



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

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Minutes of the February 28, 2023

Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District

Special Board of Supervisors Meeting

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

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; David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources; Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Approval of Meeting Agenda: There were no additions or corrections to the February 28, 2023 board meeting agenda. A motion was made to approve the February 28, 2023 meeting agenda, as presented.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the January 17th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: The supervisors discussed the January 17, 2023 board meeting minutes. There were no changes or corrections. A motion was made to approve the January 17, 2023 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Report

David Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, informed the Supervisors that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources started a remote Spring Training program in 2021, and this year's remote Spring Training is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2023, with session registration opening

Monday February 27, 2023. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is updating their grant reporting system, Elink, and the updated version should be ready to use within the next few weeks. The Minnesota Legislature is currently in session, and an update will be provided on the Governor's Budget Proposal next month.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), introduced himself to the Supervisors, informing them that he previously worked in the Dodge Center office as a Soil Conservationist, that Jarod Matzke is the new Soil Conservation Technician, and Gary Kurer remains the Team Lead, supervising those is Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, and Steele counties. Bird provided a written report explaining that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up deadline was in November 2022 with 16 applications received, totaling approximately \$65,000 through the Local Work Group funds, and approximately \$25,000 in state-wide and Southeast area funds. There were 5 applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), with evaluating and ranking to be completed in May and final funding decisions by mid-summer. A General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up opened on Monday, February 27, 2023, and should remain open for six weeks. Wind erosion will account for more in project rankings than in previous sign-ups. There are currently 40 Continuous CRP offers.

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 January 2023 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$19,181.24, Expenditures of \$35,907.81, the General Ledger and Aging Summary, with payables total of \$535.21. Included in the Supervisor's folders are the second half 2022 vouchers to sign. The supervisors discussed the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the January 2023 Treasurer's Report, and payment of the Supervisor's vouchers, and bills on the Aging Summary, for payables total of \$535.21.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Policy Handbook

Adam King, District Manager, provided a draft of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Operations and Policy Handbook for Staff and Supervisors, highlighting major portions of the handbook. King directed the Supervisors to review the handbook for completeness and accuracy, and informed the Supervisors that he is going to contact Paul Kiltinen, Dodge County Attorney, and the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT), for legal review.

New Business

2023 Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees Dues

Adam King, District Manager, informed the Supervisors the activities the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees accomplishes, and that 2023 dues are \$25.00 per employee, for a total of \$75.00. A motion was made to authorize payment of \$75.00 to the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees cover three employees for 2023 dues.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

2022 Pay Equity Report

Adam King, District Manager informed the Supervisors that the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District was selected to complete a Pay Equity Report for 2022. Since there are three or fewer male classes, the alternative analysis was used to compare salaries. A motion was made to approve and submit the 2022 Pay Equity Report for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

2023 Dodge Cover Crop Contractor Contract

Adam King, District Manager, presented the Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Mark Moenning. King informed the Supervisors that this is the same agreement previously signed with the Prevailing Wage amount updated to \$63.06. The Supervisors discussed the contract, and questioned if the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District will cover the cost of fuel. The Supervisors instructed King to include that fuel would be covered by the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District to the contract. A motion was made to approve the 2023 Independent Contractor Agreement between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Mark Moenning as amended.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

2023 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol

Adam King, District Manager, informed the Supervisors that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will hold their annual Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, March 07, 2023 and Wednesday, March 08, 2023. Registration for the event is \$100.00. A motion was made to approve sending Adam King, District Manager, and any other staff or supervisor that wishes to attend the 2023 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol for \$100.00 for registration.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

FY2023 Conservation Cost-Share Grant Close-Out

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that all funds from the FY23 BWSR Conservation Cost-Share Grant (P23-5679) have been expended and the grant needs to be closed out. King presented the Final Financial Report, with \$9,908.00 spent, noting that no funds would be returned to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, to sign and submit the Final

Financial Report and close out the FY23 BWSR Conservation Cost-Share Grant (P23-5679) with no funds returned to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

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 Policy Handbook, that Jessica Klingfus has been working on outreach in the Pine Island / Milton Township area, and Samantha has been working on filing taxes and year-end items. The Supervisors discussed the outreach and potential projects.

Supervisor Reports

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor reported that he was unable to attend the One Watershed One Plan – Root River Policy Committee meeting held on Monday, January 30, 2023. Hahn did attend the Highway 14 Soil Health Meeting in Owatonna, reporting that he felt it was a good meeting with approximately 150 attendees, most being producers.

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District Meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 where Jim Gebhardt was elected Chair, Mike Merten the Vice-Chair, Mike Jones as Treasurer, and Susan Olson as Secretary. The Roberts Creek TMDL Delisting, and a Soil Health Equipment grant were discussed. They continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Board of Water and Soil Resources on projects, and are addressing an issue with an installed grassed waterway and utilities in the area. A feasibility study is being looked into for a whitewater rapids installation. Livingston also reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District Meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 where they discussed a project with botched tile connections leading to lower crop yields in the field. A new contractor was hired, and the problem was fixed. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is now Minnesota Watersheds, and will be holding their June meeting in the Shell Rock, Turtle Creek and Cedar River Watershed Districts. The next meeting of the Cedar River Watershed District will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, with a public hearing and project introduction. Livingston reported attending the Cedar – Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Policy Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 01, 2023 at the Hormel Nature Center where they elected officers including Randy Smith as Chair, Rhonda Toquam as Vice-Chair, David Livingston as Secretary, and Paul Heers Jr. as Treasurer. The 5-year assessment of the plan was discussed.

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that the Hiawatha Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is dissolving.

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported attending the Southeast Technical Support Joint Powers Board meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 where the lease agreement with Olmsted County, and a cell phone policy were approved. New officers were elected, with Paul Heers Jr. elected as the new Chair. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has funds through the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) available for a workload analysis for the Technical Service Area and the 11 counties of the Southeast. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources staff will try to facilitate a meeting with the area Supervisors at the Area VII Resolutions meeting in June. Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District has received about 10% of the overall JPB workload, with a total of approximately \$754,000 worth of projects in the entire area. Scherger also reported attending the Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) meeting on Thursday, February 09, 2023 where there were a presentation showcasing projects, story maps, and Facebook ads were discussed. The Scheffler feedlot manure storage project in Goodhue County was approved.

Rick Albers, District I Supervisor

Rick Albers, 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, March 21, 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 9:15 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
<i>Richard Albers</i>	<i>Mar 21 -23</i>	Adam King

