers – A motion was made to approve and pay the supervisor vouchers as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondences – The board was made aware of the MCIT 2014 dividend of \$642 for Workers' Compensation and \$815 for Property/Casualty, for a total of \$1,457.

Meeting Reports

Feedlot Advisory Committee—Glenn Hahn, District 5 supervisor, attended the last meetings and reported on the following meeting items:

- Are recommending approval of a swine feedlot for Rohwer, adding buildings and a biofilter. They will also look into the odor offset.
- VZ Hogs is looking into regulations and what to do with their lagoon.

Resource Conservation & Development—Don Hesar, District 2 supervisor, attended the last meeting and reported on the following meeting items:

- Shared an article on using goats to manage for Buckthorn.
- They are doing parking lot improvements and installing an oak savannah in a park.
- John Beckwith represented the area at the national meeting and it is anticipated the legislature is appropriating money to the RC&D in the coming years.
- The RC&D is looking to collaborate with the SWCDs and beginning farmers, and into a fee for services such as grant writing, grant administration and grant facilitation.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership—Bill Thompson, District 1 supervisor, attended the last meeting and reported on the following meeting items:

- Are planning an anniversary celebration for their 10th anniversary.
- Rich Biske presented on conservation planning in southeast Minnesota.
- Kevin, the ZWP educator, is working on newsletter articles and promoting “slow the flow.”
- The ZWP received a 319 grant for stormwater infiltration projects, and are seeking renewed funding from the McKnight Foundation.
- The ZWP board was made aware of the monitoring field day in Dodge County on Thursday, August, 21, 2014.

Southeast Area VII Technical Joint Powers Board—Larry Scherger, District 3 supervisor, attended the last meeting and reported on the following meeting items.

- Area VII will find out if the feedlot grant is received next year.
- The Nutrient Specialist positions in Fillmore SWCD and Rice SWCD are now open.
- Area VII budget looks good for this year, but not great for the future.
- Area VII received a Nitrogen Management/Groundwater grant, and is still working out the details of staffing.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, attended the Cedar River Watershed District meeting on August 20, 2014 and reported the hearing and approval for the 2015 tax levy was set at \$250,000. There was also discussion about the CRP incentive, the completed conservation drainage project on the Wolf property, new proposed ditch permitting rules, and the new office space. Adam also attended the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM) meeting and reported on the zonation process of watershed prioritization using GIS through citizen involvement, and documenting old field notes in GIS. Adam also attended and was introduced to the Dodge County Commissioners at their last meeting. Adam also met with the NRCS and FSA and Matt Mass from Dodge County to discuss emergency management procedures and including crop damage and conservation practice damage in storm damage totals in the county. Adam also attended the Dodge County Water Planning Meeting and reported that Justin Watkins (MPCA) presented on the WRAPS process and monitoring, and Tom Gile (BWSR) presented on One Watershed One Plan. Adam also attended the Area VII meeting with BWSR staff, reporting that Technical Approval Authority, the proposed SWCD tax levy, and a proposed Clean Water Fund Cost-Share program.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The Dodge SWCD proposal for the RCPP was received late and was not included in this year's round of funding. There were three received in Minnesota.

Compensation Time

The board expressed that they were flexible when it comes to compensation time when the employee is on probation, but the board would like notification when an employee on probation would like to use compensation time.

Community Education Program

Bill Thompson, District 1 supervisor, expressed that he would like to see a community education program started with other agency partners, such as the MPCA, MNDNR, SWCDs, and Counties. These classes would bring in presenters to lead and share their knowledge and raise awareness of the river systems and designated water trails in the area. Masten Creek and the Zumbro River in Mantorville should be a focus of the classes.

Items For Next Meeting

- Community Education
- Wage Scales & Hourly Rates
- Computer Purchase

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairman Larry Scherger asked for a motion for adjournment at 11:10 pm

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Don Heser

The motion carried unanimously

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved Larry Scherger Date 9-18-14 Recorder: Adam King

