



**Minutes of the May 17, 2022 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's  
Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Larry Scherger at 7:18 P.M.

**Members Present:** Larry Scherger, Chair  
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer  
David Livingston, Secretary  
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (in at 7:39)

**Members Absent:** Rick Alberts, Vice – Chair

**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** – There were no additions or corrections to the May 17, 2022 agenda. A motion was made to approve the May 17, 2022 meeting agenda, as presented.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the April 19, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes** – The supervisors discussed the April 19, 2022 board meeting minutes. There were no corrections to the April 19, 2022 board meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the April 19, 2022 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

**Partner Agency Reports**

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Report**

David Copeland, Board Conservationist, BWSR, reported that the BWSR is working on the next generation of ELINK, their reporting system, and hope to have it rolled out before October in order to hold trainings at the BWSR Academy. At their last meeting the BWSR Board approved SWCD Capacity Grants, with the Dodge SWCD to receive \$120,899.00 for 2023. Only half of the \$3 Million in Soil Health Grants were applied for, so BWSR will make the grants available once again during the competitive Clean Water Fund sign-up. Copland reported on new hires at BWSR, including Melissa King, Water Programs Coordinator, John Shea, Board Conservationist in Southwest Minnesota, and Patty Sweep, Human Resources Director. Current openings include the Assistant Director for Strategy and Operations, and a Board Conservationist in the metro area.

### **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. Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the NRCS has been working on the Local Work Group, and that they are trying to hire positions for the Dodge Center Field Office.

### **Dodge County Commissioner's Report**

John Allen, Dodge County District I Commissioner, was unable to attend the meeting.

Bruce Freerksen entered at 7:39 P.M.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills** – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the April 2022 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$8,951.01, Expenditures of \$28,569.72, the General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$12,454.93. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report noting the amount received from the Tree Sale for the year. A motion was made to approve the April 2022 Treasurer's Report, and payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$12,454.93.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **New Dodge SWCD Logo**

Adam King, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the updated logo continues to be developed.

#### **Potential NACD Grant(s)**

Adam King, District Manager, explained that the Dodge SWCD was approached by Matt Kruger, Land O' Lakes Sustain, to discuss a potential shared position between the Dodge SWCD and Central Farm Services (CFS). This position would serve as a link between the private sector and the public sector, with funding to be applied for through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). King reviewed what was discussed in meetings with CFS, Land O' Lakes Sustain, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and other SWCDs that were approached about a shared position.

King also discussed another potential grant to hire as second District Technician to assist with reaching out to those landowners in targeted areas identified in our watershed plans, and help support NRCS programs by assisting with enrollment into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

A motion was made to allow Adam King, District Manager, to apply for National Association of Conservation District (NACD) grants to fund additional positions at the Dodge SWCD.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **Dodge County Appropriation Request Letter**

Adam King, District Manager, presented a letter addressed to Jim Elmquist, County Administrator, Dodge County, requesting payment of the Appropriation to the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. Larry Scherger, Chair, signed the letter.

## **Other New Business**

There was no Other New Business.

## **Public Comment**

Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident, reported on the Bench<sup>3</sup> Initiative, and that her identity had been stolen and mixed up with another Nancy Peterson from Dodge Center, MN. Peterson read a letter from State Representative Duane Quam, and provided copies of the Rochester Women Magazine.

## **Correspondence & Staff Report**

Adam King, District Manager, reported that staff and their children have been sick. Jessica Bakken, District Technician, is set to return on Monday, May 23, 2022. The candidate filing period opens today, Tuesday, May 17, 2022 and will remain open for two weeks, until Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Supervisor Districts III and VI are up for election this year.

## **Supervisor Reports**

Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District meeting on April 20, 2022 where they were informed that Leanna Schneider, Soil Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is going to be the new Conservation Agronomist for the NRCS in Mower County, and Cody Fox is the new Cedar River Watershed District Administrator, and Mower Soil and Water Conservation District Manager. Justin Hanson gave a going away speech. The CRWD has the first 50% of their BWSR grant spent for the Dobbins watershed, and there is currently a large sinkhole project. Mattie Merten has been brought on as the summer intern, and trout have been stocked in Wolf Creek. A fish kill has been reported in East Side Lake and it's believed to be caused by the warm water in the lake. The next CRWD meeting will be held May 18, 2022.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported that the next RC&D meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2022.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center, 916 2<sup>nd</sup> Street S.E., 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: Larry Scherger Date: 6-21-22 Recorder: Adam King  
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**Supervisors: Rick Alberts – Bruce Freerksen– Larry Scherger – David Livingston – Glenn Hahn**