



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

916 2nd Street SE

Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927

Phone: 507-374-6364 ext. 3

www.dodgeswcd.org

Minutes of the March 19, 2024

Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District

Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Larry Scherger, Board Chair, at 7:16 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice-Chair (left early at 9:12 P.M.)
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; Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service; Matthew Kruger, Dodge County Resident; Margaret Kruger, Dodge County Resident; Mark Moenning, Dodge County Resident; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident; Tom Pyfferoen, Dodge County Resident.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Additions to the March 19, 2024 board meeting agenda include Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-01 (Franko) Encumbrance, Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-06 (Stoflet Family Farms) Encumbrance, Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-08 (Boyum) Payment, District Cost-Share Contract 2024-01 (Bernice Kubat Revocable Trust) Encumbrance, and District Cost-Share Contract 2024-02 (Molitor Brothers) Encumbrance under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the March 19, 2024 meeting agenda, as revised.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Feb. 20, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes: The supervisors discussed the February 20, 2024 board meeting minutes. There were no additions or corrections. A motion was made to approve the February 20, 2024 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

March 19, 2024 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

Page 1 of 6

SUPERVISORS: RICK ALBERTS – BRUCE FREERKSEN – LARRY SCHERGER – DAVID LIVINGSTON – GLENN HAHN

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), reported on the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up, with its batching period closing March 15, 2024, and approval of contracts beginning in fall 2024. The USDA has announced a General CRP sign-up, with a deadline of March 29, 2024. The Minnesota NRCS has sent out a Notice of Funding Opportunity and \$35 Million/year is available to many of their conservation partners. The District Conservationist in Steele County is on assignment in St. Paul, so Bird is currently serving in Steele and Dodge Counties. Pheasants Forever is hiring a seasonal position that has a possibility of being housed in the Dodge Center Field Office.

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 February 2024 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet covering what is in the accounts, revenues of \$14,120.52, expenditures of \$26,428.32, the general ledger, and aging summary with a payables total of \$7,248.74. The supervisors discussed the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the Feb. 2024 Treasurer's Report, and pay bills on the aging summary for a payables total of \$7,248.74.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Secoded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

2024 Cover Crop Program

Adam King, District Manager, presented a Request for Expressions of Interest that would be sent out to vendors for applying cover crops to cropped fields according to the USDA – NRCS 340 Cover Crop standards. The proposed rates would be \$10/acre for non-incorporated methods, and \$22/acre for incorporated methods. The vendor would agree to not charge the landowner for labor.

Mark Moenning, Dodge County Resident, and Tom Pyfferoen, Dodge County Resident, expressed concerns with the proposed program, and felt that some landowners are unlikely to adopt cover crop practices without major incentives, or at little to no cost to the landowner or producer. The supervisors, Moenning, and Pyfferoen discussed the two potential programs, including continuing to provide the seed and labor for applying cover crops at little to no cost, and providing payment to interested vendors to cover the cost of labor.

The supervisors came to a consensus that the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District will again provide the service of applying cover crops to fields for \$5/acre and covering the remaining seed and labor costs. The supervisors instructed King to work with Moenning and Pyfferoen on the Dodge County Cover Crop Program.

Rick Alberts left the meeting at 9:12 P.M.

Personnel Committee Recommendations

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Administrative Professional position was reposted and is open until filled. Six additional candidates have applied for the position, bringing the total applied to 17. The Personnel Committee has reviewed and ranked the applicants, and has decided to move forward with interviews for the top five candidates.

New Business

Equipment Purchase

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Dylan Jones, Frontier Precision, was invited to the office and gave a demonstration of new survey equipment. King explained that our current survey equipment was purchased seven years ago, and that the controller is a tablet that is now out of date and will soon no longer be receiving updates. The new R12i (receiver) has considerable upgrades over our current R8s (receiver). The quotes for a new receiver and controller are in the upper \$30,000s. King reminded the supervisors that it is not currently in the budget, but wanted to get the replacement of our survey equipment in front of them for when the request comes in.

King also presented quotes for a drone. The purchase of a drone is in the 2024 budget. The supervisors expressed interest in wanting Supervisor Alberts input on the drone, and tabled the discussion.

Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-02 (Bordleon) Encumbrance

Lee Roy Bordelon of Mantorville, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 351 – Well Decommissioning project of in Section 11 of Mantorville Township. The estimated cost for the project is \$4,100.00, and is requesting to encumber up to 75%, not to exceed \$3,000.00. A motion was made to approve and encumber Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-02 for Lee Roy Bordleon to install a Well Decommissioning in Section 11 of Mantorville Township at 75% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2023-14 (Bordleon) Cancellation

Lee Roy Bordelon of Mantorville, MN is notifying the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District that he is requesting to cancel District Cost-Share Contract 2023-14 for a 351 – Well Decommissioning project in Section 11 of Mantorville Township. In a letter to the supervisors, Lee Roy explains that he received an updated estimate that is more than what was expected, and wishes to cancel District Cost-Share Contract 2023-14. A motion was made to cancel District Cost-Share Contract 2023-14 and make the \$1,100.00 available for future projects.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-03 (Ness) Encumbrance

Darel Ness of Kasson, MN is requesting cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 329 – Reduced Tillage / No-Till project in Section 03 of Vernon Township. Ness has not responded to attempts at getting the proper paperwork for the project. A motion was made table the project until the proper paperwork has been submitted.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-05 (Marquette) Encumbrance

Morris Marquette of West Concord, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 351 – Well Decommissioning project in Section 32 of Ellington Township. The estimated cost for the project is \$5,000.00, and is requesting to encumber up to 75%, not to exceed \$3,000.00. A motion was made to approve and encumber Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-05 for Morris Marquette to install a Well Decommissioning in Section 32 of Ellington Township at 75% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

2024 Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (SE MACDE) Registration and Dues

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors of the activities the SE MACDE has accomplished, that there is a spring SE MACDE meeting on April 02, 2024 with a registration of \$15.00, and that 2024 dues are \$10.00 per employee for a total of \$50.00 for registration and dues. A motion was made to authorize payment of \$50.00 to the Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees covering two employees for the 2024 Spring Meeting Registration and 2024 dues.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

2024 Dodge County Free Fair

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Dodge County Free Fair has sent out their vendor information, and will run from July 17 - July 21, 2024. An 8X10 foot booth will cost \$150.00 with a \$100 deposit that can be picked up on Sunday evening of the fair. A motion was made to approve spending \$150.00 for a booth at the 2024 Dodge County Free Fair, and \$100.00 for a deposit.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-01 (Franko) Encumbrance

Martin Franko of Kasson, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 412 – Grassed Waterway project in Section 12 of Wasioja Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$20,625.00, and is requesting to encumber up to 90%, not to exceed \$19,012.50. A motion was made to approve and encumber Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-01 for Martin Franko to install a Grassed Waterway in Section 12 of Wasioja Township at 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$19,012.50.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-06 (Stoflet Family Farms) Encumbrance

Stoflet Family Farms of Byron, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 412 – Grassed Waterway project in Section 16 of Canisteo Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$8,965.00, and is requesting to encumber up to 90%, not to exceed \$8,068.50. A motion was made to approve and encumber Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2024WAGZ-DC-06 for Stoflet Family

Farms to install a Grassed Waterway in Section 16 of Canisteo Township at 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$8,068.50.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-08 (Boyum) Payment

Clair Boyum of Kenyon, MN has requested payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-08 for the installation of a 638 – Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) in Section 27 of Concord Township. Boyum was authorized to encumber \$9,820.80 with the total cost for practice installation being \$7,304.00, and is requesting 90% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$6,573.60. The remaining \$3,247.20 will be made available for other projects. A motion was made to approve payment of Zumbro Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2023WAGZ-DC-08 for the installation of a 638 – Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) in Section 27 of Concord Township at 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$6,573.60 using funds from the WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2024-01 (Bernice Kubat Revocable Trust) Encumbrance

The Bernice Kubat Revocable Trust of Claremont, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 412 – Grassed Waterway in Section 11 project in Hayfield Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$3,663.00, and is requesting to encumber up to 75%, not to exceed \$2,747.25. A motion was made to approve and encumber District Cost-Share Contract 2024-01 for the Bernice Kubat Revocable Trust to install a Grassed Waterway in Section 11 of Hayfield Township at 75% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$2,747.25.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2024-02 (Molitor Brothers) Encumbrance

The Molitor Brothers of Cannon Falls, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 362 – Diversion project in Section 02 of Hayfield Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$3,518.00, and is requesting to encumber up to 75%, not to exceed \$2,638.50. A motion was made to approve and encumber District Cost-Share Contract 2024-02 for the Molitor Brothers to install a Diversion in Section 02 of Hayfield Township at 75% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$2,638.50.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that he attended the MASWCD Day at the Capitol, has been working on the financials, and the cover crop program. Jessica Klingfus, District Technician, has been working on getting projects surveyed and designed.

Supervisor Reports

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending the Root River Policy Advisory Committee meeting on February 26, 2024, and that the Policy Advisory Committee members have remained the same. The Root River Policy Advisory Committee reviewed and approved changes to their Cost-Share Program Policy, including additions to the well sealing practice. It was noted that the Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network data show that Nitrate concentrations in Dodge County have been going down. Grant budgets were reviewed, and cost-share projects were presented. Minnesota Soil Health Coalition staff were present at the meeting and spoke to the committee. Staff gave a presentation on feedlots.

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) / Mower Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Joint Meeting where there were presentations on conservation projects, septic projects, and well testing in Mower County with over 130 private wells tested and many results coming back high for nitrates. The CRWD accepted a \$5,000 quote for their 2023 Financial Audit, and are looking to work on soil health with Mower County funds and holding a five-year contract with landowners. Both boards expressed interest in another conservation tour in the fall.

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, did not provide a report.

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, did not provide a report.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, April 16, 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.

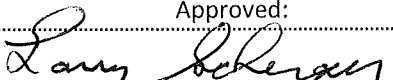
Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 11:33 PM.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	4-16-24	Adam King