



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

916 2nd Street SE

Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927

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Minutes of the May 16, 2023

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 (in at 7:19 P.M.)
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (in at 7:19 P.M.)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: There were no additions or corrections to the May 16, 2023 board meeting agenda. A motion was made to approve the May 16, 2023 meeting agenda, as presented.
Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the April 18, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: The supervisors discussed the April 18, 2023 board meeting minutes. There were no additions or corrections to the April 18, 2023 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the April 18, 2023 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as presented.
Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Alberts and Bruce Freerksen entered the meeting at 7:19 P.M.

Partner Agency Reports

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Report

David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, reported that the Minnesota Legislature has passed the omnibus bill and it is now awaiting the Governor's signature. Included in the bill is \$80 Million from Clean Water Funds for Watershed Based Implementation Funding. There are currently about six watersheds remaining to go through the One Watershed One Plan planning process for an approved comprehensive

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watershed management plan. The BWSR goal was to have 100% of the state covered by a comprehensive watershed management plan by 2025, and BWSR will be close to hitting that goal. Some Watershed based Implementation Funding has been returned and BWSR is looking into how to disperse the returned funds to watersheds that have spent their allocated funding. Copeland notified the Supervisors that he is filling in for another Board Conservationist and is cover Waseca and Faribault counties.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), reported that there were six Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects approved, and a second sign-up may be coming prior to the end of the federal fiscal year. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) had some initial interest, but only has one application moving forward. The Inflation Reduction Act funding is coming, and the NRCS may have three to four times the current funding levels for staffing and projects, and are looking for future projects. Bird is following the federal debt ceiling debate, and the NRCS may have to close their side of the office if the debt ceiling is not raised.

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, Treasurer, presented the April 2023 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet covering what is in our checking and savings, Revenues of \$13,335.01, Expenditures of \$22,086.51, the General Ledger and Aging Summary, with a payables total of \$7,733.15. The supervisors discussed the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the April 2023 Treasurer's Report and bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$7,733.15.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business

New Business

WAGZ Cost-Share Contract 2023-WAGZ-DC-06 (M. Finstuen) Encumbrance

Mark Finstuen of West Concord, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the installation of a 638-Water and Sediment Control Basin / 412-Grassed Waterway to be installed in Section 08 of Milton Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$32,244.25, and is requesting to encumber 90% using WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding, not to exceed \$29,019.82. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of cost-share contract 2023-WAGZ-DC-06 for Mark Finstuen to install a 638-Water and Sediment Control Basin / 412-Grassed Waterway at 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$29,019.82 from WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

WAGZ Cost-Share Contract 2023-WAGZ-DC-07 (D. Finstuen) Encumbrance

Derek Finstuen of West Concord, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the installation of a 638-Water and Sediment Control Basin to be installed in Section 08 of Milton Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$13,223.16, and is requesting to encumber 90% using WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding, not to exceed \$11,900.84. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of cost-share contract 2023-WAGZ-DC-07 for Derek Finstuen to install a 638-Water and Sediment Control Basin at 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$11,900.84 from WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

WAGZ Cost-Share Contract 2023-WAGZ-DC-08 (Louks) Encumbrance

Michael Louks of Dodge Center, MN has requested cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the installation of a 412-Grassed Waterway to be installed in Section 32 of Concord Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$7,821.00, and is requesting to encumber 90% using WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding, not to exceed \$7,038.90. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of cost-share contract 2023-WAGZ-DC-08 for Michael Louks to install a 412-Grassed Waterway at 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$7,038.90 from WAGZ Watershed Based Implementation Funding.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Purchase of CanvaPro

CanvaPro is an online design and publishing tool that allows users to create high quality marketing and outreach content, including postcards, business cards, logos, newsletters, and social media marketing. Staff have used CanvaPro to design the newsletter and postcards that have been sent out, and recommends purchasing the subscription for \$119.99/year. A motion was made to approve the purchase of a CanvaPro subscription for the amount of \$119.99/year.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Work Group

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be holding its annual Local Work Group (LWG) on Wednesday, June 07, 2023 at the Blooming Prairie City Hall / Fire Station starting at 9:00 A.M. The LWG will be used to set priorities and rankings for USDA Federal Programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that he has been working on the Dodge County Cover Crop Program and getting the no-till drill to those that are renting it, Jessica Klingfus, District Technician, has been busy working on getting projects surveyed, designed and constructed, while Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, has been working on the monthly and quarterly financials, along with preparing and submitting Audit information to Peterson Company. King presented the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PCU) public notice on the Dodge County Wind Farm Project.

Supervisor Reports

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, informed the supervisors that there is no Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Committee meeting scheduled, and that there is a Root River Watershed Policy Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023 at the Hokah Fire Department.

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District meeting April 19, 2023 where he learned that the Interstate 90 bridge in Austin will need to be replaced, and will fill in a portion of the floodplain. The watershed district will hold an easement on a project, but has run into issue with drain tile and one landowner that is a holdout. The watershed district will also be getting insurance on their capital improvement projects, and should be constructing the projects this summer. Road construction will be happening on U.S. Highway 218, and the MNDOT Engineer has upsized the culverts. FEMA has told a Blooming Prairie man that he is not allowed to live in the floodplain. The watershed district has established a summer construction policy that they will provide a \$350/acre (\$150/acre coming from BWSR) incentive up to 10 acres to put on temporary cover to allow for summer builds. Livingston also reported attending the Cedar – Wapsipinicon Watershed Policy Advisory Committee meeting on May 03, 2023 where the BWSR suggested sending back funds to be used elsewhere instead of extending the Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant. The Austin Whitewater project was reviewed, and Cost-Share policies were changed on cover crop incentives.

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that the Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is going through dissolution, and may be returning remaining funds to those entities that paid dues.

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) Policy Advisory Committee meeting on May 11, 2023 where they are anticipating another round of Watershed Based Implementation Funding totaling approximately \$1.2 million. There is a feedlot in Wabasha County that is looking for funding, and the City of Red Wing is looking at trying to stabilize a gully in a neighborhood through rain barrels and raingardens.

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, June 20, 2023 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.

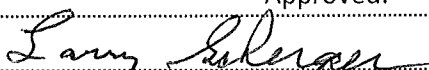
Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 9:13 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	6-20-23	Adam King

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