



## **Minutes of the January 23, 2014 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the January 23, 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  
David Livingston, Secretary  
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer  
Bill Thompson, Member  
Don Hesel, Member

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Rodney Peterson, County Commissioner  
Tom Gile, BWSR Board Conservationist  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist  
Dean Schrandt, County Water Plan Coordinator  
Tom Johnston, District Technician

### **Election of Officers:**

After discussion, a motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Livingston that a unanimous ballot be cast for having the following officers in place for 2014:

- **Chairperson** ..... Larry Scherger
- **Vice-chairman**....Bill Thompson
- **Secretary** .....Dave Livingston
- **Treasurer** .....Glenn Hahn
- **PR&I**.....Don Hesel

The motion carried unanimously.

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

**Approval of the December 19, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made Scherger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the December 19, 2013 regular board meeting minutes as mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments** – Hahn reviewed with the Board the December 2013 treasurer's financial statements. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Thompson to accept the treasurer's financial statement as presented and to pay all the presented bills which total \$3,559.82. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

**New Employee Considerations** – The Board discussed at length the needs of the District and what type of position would best fulfill those needs. It was determined that several board members meet with the county coordinator and the environmental quality director and find out their opinion on how the District could better serve the County's goals and whether there are any administrative services that could be shared.

### **New Business**

**BWSR Board Conservationist's Report** – Tom Gile introduced himself and gave some background information about himself. Tom is the new BWSR Board Conservationist for Dodge County. He mentioned that BWSR may have grant funds available from BWSR for workload analysis. He will check to see if any funds were still available. Tom mentioned that any time the District needs help he will do his utmost to be available to help.

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

- The county's new administration building is in the process of being remodeled and expanded.
- The nursing home had operating deficit this year.
- The County has hired another attorney.
- Discussed remodeling projects that took place at the fairgrounds.
- Briefly discussed what he knew about the proposed Shop Ko site in Kasson.

**Water Plan Coordinator Report** – Dean Schrandt reported on the following subjects:

- Reviewed with the Board an agreement with the County for specified water plan services for 2014. After discussion, a motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Livingston, to authorize the chairman to sign the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.
- Discussed revising/updating the District's model farm.

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

- Dave Copeland is the new NRCS Assist. State Conservationist for our area
- EQIP & CRP project and initiative updates.
- He will be the acting district conservationist in Mower County for the next 120 days.
- Discussed several upcoming soil health webinars as well as a wetland mitigation workshop at Cabela's Feb.5<sup>th</sup>.

**PERA Annual Exclusion Report** – After review and discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Thompson, to authorize the chairperson to sign the 2013 certification of annual exclusion report. The motion carried unanimously.

**BWSR 2014 Easement Implementation Grant** – After review, a motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Livingston, to authorize the chairman to sign the 2014 easement implementation grant agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

**2012 & 2013 State Grant Final Financial Reports** – After review, a motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Livingston, to authorize the chairman to sign the final financial report forms for the following BWSR grants: 2012 cost-share base grant, 2012 conservation delivery grant, 2012 easement delivery grant, 2013 conservation delivery grant and the 2013 easement delivery grant. The motion carried unanimously.

**Pay Equity Implementation Report** – After review and discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn, to accept the 2014 pay equity implementation report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Supervisor Vouchers** – After review, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hesser, to authorize payment of the presented supervisor vouchers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

**2014 Committee Assignments** – After discussion, a motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Hesser, to approve the following committee assignments for 2014:

- Personnel Committee ..... Scherger and Livingston
- SE SWCD Technical Support JPB ..... Scherger
- Hiawatha Valley RC&D ..... Hesser
- County Water Plan Technical Committee ....Hesser – Livingston as alternate.
- County Feedlot Advisory Board ..... Hahn
- Cedar River Watershed ..... Livingston – Hahn as alternate.
- Zumbro Watershed Partnership .....Thompson – Scherger as alternate.
- RIM / LWG..... Hahn – Scherger as alternate

The motion carried unanimously.

**2014 Mileage and Per Diem Rates** – A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Thompson, to set the 2014 mileage rate at the IRS maximum (\$0.560) and set the per diem rate at \$60.00 for 2014.

**2014 Cost-share Rates** – A motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Livingston, to set the maximum cost-share rate at 65% except for well sealing which will be 50% cost-share not to exceed \$500 per well. State cost share funds used to piggy-back EQIP projects will be set at 75%. The motion carried unanimously.

**2014 Financial Institution Designations** – A motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Scherger, to designate Wells Fargo Bank of Dodge Center, MN as the District’s financial institute for its checking account and Wells Fargo Investments of Owatonna, MN and New York Life Securities of New York, NY as the District’s financial institutions for its money market accounts. The motion carried unanimously.

**2014 Regular Meeting Day and Times** – A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn, to set the regular board meeting day as the third Thursday of each month for 2014. The starting time will be 7:15 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Reports**

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) - Livingston reported on the following items:

- Kevin Kiser was reappointed to represent Dodge County.
- Rock inlet cost-share program
- The CRWD will be re-submitting a proposal for Clean Water Legacy funds for Dobbin’s Creek 1 project.
- Updated the Board on the CRWD’s 2014 Work Plan

Bill Thompson updated the Board on the 2013 water monitoring site and sampling results in the CRWD.

**Zumbro Watershed Partnership** (Thompson) – Showed examples and discussed proposed stream signage for the Zumbro River. Ron Schara will be doing a public service message for the ZWP.

**Correspondence** – E-mail request from Muriel French concerning a ZWP rain and compost barrel sales/ pickup site in Dodge County. Thompson is checking into the request.

**Other New Business**

- Discussed the proposed Shop Ko project site in Kasson. Need to gather additional information from the City of Kasson.

**Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Larry Scherger at 11:19 pm on a motion by Livingston and a second by Hesar.

**Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts’ Board of Supervisors will be February 20, 2014 at 1:15 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 \_\_\_\_\_