



Minutes of the March 15, 2022 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s Regular Board of Supervisor’s Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Larry Scherger at 7:35 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice – Chair
David Livingston, Secretary (via Microsoft Teams)

Members Absent: Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I

Others Present: Adam King, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda – Additions to the March 15, 2022 agenda include Samantha Rojo’s Six-Month Performance Review under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the March 15, 2022 meeting agenda, as amended.

Motion: Rick Alberts
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the February 15, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes – The supervisors discussed the February 15, 2022 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the February 15, 2022 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District’s Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Rick Alberts
The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident, reported continuing to work with the initiative Communities United of Southeast Minnesota and through Bench3 Consulting LLC. Peterson reported that they are bridging the gap to poverty, putting politics aside, and working on the common ground theory. Peterson is working toward earning the title of entrepreneur of the year, explained that she will have a booth at the upcoming Dodge County Business Expo, and that she plans to join the Lions Club International.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Gary Kurer, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), was unable to attend the meeting.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Report

David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, joined the meeting via MS Teams and reported that the Board of Water and Soil Resources will be losing Assistant Director, Angie Becker-Kudelka. Copeland reported that Greta Gauthier will fill in temporarily in this position. Copeland explained that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is hiring a human resources staff person and it has been at least four years since they have had human resources in-house. Copeland notes that new grants will be going to the next BWSR board meeting, including about \$1 million for this year, and \$1 million for next year for water storage grants. Copeland added that number per year could go up significantly depending on the budget surplus.

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 and Payment of New Bills – Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District, presented the February 2022 Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$6,070.12, Expenditures of \$44,430.29, the General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$1,797.12. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the February 2022 Treasurer's Report, and payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$1,797.12.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Fuel Fleet Card

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that an option was found for a fleet card that would not limit staff to fueling at Kwik Trip or Casey's stations, including that with travelling both locally and non-locally to various landowners or trainings, this would be helpful to have in each of our vehicles. King presented the different options relating to the P-Fleet card(s) and the supervisors discussed the options, ultimately deciding it would be best to table the discussion until the next board meeting. The supervisors did instruct King to apply for the P-Fleet account online, and bring the results to the next board meeting.

New Dodge SWCD Logo

The supervisors agreed that the logo update will be tabled until the next board meeting.

Sale of 2005 Dodge Ram 1500

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Dodge Ram 1500 is in need of a new battery, and although he was able to get it started with a jump, the charge would not hold. The supervisors agreed to instruct King to buy and install a new battery for the truck, and get fresh gas put in it so that quotes for selling can be obtained.

New Business

USDA-NRCS Civil Rights Form

Adam King, District Manager, presented the USDA-NRCS Civil Rights Form to the supervisors, and informed them that Gary Kurer, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has provided this for their records only.

FY22 Conservation Cost-Share (P22-5679) Grant Close-Out

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors the grant funds for the BWSR FY2022 Conservation Cost-Share Grant have been exhausted, and the grant needs closing out. King presented the Final Financial Report, with \$9,908.00 spent of \$9,908.00 received, with no funds to be returned to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. A motion was made to authorize Adam King to sign and submit the BWSR FY2022 Conservation Cost-Share Grant final Financial Report, with \$0.00 returned to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Motion: Larry Scherger
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

FY22 Conservation Delivery (P22-5499) Grant Close-Out

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors the grant funds for the FY2022 BWSR Conservation Delivery (P22-5499) Grant have been exhausted, and the grant needs closing out. King presented the Final Financial Report, with \$19,343.00 spent of \$19,343.00 received, with no funds to be returned to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. A motion was made to authorize Adam King to sign and submit the FY2022 BWSR Conservation Delivery (P22-5499) Grant final Financial Report, with \$0.00 returned to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Motion: Larry Scherger
Seconded: Rick Alberts
The motion carried unanimously.

Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District and Mark Moenning

Adam King, District Manager, explained that Mark Moenning would have time to assist us in the Cover Crop program this year. King presented the Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Mark Moenning for operating the Cover Crop Inter-seeder and installing cover crops for anyone who wishes to have cover crops installed on their crop fields. King noted that Mark Moenning will operate his tractor, and the hourly rate from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's prevailing wage (group 6) is \$47.70 / hour. A motion was made to approve Larry Scherger, Board Chair, to sign the 2022 Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District and Mark Moenning.

Motion: Rick Alberts
Seconded: Larry Scherger
The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

Samantha's Six-Month Performance Review

Adam King, District Manager, reported that Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District, will have reached her six months of employment with the District in April. King explains that he would stand by his recommendation made in January 2022 to increase Samantha to a Step 4 wage, and to remove her from probation, allowing her to use annual leave.

Motion: Rick Alberts
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, explained that Jessica Bakken, District Technician, is out on maternity leave after welcoming her baby boy on February 21, 2022. King also noted that Nathan Bird, Natural Resource Conservation Service, ended his employment in Dodge and will be working for the NRCS in Goodhue.

Supervisor Reports

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District meeting on February 16th, 2022. Livingston explained that Dobbins Creek in Austin will be a host site for surveying done by the DNR for transplanting of native mussels. Livingston also noted having been pleased to meet Paul Hunter at our last board meeting, and included that there was a soil health meeting on February 19th, 2022 he also attended.

Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) Policy Advisory Committee – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, had nothing to report.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, April 19th at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center, 916 2nd Street S.E., Dodge Center, MN.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 8:54 P.M.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: Larry Scherger Date: 4-19-22

Recorder: Samantha Rojo