



Minutes of the September 18, 2014 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the September 18, 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 PM.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge SWCD
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist, NRCS
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner

Approval of Meeting Agenda – A motion was made to approve the September 18, 2014 meeting agenda as presented.

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

Approval of the August 21, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes – Revisions to the minutes included the feedlot report, with the lagoon for VZ Hogs, and rewording of the feedlot report. On the RC&D report, John Beck needs to be changed to John Beckwith, and the ZWP report to include seeking renewed funding through the McKnight Foundation. A motion was made to approve the August 21, 2014 regular board meeting minutes as revised.

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

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments – There was discussion and review of cash reserves, net assets, and expenditures. BWSR funding for Conservation Cost-Share, Easement Delivery, and Conservation Delivery was received. There was discussion of a past due bill received, but payment for that bill was approved at the June 24, 2014 meeting and a check had been made and mailed. A motion was made to approve the August 2014 treasurer's financial statements as presented and to pay all presented bills totaling \$403.40.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Don Hesar

The motion carried unanimously.

Agency Reports

County Commissioner's Report

Rodney Peterson, Dodge County District 3 Commissioner, reported on the lawsuit involving Dodge County and a feedlot, and how ethanol plants could be taxed in the future. Bids for the County Courthouse construction project were due today, and the county has received several. The Dodge County Commissioners will be discussing the tax levy for next year and looking into bonding. Rodney has looked into an issue regarding judicial ditches and the property they flow through and found that they are similar to a trust. A question was raised about whom, if anybody, from the commissioners currently sits on the Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) Board, as county commissioners from other counties sit on the ZWP Board. Rodney will look into it.

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 was \$216,000 for on the ground protection, with much of the money going to composters, about 80 acres of cover crops, and about \$90,000 going towards basins. There are three more composters and silage treatment planned for this fall. EQIP has four more periods ending October 17, November 14, December 19, and the summer of 2015. A news release about EQIP will be going out to local papers. CRP re-enrollments and new applications are due tomorrow and so far cover about 50 acres, but there are many applicants making for a large workload. The NRCS is finishing up CSP contract re-enrollments. There will be cover crop/soil health field day in Big Stone County. Brian also reported on the Client Gateway, where producers would be able to complete applications, forms, and be able to review and update contracts and plans online. Producers would need an EAuth, and the USDA is anticipating 5-10% participation in the Client Gateway Rollout. Entities will need to register at SAM.gov when they are looking for federal funds. Brian presented the "And Justice For All" poster and went through the Mutual Agreement for Cooperation in the Conservation of Natural Resources signed between the federal, state and local governments.

Unfinished Business

Root River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan Resolution

The resolution is as follows:

Resolution to support the participation of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District in the Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan pilot project.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that a county update and revise their local water management plan on a periodic basis; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Minnesota legislature passed Chapter 137-HF 1183 (Clean Water Fund Appropriations) which provided authorization and funding to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for assistance and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach; and

WHEREAS, Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, Root River, and Winona County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) by and through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board of Supervisors and the Counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, Houston, and Winona by and through the County Board of Commissioners have interest in entering Root River Watershed, as delineated in the BWSR One Watershed, One Plan approved map, as a watershed for the One Watershed, One Plan program.

WHEREAS, the Root River Watershed (and its members) have been selected by the BWSR as a One Watershed, One Plan Pilot Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors resolves to support and participate in the Root River Watershed - One Watershed, One Plan, as approved by BWSR.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors recognizes and supports the watershed-scale planning efforts proposed by the One Watershed, One Plan project, and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with vested partners for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors understand that an appointed elected official will be designated to serve on the Root River Watershed – One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee for the period of the planning process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors understand that technical and advisory staff will be involved in the development and planning of the One Watershed, One Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with members of the Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan to collaborate on watershed-scale planning in Root River Watershed.

There was discussion about the Root River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan Resolution with concerns about staff time. Adam King, District Manager, assured the board that because such a small portion of Dodge County is in the Root River watershed, neither Dodge SWCD nor Dodge County will be taking a lead role in the process, and that staff time would be limited to participation. A motion was made to pass the resolution as presented.

Motion: Bill Thompson

Seconded: Dave Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made to appoint Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, to serve on the Root River Watershed – One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee for the period of the planning process.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Don Hesar

The motion carried unanimously

Computer Purchase

Adam King presented options for a new laptop computer. Adam said it was recommended by other district employees and NRCS IT support that a computer be purchased through the USDA BPA catalog. Using the BPA catalog of laptops, with recommended potential upgrades as a guide, a motion was made to approve spending up to \$2,000 for a new laptop computer, with appropriate upgrades through the USDA BPA.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously

2015 Wage Scales

Adam King has asked other SWCD's in the area, and Dodge County what is used for a wage scale. Many districts sent their wage scales, and it was recommended by many districts to match up wage scales with the county, since that is where the majority of the funding comes from. The board discussed options and would like more information on what the Dodge County wage scale is and how it works. Don Hesper will work with Adam King on an appropriate wage scale.

2015 Hourly Rate

Adam King has looked into and presented updated hourly rates and discussed with the board recommendations by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Community Education

Bill Thompson discussed going through the school districts community education program to do 3-4 classes focusing on the Zumbro River. The classes would include the river mechanics, floods, fisheries, hydrology, history, and recreational aspects of the river and its watershed. Potential partners could include the MPCA, MnDNR Fisheries, MnDNR Hydrology, and the Historical Society. Bill will work on an outline for the program for the next meeting.

New Business

Training Request – BWSR Academy

Two staff: Adam King, District Manager, and Blain Delzer, Feedlot Technician, are requesting to attend the BWSR Academy at the Breezy Point Convention Center, near Pequot Lakes, MN. The academy runs Tuesday, October 28 through Thursday, October 30, 2014. The registration for the academy is \$103 per employee for three days with the MACDE discount. Lodging is \$69 +tax per employee per night. Breakfast is \$9.52 per employee per day. Registration, lodging, and breakfast for two employees to attend the three day two night academy comes to a total of \$538.06. A motion was made to send two employees to the 2014 BWSR Academy at the Breezy Point Convention Center near Pequot Lakes, MN at a total cost of \$538.06.

Motion: Dave Livingston

Second: Bill Thompson

The motion carried unanimously

Correspondence

The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District received a Notification of Change to your Cash Sweep from Wells Fargo Advisors. Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, instructed Adam King, District Manager, to look into the notification.

There was also a discussion of an agronomy meeting at a co-op regarding the new proposals for fall application of nitrogen and if it would include livestock manure. The board asked Adam King, District Manager, to inquire about the new rules and what they all entail.

Meeting Reports

Cedar River Watershed District – Adam King, District Manager, went to the CRWD meeting on September 17, 2014 and reported on the following meeting items:

- It was a very short meeting
- Discussion on how to levy fines in the future
- Discussion on payment of crop damage done by a conservation practice

Zumbro Watershed Partnership – Bill Thompson, District 3 Supervisor, and Adam King, District Manager, attended the September 11, 2014 ZWP Meeting and reported the following meeting items:

- This was Roger Toquam's first meeting
- Fundraising with the use of pull tabs was discussed
- Signage for the Zumbro River has been installed through the highway departments, but Dodge Center Creek may be changed.
- A recap of the monitoring field day was given
- The WRAPs plan is going to be completed with the Cannon River Partnership, with the ZWP taking the lead and hiring a contractor again to write the plan.
- A plan to address the tillage survey was discussed. There is 60% of the watershed with less than 15% residue
- There were several Lake Zumbro Forever people at the meeting talking about the dredging project

Feedlot Advisory Committee—Glenn Hahn, District 5 supervisor, reported that it has been quiet and the last project to go through the committee was Rohwers.

Managers' Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported attending the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Dodge County Commissioners with Glenn Hahn, District 5 Supervisor, and Don Hesper, District 2 Supervisor, in support of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's budget request to Dodge County and answer any questions the County Commissioners had. Adam also reported on submitting the Board of Water and Soil Resources Clean Water Fund Targeted Watershed Demonstration Grant for projects involving installing conservation practices inside of the Zumbro Watershed Partnerships top 50 critical source areas. Notification of selection to participate in the interviews will be sent soon with interviews being scheduled for October. Adam attended the Highway 14 Economic Impact meeting, reporting on an update on lobbying for funding and that many at the meeting felt safety is a great concern as to why the Highway 14 4-lane expansion should be built.

Other New Business

Adam King, District Manager, brought up that some of the office chairs are aging and one was recently broken due to age. Adam asked the board to purchase two new chairs to replace old and broken ones. A motion was made to allow for the purchase of two new office chairs.

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Larry Scherger
The motion carried unanimously

Items For Next Meeting

- Raingarden Workshops

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairman Larry Scherger asked for a motion for adjournment at 11:40 pm

Motion: Dave Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
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, October 16, 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 10-16-14 Recorder: Adam King