



## **Minutes of the February 27, 2014 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the February 27, 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 7:16 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:** Rod Peterson, County Commissioner  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist  
Donna Klapperich, Conservation Technician  
Dean Schrandt, County Water Plan Coordinator  
Jim Hruska, District Technician  
Tom Johnston, District Technician

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hesel, to approve the February 2014 meeting agenda as mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the January 23, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made Hahn, seconded by Hesel, to approve the January 23, 2014 regular board meeting minutes as mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements** – Hahn then reviewed the January 2014 treasurer's financial statement with the Board. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Thompson to approve the January 2014 financial statement as presented and to pay all the presented bills which total \$684.80. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Technician Replacement** – Dean Schrandt reviewed with the Board a draft job description for a district manager and a draft pay scale. Discussed were the pros and cons of a district manager vs. a manager/technician. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to hire a district manager. There then was discussion about the salary range to advertise the position at and the draft pay scale that was presented. After review the Board members felt they needed additional time to review the presented information before making a decision.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Hahn, to have board members send any comments concerning the position description to Dean Schrandt by March 6<sup>th</sup>, have Schrandt modify the position description as needed and authorize the personnel committee to approve the position description for posting. The motion carried unanimously.

After additional discussion concerning the salary range the manager position should be advertised at, a motion was made by Scherger, seconded by Livingston, to advertise a salary negotiable salary range of \$18.00 - \$25.00 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

**County Commissioner's Report** – Rod Peterson reported on the following items:

- The AMC meeting he attended. The Hwy. 14 corridor was a hot topic.
- Shared Human Service duties with Waseca and Steele counties
- The new county office space will be for administrative services.
- Nursing home update.
- Sheriff dept. update.
- Ice arena update.

**Water Plan Coordinator's Report** – Dean Schrandt reported on the following subject:

- Updated the Board concerning the BWSR “One Watershed – One Plan” pilot initiative.

**District Conservationist's Report** – Brian DeVetter reported on the following items:

- Dave Copeland is the new Area 6 assistant state conservationist.
- He has been detailed two days a week to Mower County for up to 120 days.
- The new conservation programs and application process under the new farm bill.
- Veteran Farmers Initiative
- Honey bee Initiative
- The new conservation easement process.
- 1026 workload

**Website Update** – Jim Hruska reported to the Board that the District current website program is outdated and difficult to update. Also it appears that it can only be update from his computer address which will be shut down after his retirement March 7<sup>th</sup>. The host site manager recommended using Wordpress which is a free program. Hruska contacted a web design business for a quote to design the website and install the Wordpress program. He also contacted the local high school to see if a high school student could or would be able to take on this project. A representative from web design company met with staff and viewed the District's current website. The web company quoted a price of \$599.99 which included 1 year of tech. support. Hruska reported that there was a student which would be interested in the project. Given the urgency of getting the new website in place and also having tech. support available a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hesser, to hire Poulton Website Design Company at a cost of \$599.99. The motion carried unanimously.

**BWSR Grant Closeouts** – After review and discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Thompson, to authorize the treasurer to sign the BWSR grant financial closeout forms for the following grants: 2009 SE MN Flood Relief, 2010 Cost Share Base Grant, 2011 Cost Share Base Grant, 2014 Easement Delivery Grant and the 2014 Conservation Delivery Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

**SEMACDE Annual Meeting** – After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn, to authorize district staff to attend the annual SEMACDE meeting and to pay the registration fees. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Meeting Reports**

- **Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD)** – Livingston reported on the following items: \$2,200 is being put towards a controlled drainage project in Dodge Co., gave an update on a permitting violation in Hayfield, applied for CWL funding for project in the Dobbins Creek Watershed and will be giving away a canoe at the Austin Sports and Home Show.

Livingston also reported that the District will be sharing a both space at Dodge County Expo. with the Lions Club.

- **Feedlot Advisory Committee** (Hahn) – The committee will be looking at 2 new proposed hog barns in the near future.
- **Hiawatha Valley RC&D** (Heser) – John Beckwith is now the interim director. They are looking at the Fugle Mills site to use funds they have towards establishing an oak savanna. Discussed what role they can fill in the conservation arena.
- **Zumbro Watershed Partnership** (Thompson) – Distributed a flyer about a ZWP sponsored breakfast with Ron Schara who will make a presentation on cleaner water and fewer floods. There also will be a “Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters” all-day event in Mazeppa April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **SE Technical Joint Powers Board** (Scherger) – The JPB employees received their annual step increases; funding of JPB after 2014 is in question.

**Correspondence** – The Board acknowledged the following correspondences:

- Notice of site permit amendment for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project in Dodge and Mower counties.
- Letter from Beehive Industries

### **Other New Business**

**Proposed Shopko Development** – After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn, to have Thompson contact the City of Kasson for additional information on the proposed Shopko development site. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plaque Presentation** – Chairman Scherger presented a plaque to retiring district technician Jim Hruska recognizing him for 38 years of dedicated service to the Dodge SWCD.

**Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Larry Scherger at 11:23 pm on a motion by Hahn and a second by Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Board of Supervisors will be March 20, 2014 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Recorder \_\_\_\_\_