



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

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Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927

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Minutes of the June 18, 2024

Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District

Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Larry Scherger, Board Chair, at 7:15 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; Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Additions to the June 18, 2024 board meeting agenda include Dodge Cover Crop Program Expenses under Unfinished Business, and FY25 Soil Health Delivery Grant under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the June 18, 2024 meeting agenda, as revised.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the May 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes: The supervisors discussed the May 21, 2024 board meeting minutes. Corrections include changing "Treasure" to "Treasurer" under the Treasurer's Report on page 2. A motion was made to approve the May 21, 2024 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as corrected.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Nathan Bird, 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 (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, Treasurer, presented the April and May 2024 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheets covering account balances, April revenues of \$14,612.77, May revenues \$95,620.77, April expenditures of \$20,942.98, May Expenditures of \$27,141.60, the general ledgers, and the aging summary with a payables total of \$2,586.42. The supervisors discussed the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report, and pay the bills on the aging summary for a payables total of \$2,586.42.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Personnel Committee Updates

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that Zachary Colton started on Monday, June 03, 2024 as the Soil Health Conservation Technician. King also informed the supervisors that Vanessa Miller started on Monday, June 17, 2024, and was unable to be at the office today.

Cover Crop Equipment Purchase

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported speaking with Mark Moenning, Cover Crop Contractor, and Kyle Larson, New and Used Equipment Sales, Minnesota Ag Group, about the Raven CR7 that the district had purchased from the Minnesota Ag Group, and it is not connecting with the Raven control unit equipment that is already on the tractor. Moenning, Larson and Zachary Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, will continue to work on options that will work with the existing Raven control unit.

New Business

2025 Draft Preliminary Budget

Adam King, District Manager, reviewed the 2025 Draft Preliminary Budget with the supervisors. The supervisors discussed the 2025 Draft Preliminary Budget, noting the amount for the Dodge County Appropriation. A Finance Committee was set for Tuesday, July 09, 2024 at 7:30 A.M.

2025 Local Partners Agreement Between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors Pheasants Forever Inc. has provided a Local Partners Agreement with the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District, which will allow Laura Newberg, Farm Bill Biologist II, Pheasants Forever, to continue working in the Dodge Center Service Center for FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). King noted the funding source of the position has changed, and the Dodge SWCD will not receive a large grant through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) but instead, Pheasants Forever will receive funds directly from the state. King explained that grant will support a full-time position at \$65,000/year, and requires a 10% match. Pheasants forever is asking for \$3,250 in match from the Dodge SWCD, with the remaining match coming from other

sources. A motion was made to approve, sign, and submit the FY25 Local Partners Agreement between the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District and Pheasants Forever Inc. for the Farm Bill Biologist II position stationed at the Dodge Center Service Center, with the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District providing \$3,250.00 in matching funds.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Training Request – SWCD Governance 101

Zachary Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, is requesting to attend the upcoming SWCD Governance 101 training put on by the Minnesota Association Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) July 16 – 17, 2024 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria, MN. Adam King, District Manager, noted the cost for registration is \$250.00, and one night of lodging will be needed if attendance is approved. A motion was made to send Zachary Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, to attend the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) SWCD Governance 101 at a cost of \$250.00 for registration plus a one-night hotel stay.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

FY2025 Soil Health Delivery Grant

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources have released a Request for Interest on a FY25 Soil Health Delivery Grant, with a maximum amount of \$60,000. The supervisors discussed the FY25 Soil Health Delivery Grant. A motion was made to authorize Adam King, District Manager, submit the Request for Interest for the FY25 Soil Health Delivery Grant to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for the maximum amount of \$60,000.00.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that he has been working with the Personnel Committee on hiring, getting Zachary Colton on board and up to speed with the district, that Jessica Klingfus has been busy in the field surveying and designing conservation projects, and Zac has been going through new employee orientation, and starting to take over the cover crop and no-till drill programs.

Supervisor Reports

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, reported attending the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Local Work Group on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 where top priority resource concerns were determined, and there were discussions about top resource concerns and the USDA. Hahn felt there was more discussion on wind erosion, trees, and tree plantings this year. It was also asked if there should be less “carrots” and more “sticks.”

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported that the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) board meeting will be held on June 20, 2024 due to the Juneteenth Holiday, and reported attending the Area VII Southeast Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SE MASWCD) Resolutions Meeting where they discussed changing the term limits for the SE MASWCD board, received updates from the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and the USDA – NRCS, and were provided an update on the BWSR FY25 Soil Health Delivery Grant and soil health programs. There was one resolution brought forward from Rice SWCD about leasing issues and working through the MASWCD and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) with the USDA on how districts can be included in the leasing process.

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, also reported attending the SE MASWCD Resolutions Meeting.

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor, did not provide a report.

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor

Bruce Freerksen, District II 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, July 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 to adjourn at 9:24 P.M.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	June 18 - 21	Adam King