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Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927
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Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s Regular Board of Supervisor’s Meeting

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Minnesota State Statute Section 13D.021, Subdivision 1 of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law which permits public bodies to hold meetings via telephone or other electronic means when specific conditions are met.

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98446740779?pwd=T1U3YWtsTkJFWk90SW5wZ2hjb1VYdz09>
Phone: 1 (312) 626-6799 (Meeting ID: 984 4674 0779, Passcode: 693830)

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Larry Scherger at 7:15 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (Late: in at 7:18 P.M.)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; John Allen, Dodge County District I Commissioner; David Copland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources; Gary Kurer, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda – There were no additions or corrections to the March 16, 2021 Agenda. A motion was made to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting agenda as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: David Livingston
Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the February 16, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes – The supervisors discussed the February 16, 2021 board meeting minutes. There were no additions or corrections to the February 16, 2021 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the February 16, 2021 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative
The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – No Public Comment

Bruce Freerksen entered the meeting at 7:18 P.M.

Partner Agency Reports

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

John Allen, Dodge County District I Commissioner, reported that the county is trying to raise funds for transportation projects, and looking at updating the Highway Department building in Dodge Center. Adam King, District Manager, asked about and discussed the Dodge SWCD and Dodge County redistricting.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Gary Kurer, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), reported that there are currently many vacancies within the USDA – NRCS in Minnesota. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) ranking deadline has been moved to July due to technical difficulties with the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART). Sixteen EQIP applications are considered high status. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments have been made, and three of the six CSP renewals in Conservation Service Team 19 were accepted. March 26, 2021 is the CSP Classic deadline, with not all applications being assessed and ranked, as there are thousands of applications with funding for approximately 100. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) renewal field investigations are currently underway, with 56 renewals in Dodge County. There is no CRP signup deadline at this time. There have been Local Work Group (LWG) trainings on Wednesdays throughout March for district and NRCS employees, and a SWCD Supervisor LWG training on Tuesday, March 31, 2021. It is time to set our LWG. Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Mower SWCD may be willing to have a joint LWG meeting, and that their LWG is scheduled for Wednesday, June 02, 2021 at 8:00 A.M. on Zoom. The supervisors discussed whether to hold a joint LWG or to hold our own. The supervisors decided to hold a joint LWG with the Mower SWCD on Wednesday, June 02, 2021 on Zoom if the Mower SWCD wishes to hold a joint LWG with us. If the Mower SWCD wishes to hold their own LWG, the Dodge LWG would be held before the June 2021 board meeting.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Report

David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), reported that BWSR was happy to assist with the Currier Bros. project and see it completed. The last BWSR Academy was virtual, and BWSR is planning a spring virtual BWSR Academy on March 30, 2021 holding two morning sessions. BWSR is hoping for an in-person BWSR Academy for the end of October 2021. The Governor's budget proposal includes a 1% increase to all general funds, with funding new soil health and watershed initiatives including 3 million dollars for watersheds, and an additional 5.5 million dollars for soil health initiatives over the biennium. Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) funds are currently working their way through the legislature. State employees are going to be working remotely through the end of June, and will start a phased-in approach to re-entering offices.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer’s Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the February 2021 financial report, including the Balance Sheet, noting that the unearned / deferred revenues are close to the amount in the accounts, Revenues of \$17,997.93, Expenditures of \$42,747.56, the General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$2,462.54. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer’s Report. A motion was made to approve the February 2021 Treasurer’s Report, and payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$2,462.54.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Audit of 2020 Financials

Adam King, District Manager, presented the quotes received for the audit of the 2020 financials. Four companies provided a quote, five declined to provide a quote, and four gave no response. King explained that Peterson Company had the lowest quote, and has completed the financial audits for the district over the last ten years. King questioned whether someone new should complete the audit in order to get a fresh set of eyes on them. The supervisors discussed the four quotes. A motion was made to approve Peterson Company with a quote of \$2,750.00 to complete the audit of the 2020 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Financials.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Negative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion was carried.

Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Woodchip Bioreactor Monitoring

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Woodchip Bioreactor Monitoring. The Joint Powers Agreement covers 2021 and 2022 with a budget of up to \$8,500.00. A motion was made to authorize Adam King to electronically sign and submit the Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Woodchip Bioreactor Monitoring.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion carried unanimously.

Elections and Redistricting

The supervisors discussed elections and redistricting. There was a consensus to leave the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor District Boundaries the same, and hold county-wide elections.

New Business

Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Walk-In Accesses Program

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Walk-In Access Program. The Joint Powers Agreement would allow staff to enroll landowners into the MN DNR's Walk-In Access Program allowing hunters to access their property though walking in for the purposes of hunting. In return the landowner receives \$18.00 per acre, and the Dodge SWCD receives \$250.00 per landowner up to \$2,000.00 total, for our time enrolling landowners into the program. King stated that the mission of the Dodge SWCD is to provide leadership in natural resource protection through promotion and implementation of soil and water's best management practices, and questioned whether or not this program fits our mission and if allowing hunting access to private property is a one of soil and water's best management practices? King told the supervisors that there is a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist stationed in the office, and that this seems to fit well with the Pheasants Forever mission. King explained that the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist would work with the Walk-In Access Program, and the Dodge SWCD would receive the funds from the MN DNR. A motion was made to electronically sign and submit the Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the Walk-In Access Program.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Negative;

Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion was carried.

Letter of Support for a Green Corps Member at the Mower Soil and Water Conservation District

Adam King, District Manager, presented a Letter of Support to the Mower Soil and Water Conservation District for a Green Corps member. The Green Corps member would conduct education and outreach activities in the Root River, Greater Zumbro and Cedar – Wapsipinicon Watersheds. The supervisors discussed the Green Corps position. A motion was made to sign and submit the Letter of Support for a Green Crops Member to the Mower Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;

Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2021-01 (Trapp) Encumbrance

Roy and Pearl Trapp of Kenyon, MN is requesting financial assistance for Cost-Share Contract 2021-01 to install a well decommissioning in Section 05 of Concord Township. The total estimated cost of the Well Decommissioning is \$3,650.00 and the Trapps are requesting 50%, not to exceed \$1,500.00, the maximum allowed. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of District Cost-Share funds for Cost-Share Contract 2021-01 in the amount of 50% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$1,500.00 for a well decommissioning for Roy and Pearl Trapp.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract FY16CSA-04 (Paulson) Encumbrance

Lyle Paulson of West Concord, MN is requesting financial assistance for Cost-Share Contract FY16CSA-04 to install a Streambank and shoreland Protections in Section 16 of Milton Township. The total estimated cost of the practice is \$49,642.00 and Paulson is requesting 90%, not to exceed \$44,677.80 from the Section 319 Critical Source Area Grant. The supervisors discussed the project. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of Section 319 Funds for Cost-Share Contract FY16CSA-04 in the amount of 90% of total eligible costs, not to exceed \$44,677.80 from the Section 319 Critical Source Area Grant for a streambank and shoreland protection project for Lyle Paulson.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;
Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

There was no Other New Business

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported that staff have been attending the Local Work Group trainings on Wednesdays in March, and that the state has now opened up COVID-19 vaccines to agricultural workers, including SWCD employees. King has encouraged the staff to sign up for a vaccine at the state's vaccine connector website.

Supervisor Reports

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that he was unable to access the RC&D meeting.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the CRWD meeting held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 via Zoom, and that the wrong link was initially sent out, and was able to attend the last 10 minutes of the meeting after the updated link to the meeting was sent. There was a fishing contest held as a fundraiser.

Root River Policy Committee – Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending the Root River Watershed Policy Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2021, via zoom, where they discussed the financials, paid bills, and gave an update on implementation.

Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) Policy Committee – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported that the Thursday, March 11, 2021 meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 08, 2021.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. to be held remotely via Zoom.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 10:10 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Rick Alberts

Roll Call Vote: Alberts: Affirmative; Freerksen: Affirmative; Scherger: Affirmative;

Livingston: Affirmative; Hahn: Affirmative

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:  78A5BDA3CF65470... Date: 4/20/2021 Recorder: Adam King