



## **Minutes of the June 18, 2015 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the June 18, 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 7:18 PM.

**Members Present:** Larry Scherger, Chair  
Bill Thompson, Vice-Chair  
Don Hesar, PR&I  
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer  
David Livingston, Secretary (late arrival 7:22)

**Members Absent:** none

**Others Present:** Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD  
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – There were two additions to New Business made to the agenda: Andy Price's letter to the board, and discussion of drainage practice sites. A motion was made to approve the June 18, 2015 meeting agenda as amended.

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

**Approval of the May 21, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes** – There were no revisions to the May 21, 2015. A motion was made to approve the May 21, 2015 regular board meeting minutes as received.

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

David Livingston entered at 7:22 P.M.

### **Partner Agency Reports**

#### **District Conservationist's Report**

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

#### **Minnesota Legislative Report**

Sen. Matt Schmit, District 21, was unable to attend.

## **County Commissioner's Report**

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported that Dodge County has moved into its new Administration Building, and that the Dodge County Fair will be held July 13 – 19, 2015. Elder care legislation has been passed by the legislature and will help out the county nursing homes in Dodge Center and Hayfield. There was no new state transportation legislation passes this session, so there is no funding from the state for transportation projects. There was legislation that was passed in the special session relating to buffers.

Adam King, District Manager, gave an update on what he was told about the buffer legislation and the funding for the new legislation. The board asked Adam to add buffers to the next agenda, and to talk to Dodge County Environmental Services about buffers and how we want to proceed with a program. Commissioner Peterson notified the board that Dodge County is planning on flying the county for high resolution air photos in the spring of 2016, and that should help with identifying areas in need of buffers.

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 May Balance Sheet and aging summary, cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures. The SWCD still has a New York Life Securities account and a Wells Fargo Account. Glenn will call to close the New York Life Securities account, and work with Adam King to close the Wells Fargo account. A motion was made to accept the financial report and pay all presented bills on the aging summary totaling \$8,888.74.

Motion: Don Heser

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Cedar River Watershed District Raingarden Proposal**

The Cedar River Watershed District has approved a raingarden cost-share program proposal that Adam King had put together for the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD). The new cost-share program provides landowners with 50% cost-share not to exceed \$500 for installing a raingarden. The Dodge SWCD will provide design assistance and conduct the inspections to ensure proper design and maintenance of the practice. Adam King will work with Jim Hruska to organize a workshop to be held in Hayfield promoting the practice and new program.

### **2016 Grant Update**

Adam King discussed the grant opportunities he is pursuing. July 06, 2015 is the date that the BWSR CWF grants will open, and will remain open until late August.

### **2016 Budget Discussion**

Adam King presented the board with four budget options: two employees, no extra money from the state; three employees, no extra money from the state; two employees, \$100,000 from the state; three employees, \$100,000 from the state. The Minnesota Legislature passed the environment, natural resources, and agriculture bill at the special session that occurred 06/13/2015 which included \$100,000 of the Clean Water Funds to go to every SWCD in Minnesota. Adam told the board that because the \$100,000 came out of the Clean Water Funds, the SWCD will have to show results, and won't be able to be used for general administration or rent. Adam also expressed

that if a county decreases its allotment to an SWCD, state agencies will cut state funding to the county by the same amount. The board asked if the funds could be used for staff. Adam said that it could, but that position would have to be doing something that the SWCD wasn't doing before to show results. Examples for Dodge SWCD would include soil health and buffers. The board asked Adam to include Dodge County into our budget discussion and have a meeting with SWCD staff for input, and meet with Dodge County Commissioners.

### **Truck Restoration Estimate**

Tom Johnston received an estimate from West Concord Collision and Restoration LLC to restore the 2005 Dodge Ram 1500. The estimate was for \$5,359.47. The board instructed Adam to get at least two more estimates (Kasson, Bryon), and a trade-in value for the vehicle.

### **New Business**

#### **Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) Employee Introduction**

Krysta Hovendon, The MCC Apprentice serving at the Dodge SWCD was not present.

#### **2016 Health Insurance**

Adam King informed the board that he had received the rates for next year's health insurance premiums from Beth Fahning-Hanggi. The premiums had gone down, so the staff recommendation is to stay with our current plan. A motion was made to renew the current health insurance plan through Blue Cross-Blue Shield "BlueAccess Gold \$750 Plan 641."

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Beth Fahning-Hanggi also received a new quote for dental insurance through Landmark Dental Alliance. The new quote showed that it would save the district \$94.44/year. Staff recommends that the SWCD should take the lower premiums. A motion was made to purchase dental insurance through the Landmark Dental Alliance.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Don Hesar

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **2015 NRCS Local Workgroup**

Adam King informed the board that the NRCS will be holding their 2015 Local Workgroup meeting to set priorities for the federal programs in Dodge County. The meeting will be held on June 30, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. There will be an opportunity for public input from 8:00 – 10:00.

## Correspondence

Letter to the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors – Andy Price has sent a letter to the board of supervisors concerning his tree order this spring. His one bundle of maple trees has shown no semblance of life, and is requesting a refund of \$41.15 for that bundle of trees. The board discussed and didn't recall any past precedence being set, and doesn't remember receiving any complaints, but realize that it probably does happen. A motion was made to refund \$41.15 to Andy Price for the bundle of trees that isn't growing and to send a letter apologizing and hope that he reorders.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously.

## Meeting Reports

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – Adam King, District Manager, reported attending the CRWD board meeting held on June 17, 2015. The board approved a motion to work with Barr Engineering to develop a database for all their data, including inspections, site visits, permits, BMPs, Ditch Systems and more. They also approved the raingarden proposal, and received an update on the Capital Improvement Plan and the Dobbins Creek Projects.

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Don Hesel, District 2 Supervisor, reported attending the Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting in Rochester on May 26, 2015. They discussed the LCCMR grant for the Goat Invasive Species Project to control buckthorn and garlic mustard. They had an update on the Nitrate Testing Monitoring Network and are going to work with public health and nurses to raise awareness of the health effects of nitrates. They also discussed the Ag Certainty Program and about training certifiers in southeast Minnesota. The Bylaws were reviewed and looked at sample policy for absentee members. They also discussed a grant given to the Minnesota Woman's Woodlands Network, the Driftless Area Initiative, and the Southeast Minnesota Forest Landscape Committee. The One Watershed One Plan for the Root River was discussed and do they have a role in the planning process?

Dodge County Feedlot Committee – Glenn Hahn, District 4 Supervisor, reported that the lawsuit with Dodge County over feedlots is ongoing.

Root River One Watershed One Plan – Glenn Hahn, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending the policy committee meeting on June 03, 2015. He addressed Supervisor Hesel's question about the RC&D being involved and said there is an opportunity to be a part of the advisory committee. What kind of organization this will be in the future was discussed, because how the plan is written will depend on the future organization of the watershed, if each county and SWCD will implement the plan on their own, or if they will come together to implement the plan together as a Joint Powers Board, or Watershed District. How the implementation of the plan will be paid for also came up in discussion.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) – Bill Thompson, District 1 Supervisor, reported attending the ZWP meeting on June 11, 2015. There was a presentation by Jeff Wiess of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on the state of the fisheries of the Zumbro River Watershed and stream bank restoration projects in the watershed. There seems to be less interest in charitable gambling and the ZWP has partnered with the Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency to organize a crop residue survey. A paddling film festival was held with 42 attending. The ZWP is working hard on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for the Cannon River Watershed, and are going to include the groundwater resources in the WRAPS for the Cannon and the Zumbro watersheds. Because of all the new board members, the July meeting will be a board member retreat.

Area VII Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Supervisors Meeting – Bill Thompson, Larry Scherger, and David Livingston, attended the Area VII MASWCD meeting on June 17, 2015. A legislative update was given by Leann Buck, and Brenda Tonn gave an NRCS update on the new client gateway, RCPP, MRBI, and the ~~Dritless~~<sup>Driless</sup> Area Initiative. BWSR staff gave a BWSR update on the One Watershed One Plan, soil health, WCA, and the new buffer law. There were three resolutions brought before the supervisors: one on cover crop timing that passed, one on forests that failed, and one on promoting buffers that passed.

Soil Health Meeting in Clarks Grove – Glenn Hahn, District 4 Supervisor, reported attending a soil health meeting and that Mower County has a Soil Health Committee. NRCS has funds for installing cover crops in 2016. One question he has heard is how to break even with cover crops and conveying that there is a purpose for them here.

### **Managers' Report**

Adam King, District Manager, attended a BWSR input meeting with other managers in the area. Adam shared updates on the Ag Water Quality Certification Program and other upcoming programs.

### **Other New Business**

Dodge Outstanding Conservationist of the Year– The board asked Adam to get staff and partner input for the Outstanding Conservationist of the Year.

Maps of Demonstration Drainage Sites– Bill Thompson presented a map of demonstration drainage sites in Minnesota made by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. There are three sites in Dodge County. Bill expressed that it would be nice to get some more projects in and be able to make a map like this of our own.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Chair Larry Scherger called for a motion for adjournment at 12:00 Midnight

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, July 16, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved:  Date: 7-16-15 Recorder: Adam King  
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**Supervisors: Bill Thompson – Don Heser – Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn**

