



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

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Minutes of the June 21, 2022 Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

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

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer (in at 7:32 PM)
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; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Additions to the June 21, 2022 agenda include District Cost-Share Contract 2022 WAGZ-DC-02 (Chicos) Encumbrance and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Resolution 01-2022 'Resolution to Adopt Meeting Policy' under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the June 21, 2022 meeting agenda, as amended.
Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the May 17, 2022
Board Meeting Minutes:** The supervisors discussed the May 17, 2022 board meeting minutes and found no corrections to be made. A motion was made to approve the May 17, 2022 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as presented.
Motion: Bruce Freerksen
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Partner Agency Reports

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Report

David Copeland, Board Conservationist, BWSR, reported that the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources FY23 Local Capacity Services grant will be rolling out in late summer, with the amount to be \$120,899.00. Copeland also explained that the 2023 Clean Water Fund competitive grants will be rolling out on Monday, June 27th, with a deadline to apply being in August. Copeland will be part of the planning process for the upcoming BWSR Academy training, and the detailed schedule for the October dates should be available in mid-July. Copeland added that Rita Weaver, the lead engineer on the pilot water quality

and storage program, will be giving an update to the Board of Water and Soil Resources at the June 22, 2022 meeting. Copeland provided a congratulatory letter to the Board of Supervisors from John Jaschke, Executive Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, for 75 years of conservation in Dodge County.

Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, entered at 7:32 PM.

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, but provided a written NRCS Customer Service Team Update Report. The report included updates about the status of FY22 EQIP applications, FY22 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and CRP news. Kurer writes that the Local Work Group meeting to discuss 2023 suggestions was scheduled for 9:00 AM on June 14, 2022 at the Blooming Prairie City Hall. Kurer added details about NRCS personnel changes, including that a State Office geologist started on June 13th, 2022 in the Austin Field Office, and that Leanna Schneider of Austin accepted a new position as a Conservation Agronomist. Kurer explained that Schneider will still provide conservation planning for EQIP and CRP in Mower and Freeborn counties.

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

Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the May 2022 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$9,460.19, Expenditures of \$22,365.47, the General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$889.11. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the May 2022 Treasurer's Report, and payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$889.11.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

New Dodge SWCD Logo

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, presented a newly-designed logo to the supervisors that was developed in-house. The supervisors discussed the logo, deciding that adding the location of Dodge County to the design would be more effective, as well as updating the font to a more legible option. Samantha explained that with the fair coming up, as well as the 75th anniversary, the new logo rollout should be finalized as soon as possible. A motion was made to approve using the new logo design, as amended.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2023 Dodge SWCD Draft Preliminary Budget

Adam King, District Manager presented the 2023 draft preliminary budget, noting the addition of computer-replacement expenses, as well as discussion about the annual Dodge County appropriation amount. A finance committee meeting was set for July 8th, 2022 at 8:00 AM to further discuss the draft budget.

FY2023 BWSR MN CREP & Implementation Program Grant Agreement

Adam King, District Manager, explained that the FY23 BWSR MN CREP & Implementation program grant agreement needs signing and approving by the district, as the BWSR has approved the workplan submitted. King explained that the workplan

includes \$18,699.00 for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District, and \$32,000.00 for Pheasants Forever, for a total of \$50,699.00. A motion was made to approve the grant agreement for the FY23 BWSR MN CREP & Implementation program for the amount of \$50,699.00, and to sign the grant agreement.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Microsoft 365 Costs & Subscription for 2022 – 2023

Adam King, District Manager, presented updated pricing received for the 2023 Microsoft Office Suite subscription. King noted that currently, the district is paying \$5.00/employee/month (\$180.00/year), and that the pricing will go up \$1/employee/month, for a total of \$6/employee/month (\$216.00/year). A motion was made to approve keeping the Microsoft Office Suite subscription in 2023, with the increased cost.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

2023 Blue Cross – Blue Shield Health Insurance Plan Renewal

The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District has received the Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal Notice for 2023 (fiscal year September 01, 2022 – August 31, 2023). Adam King, District Manager, explained that the 2023 renewal rate for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for BlueAccess HSA Silver \$3,850 Plan 642 (current plan) is about a 4% increase from 2022, and that this plan has the option for the Health Savings Account (HSA) that the district contributed \$1,000.00/employee HSA in 2022. A motion was made to approve continuing employee health insurance with Blue Cross - Blue Shield, electing the same BlueAccess HSA Silver \$3,850 Plan 642 with \$1,000 going towards each employee's Health Savings Account in 2023, and renewing with the increased costs.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

2022 IRS Mileage Rate Change

Adam King, District Manager explained that currently, the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors receives a mileage rate set by the IRS at 58.5¢/mile, adding that the IRS mileage rate for 2022 will be increasing effective July 1, 2022 to 62.5¢/mile. A motion was made to approve increasing the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors mileage rate to match the IRS rate of 62.5¢/mile, effective July 1, 2022.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

2022 Dodge SWCD Outstanding Conservationist of the Year

Adam King, District Manager, presented the staff recommendation to nominate Craig and Wade Bishop of Westfield Township, explaining that Craig and Wade have enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP), and have practiced no-till / strip-till farming along with cover crops. A motion was made to approve nominating Craig and Wade Bishop of Westfield Township for the MASWCD Outstanding Conservationist of the Year.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

District Cost-Share Contract 2022-02 (Beaver) Encumbrance

Bryan Beaver of Hayfield, 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 in Section 7 of Vernon Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$20,891.00, and Beaver is requesting to encumber 75%, not to exceed \$15,668.25. A motion was made to approve

the encumbrance of district cost-share contract 2022-02 for Bryan Beaver for the installation of a 638-Water and Sediment Control Basin at 75% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$15,668.25.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

75th Anniversary Open House & Tour Date

Adam King, District Manager, explains that staff would like to begin planning for a 75th Anniversary open house and board tour. The staff recommended setting a date of September 20, 2022, using a bus or van transportation option for the tour, using Hy-Vee for catered sandwiches and sides, and holding the regular-scheduled board meeting in the evening. The Board of Supervisors agreed that staff can begin advertising for the event on September 20, 2022, and obtaining necessary quotes for transportation and food. The staff will also begin choosing a few sites to visit on the tour, including contacting those landowners for approval and to provide information on the event.

Other New Business

Dodge SWCD Resolution 01-2022 - Resolution to Adopt Meeting Policy

Adam King, District Manager, proposed a Resolution to Adopt Meeting Policy (Resolution 01-2022), which sets forth that the public is invited to attend the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meetings, but not invited to speak to the Board of Supervisors, unless specifically recognized by the Board Chair to speak on a specific topic for a specified amount of time. A motion was made to approve Larry Scherger, Board Chair, to sign and certify the resolution 01-2022 for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

Aye: Alberts, Freerksen, Scherger, Livingston, Hahn

District Cost-Share Contract 2022WAGZ-DC-02 (Chicos) Encumbrance

Dave Chicos 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, 410 Grade Stabilization to be installed in Section 13 of Ripley Township. The estimated cost for the practice is \$156,564.50, and Chicos is requesting to encumber 20%, not to exceed \$30,821.29. A motion was made to approve the encumbrance of district cost-share contract 2022WAGZ-DC-02 for Dave Chicos for the installation of a 412-Grassed Waterway at 20% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$30,821.29.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, reported that Jessica Bakken, District Technician, is back to work from maternity leave and working on getting projects on the ground, and Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, and has begun the 2021 Audit and also, she and Adam King have been working on the FY19 Local Capacity Services grant reconciliation.

Supervisor Reports

Root River Policy Committee

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported that there is a Root River Policy Committee Meeting on Monday, June 27th, 2022 in Preston.

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD)

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) meeting on May 18, 2022, where they announced Steve Lawler will be retiring, but that he still plans to be available 2-3 days per week to assist. Livingston added that Cody Fox, District Manager, Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District, seems to

be passionate and good fit for his position, as well as noting that Fox was approved as the Administrator for the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD).

Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) Policy Advisory Committee

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, reported that the WAGZ did not have a meeting in June, but will begin meeting again the second Thursday of the month in July.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that the May 23, 2022 RC&D meeting was cancelled.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, July 19, 2022 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.

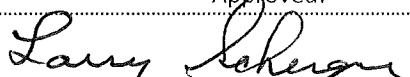
Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 09:21 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	7-19-22	Samantha Rojo

