



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

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Minutes of the November 19, 2024

Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District

Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Larry Scherger, Board Chair, at 7:24 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Allison English, Administrative Professional, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Nathan Bird, District Conservationist- United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: There were 2 additions to the November 19, 2024 board meeting agenda. The additions include Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-06 (M. Finstuen) Amendment and Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-09 (Ebenhoh & Sons Inc) under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the November 19, 2024 meeting agenda as amended.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the October 15th Board Meeting Minutes: The supervisors discussed the October 15, 2024 board meeting minutes. There was no corrections. A motion was made to approve the October 15, 2024 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Nathan Bird, District Conservationist- United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, reported a lot of things are up in the air due to the farm bill not being approved and the holidays coming up. Bird shared the stats for Dodge County.

\$82,499 paid out on Equip and more to be added by the end of the year.

35 acres of cover crops

2,900 of windbreak reservations

10 ½ acres of brush management including buckthorn and honeysuckle removal

15 acres of grass management

?? acres of waterway management

Bird shared there are currently 25 Equip applications but there is no second sign up. This is a high number of applications compared to past years. CRP is currently shutdown; technicians can still look at sites but no work is able to be done. With the weather becoming colder, the construction season is pretty much wrapped up. Bird attended the Dodge County Production Meeting where around 15 people attended.

Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, shared there has been some staffing changes recently. A new soil conservationist has started in Owatonna. There are two District Conservationist jobs open in Albert Lea and Owatonna; two soil conservationist technician jobs open in Mower County and Albert Lea.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Report

Jill Sackett Eberhart, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, was unable to attend the meeting.

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

John Allen, Dodge County District I Commissioner, was unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements, Payment of New Bills

Glenn Hahn, Treasure, presented the October 2024 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet covering what is in checking and savings, revenues of \$27,624.70, expenditures of \$78,852.84, the general ledger and aging summary, with a payables total of \$21,892.65. Adam King, District Manager, advised the supervisors the Watershed invoices have not been entered yet, we are waiting on the final staff times to be entered. The supervisor's discussed the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the October 2024 Treasurer's Report and pay bills on the aging summary, for a payables total of \$21,892.65.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Re-filing Fees

Adam King, District Manager, advised the supervisors he has not heard back from his CPA yet on how much the re-filing fees would cost. King advised the supervisors he would present the information to them as soon as he has the numbers. This item has been tabled.

Unfinished Business

2025 Dodge Cover Crop Program

Adam King, District Manager, presented two options to consider with the supervisors for the future of the Dodge County Cover Crop Program in 2025 – continuing with the previous program or move towards an incentive-based program. The supervisors discussed the options. Both options posed questions. The supervisors would like to start by having Adam King, District Manager reach out to see if we can find a contractor that would be willing to run the inter-seeder. This topic has been tabled for more discussion.

Equipment Purchase – Straw Crimper Discussion

Adam King, District Manager, presented to the board information he gathered regarding the possible collaboration with local rental companies. Kasson Hardware Hank said they have rental program but it is for residential use and they are not interested in renting out larger equipment and would have no where to storage the equipment. Minnesota Agricultural Group of Kasson said they are trying to get out of the rental business and currently only renting out snow removal equipment and would not have interest in other equipment. King other checked with other districts as well. Olmsted SWCD said they don't have one available to rent and most of the contractors they work with have already invested in the mulching and crimping equipment needed. Steele SWCD said most of their landowners have been using Advanced Seeding but some landowners may be interested if we made one available for rent. The supervisors have discussed the biggest issue would be storage for the straw crimper. This topic has been tabled for more discussion.

New Business

FY22 Buffer Law Implementation Grant Closeout

The supervisors discussed the FY22 Buffer Law Implementation Grant Closeout. The total of the grant was \$21,500 with \$21, 667 being spent. \$3,517.76 was spent on technical assistance for the Buffer Law Implementation and a Buffer Law mailout, and \$14,548.19 was spent on the Dodge County Cover Crop Program. No funds will be returned to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. A Motion was made to close out the FY22 Buffer Law Implementation Grant.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

2025 Draft Final Budget

Adam King, District Manager, presented the 2025 DRAFT Final Budget to the supervisors and informed them the budget includes the Dodge County allocation of \$150,000.00. King and the supervisors discussed sitting up a finance committee meeting to finalize the budget and get a final approval can be made at the December 17, 2024 board meeting.

No- Till Drill Winter Storage

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors we received a letter regarding Janes Farm being put up for sale in the spring of 2025. King did advise we are still able to use the winter storage space this year for the no-till drill. We are able to use the storage space starting in the fall through the time of the sale or Spring 2025, whichever comes first. The charge for the winter storage is \$200.00. The check is due November 21, 2024 to James Farm LLP. A motion was made to pay Janes Farm LLP \$200 for the winter storage of the no-till drill.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously

Employee Training Request

Zac Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, is requesting to attend the Premier Soil Health Event to be held on Tuesday December 3rd and Wednesday December 4th 2024. The event is held at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in Mankato, MN. Registration is \$100 for the event and the lodging may be needed. Zac Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, is requesting to attend the Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference to be held on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday December 18th 2024. This event is being held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Registration for this event is \$130 and lodging would be needed at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center for \$98. A motion was made to approved sending Zac Colton to the Premier Soil Health Event on December 3rd -4th and the Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference on December 17th – 18th and to pay for the associated costs for registration and lodging.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Cost-share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-12 (Brooks) Partial Payment

Michael Brooks of Byron, MN has requested cost-share payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 340 – cover crop installed in Section 25 of Mantorville Township. Brooks was authorized to encumber \$9,450.00 and is requesting 1/3 of that amount not to exceed \$3,150.00. A motion was made to approve the partial payment on Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ- DC- 12 for Micheal Brooks, installing cover crops in Section 25 of Mantorville Township for \$3,150.00.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Cost-share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-17 (Koop) Partial Payment

Craig Koop of Pine Island, MN has requested cost-share payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 340 – cover crop installed in Section 1 of Milton Township. Koop was authorized to encumber \$14,527.50 and is requesting 1/3 of that amount not to exceed \$4,842.50. A motion was made to approve the partial payment on Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ- DC- 17 for Craig Koop, installing cover crops in Section 1 of Milton Township for \$4,842.50.

Motion: Bruce Feerksen

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-06 (Finstuen) Amendment

Mark Finstuen of West Concord, MN has requested an amendment to the Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-06. The original estimated cost of the practice was \$32,968.50 and was approved to encumber up to 90%. The final total cost is \$35,827.96. Finstuen is requesting an additional \$1,633.54 to cover 90% of total cost of the project and 3 acres of pre-construction cover. The adjusted total amount to encumber to cover 90% of the total project cost and the additional acres of pre-construction cover will be \$32,695.16. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, the amendment to 2023WAGZ- DC -06 for Derek Finstuen to encumber 90% of the total cost of the project \$35,827.96 but not to exceed \$32,695.16 once the paperwork has been submitted.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC- 06 (Finstuen) Payment

Mark Finstuen of West Concord, MN has requested cost-share payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for installation of a 638 – Water & Sediment Control Basin and a 412 – Grassed Waterway in Section 8 of Milton Township. The total cost for the project is \$35,827.96, and is requesting 90% of the total amount not to exceed \$32,695.16. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, to approve the payment for Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ- DC- 06 for Mark Finstuen for installation of a 638 – Water & Sediment Control Basin and a 412 – Grassed Waterway in Section 8 of Milton Township, not to exceed \$32,695.16 once all paperwork is submitted.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-07 (Finstuen) Amendment

Derek Finstuen of West Concord, MN has requested an amendment to the Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ- DC-07. The original estimated cost of the practice was \$50,219.13 and was approved to encumber up to \$33,950.38. The final total cost is \$50,641.50. Finstuen is requesting an additional \$12,226.97 to cover 90% of total cost of the project and 4 acres of pre-construction cover. The adjusted total amount to encumber to cover 90% of the total project cost and the additional acres of pre-construction cover will be \$46,177.35. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, the amendment to 2023WAGZ- DC -07 for Derek Finstuen to encumber 90% of the total cost of the project \$50,641.50 but not to exceed \$46,177.35 once the paperwork has been submitted.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Bruce Feerksen
The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC- 07 (Finstuen) Payment

Derek Finstuen of West Concord, MN has requested cost-share payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for installation of a 638 – Water & Sediment Control Basin in Section 8 of Milton Township. The total cost for the project is \$50,641.50, and is requesting 90% of the total amount not to exceed \$46,177.35. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, to approve the payment for Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ- DC- 07 for Derek Finstuen for installation of a 638 – Water & Sediment Control Basin in Section 8 of Milton Township, not to exceed \$46,177.35 once all paperwork is submitted.

Motion: Bruce Feerksen
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously

District Cost-Share Contract 2023-DC- 13 (Kooiman) Payment

Mary Kooiman of Eden Prairie, MN has requested cost-share payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for installation of a 638 – Water & Sediment Control Basin in Section 19 of Vernon Township. The total cost for the project is \$1,662.50, and is requesting 75% of the total amount not to exceed \$1,246.88. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, to approve the payment from FY22 Local Capacity funds for District Cost-Share Contract 2023- DC- 13 for Mary Kooiman for installation of a 638 – Water & Sediment Control Basin in Section 19 of Vernon Township, not to exceed \$1,246.88 once all paperwork is submitted.

Motion: Rick Alberts
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-11 (Severson Trust) Amendment

Calmer Severson of Hayfield, MN has requested an amendment to the Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-11. The original estimated cost of the practice was \$21,824.00 and was approved to encumber up to 75%, not to exceed \$16,368.00. Severson is requesting to extend the contract until November 30, 2025- a one-year extension. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, the extend 2023WAGZ- DC -011 for Calmer Severson Trust one year. The new expiration date is November 30, 2025, once the paperwork has been submitted.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Feerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC- 07 (Ebenhoh & Sons Inc) Payment

Ebenhoh & Sons Inc of Claremont, MN has requested cost-share payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 412 – grassed waterway installed in Section 7 of Claremont Township. The final cost for the project was \$20,680.00 and is requesting 90% of that amount, not to exceed \$19,062.00. A motion was made to approve the payment on Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ- DC- 07 for Ebenhoh & Sons Inc, for installing a grassed waterway in Section 7 of Claremont Township at 90% of the total cost of the project not to exceed \$19,062.00.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Feerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

There was no more Other New Business.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager presented a handout from Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) stating the 2024 annual meeting of the MCIT will be held on Monday, December, 9, 2024 at 4:00PM. Registration for the meeting starts on December 9th at 3:30 PM. The MCIT meeting will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington, MN in atrium 4 (2nd floor).

Adam King, District Manager, reported he has been busy with Buffer Law checks and questions. Allison English, Administrative Professional, has been working on monthly financials. Jessica Klingfus, Conservation Technician, is getting projects certified. Zac Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, will be busy planning an education outreach event and working to pull together some chemical specialist to do a presentation for the event.

Supervisor Reports

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, went to a feedlot meeting. The committee is looking at local rules and when they were written and how hard they should be followed. Some of the rules may be out dated and need to be relooked at to see how they would affect landowners today if the rules were more enforced than they have been in the past.

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported the Cedar River Meeting was short. Livingston recalled the project with the drainage tubes we talked about last month and stated it is currently \$25,000 about the excepted project cost. There was over 4000 gallons of water pumped out within 4 days. The next Cedar River Meeting is tomorrow. Cedar River staff has been working on CRP but now are waiting on the farm bill. Pheasants Forever and the SWCD are partnering up to bring a position to the Austin office. The cover crop program has lots of interest but the staff is unable to keep up with the

applications. The Cedar River grant expiring at the end of the year should be good to close. Livingston also attended a supervisor meeting with Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor. The proposed budget was passed and the supervisors went over the resolutions.

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, attended a Zumbro River Meeting and they went over the budget. The watershed is spending money as expected and the projects in the Spring should spend the remaining part of the budget and they may have to dip into other funds.

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, did not provide a report.

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor, attended the Feedlot meeting with Glenn Hahn, District IV Supervisor.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center, 916 2nd Street SE, Dodge Center, MN.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 10:31 PM.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
		Allison English