



DODGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

916 2nd Street SE
Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927
Phone: 507-374-6364 ext. 3

Minutes of the April 19, 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 7:14 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice – Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary (Late)
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I (Late)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: 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 April 19, 2022 board meeting agenda include Dodge County Wind Project under Other New Business. A motion was made to approve the April 19, 2022 meeting agenda, as amended.

Motion: Rick Alberts
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Rick Alberts
The motion carried unanimously.

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, attended the meeting in person, and relayed how thankful he is being able to attend meetings face-to-face again. Copeland noted having recently joined a few other board meetings for area soil & water conservation districts, as well as attending a large MN Board of Water and Soil Resources staff meeting in Mankato. Copeland explained that the first Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant was executed 2 years ago, and now they are working toward having the second grant executed by summer. Copeland added that Justin Hanson from Mower Soil & Water Conservation District has taken a new position with the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, they also filled the board conservationist positions, and are still seeking candidates for a grant coordinator position.

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

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

Bruce Freerksen entered at 7:20 PM.

David Livingston entered at 7:28 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and Payment of New Bills – Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the March 2022 Balance Sheet, Revenues of \$18,878.94, Expenditures of \$26,928.48, the General Ledger, and Aging Summary with a payables total of \$1,751.42. The supervisors discussed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the March 2022 Treasurer's Report, and payment of the bills on the Aging Summary, for a payables total of \$1,751.42.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Fuel Fleet Card

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, informed the supervisors that the district applied for the P-Fleet fuel card, but was denied on the application, adding the reason being due to the volume of total charges we are anticipating to incur throughout a given month (the district being a low-charging entity). The supervisors would like to further discuss options for a credit card, but agreed to table it until the next board meeting.

Sale of 2005 Dodge Ram 1500

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, informed the supervisors about the quotes received for the 2005 Dodge Ram 1500. The supervisors discussed the quotes and sale options, and made a motion to sell the Dodge to the highest bidder.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

New Dodge SWCD Logo

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

New Business

Termination of Sub-Agreement between Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District and Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Watershed Based Implementation Funding in the Root River Watershed

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, informed the supervisors that the sub-agreement has been formally terminated between the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the watershed-based implementation funding of the Root River One Watershed One Plan, as Winona Soil and Water Conservation District has opted to no longer act as the fiscal agent. A motion was made to accept the Termination of Sub-Agreement between Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District and Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Watershed Based Implementation Funding in the Root River Watershed.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Sub-Agreement between Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for Watershed Based Implementation Funding in the Root River Watershed

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, presented the supervisors with the sub-agreement between the between the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the watershed-based implementation funding of the Root River One Watershed One Plan. Rojo explained that this agreement will allow funds to be spent by Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District, and that previously, Winona County Soil & Water Conservation District was the fiscal agent on this grant. A motion was made to approve Larry Scherger, Board Chair, to sign the sub-agreement between the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the watershed-based implementation funding of the Root River One Watershed, One Plan.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Surface Water Sample Analysis Contract

Adam King, District Manager, contacted four laboratories for quotes to analyze surface water quality samples from our surface water quality monitoring site, including Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, RMB Environmental Laboratories, UC Laboratory, and Olmsted County's Southeastern Minnesota Water Analysis Laboratory. Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, presented the quotes obtained and staff recommendation of using Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, largely due to the comparable pricing, as well as not needing a currier for the sample transportation. A motion was made to approve Adam King, District Manager, to accept the quote from Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories Inc. and move forward using this lab for surface water quality sample analysis for the monitoring site.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

2022 Dodge County Fair

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, presented the supervisors with the 2022 Dodge County Free Fair registration information, including the costs for the various booth spaces and deposit, noting that prices have not changed, and the district rented an 8x10 booth in 2021 as well. A motion was made to approve the spending of \$150.00 for an 8x10 booth, and \$100.00 for a booth deposit at the Dodge County Fair, if space is available.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Training Request – 2022 SWCD Administrative Session

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, presented information regarding the 2022 state-wide Soil & Water Conservation Districts Administrative Session from June 29-30, 2022 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, MN. Rojo noted the cost for registration being \$95.00 and two-nights lodging at the resort necessary, with room rates of \$149.00/night. A motion was made to approve sending Samantha Rojo to the 2022 SWCD Administrative Session, including payment of the resort fees and session registration.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Bruce Freerksen

The motion carried unanimously.

Cost-Share Contract 2022 WAGZ-DC-01 (Bill Smith)

Bill Smith, of West Concord, MN is requesting cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the installation of a 412-Grassed Waterway in Section 10 of Ellington Township. The total estimated cost of the practice is \$27,703.05 and he is requesting to encumber 90%, not exceeding

\$24,932.75. A motion was made to approve and encumber 90% of total estimated costs, not to exceed \$24,932.75, from the Watershed Based Implementation Funding for the Zumbro One Watershed, One Plan, for District Cost-Share Contract 2022 WAGZ-DC-01 (Bill Smith) installing a 412-Grassed Waterway.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried.

Potential NACD Grant(s)

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, explained that the district was approached by Matt Kruger of Land O' Lakes Sustain and Central Farm Services (CFS) to discuss a shared position between CFS and the Dodge SWCD. This position would serve as a link between the private sector and the public sector, and the funding would be applied for through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Rojo noted that this would be a one-year grant, and would potentially have an opportunity for additional years. Rojo states that another grant available through the NACD could be used with Watershed Based Implementation Funds to match the NACD grant for a District Technician position, adding that currently there are funds enough to fund a part-time technician, but not a full-time technician. This position would be able to reach out to those targeted areas identified in our watershed plans and fill the void left by the NRCS by enrolling landowners into federal programs. The supervisors agreed to table the subject of NACD grants until the next board meeting.

Other New Business

Dodge County Wind Project

Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented information received via mail from the Dodge County Wind Project, adding that many of Dodge County Wind Project's recent meetings, both in-person and via Zoom, have been cancelled repeatedly. Hahn explained the company appears to be looking to extend power over to Byron, and noting he believes they are trying to connect with Great River Energy. Hahn explains his concern with the project, particularly that the lines can sway up to fifty (50) feet in ice or wind storms. Hahn is frustrated by the 'high line' payment system being used by companies like Dodge County Wind Project, adding that it's a one-time payment only and he believes that is a risky situation for land-owners.

Correspondence & Staff Report

Samantha Rojo, Administrative Professional, informed the supervisors that any new resolutions for the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) need to be turned in by July 21, 2022, and the MASWCD will be having a meeting on June 28, 2022 to discuss resolutions submitted. Rojo also added that Jessica Bakken, District Technician, is still out on maternity leave until the end of May, and the annual tree sale is coming up on May 5-6th.

Supervisor Reports

Cedar River Watershed District – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the Cedar River Watershed District meeting on March 16, 2022. Livingston explained that there was an Iowa Department of Natural Resources spokesman in attendance at the meeting who had some interesting information to present.

Cedar – Wapsipinicon Watershed (CWW) Policy Advisory Committee – David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, reported attending the CWW Policy Advisory Committee meeting on April 6, 2022. Livingston noted that Jeanne Crump, Administrator for the Mower Soil & Water Conservation District, made a very helpful spreadsheet, adding that there is a good amount of money to be spent yet.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) – Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, reported attending a Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council meeting on March 28th, 2022, adding that they have added and cleaned up some of the bylaws, and they’re currently reaching out to other organizations to provide assistance.

Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) Policy Advisory Committee – Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, noted that the WAGZ Policy Advisory Committee meetings have moved to quarterly as opposed to monthly and there was no meeting being held in April.

Public Comment – Nancy Peterson, Dodge County Resident, provided public comment on various current community happenings, including her involvement with Together Greater United Rochester and bridging the gap to poverty.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, May 17, 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 9:43 P.M.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: Larry Scherger Date: 5-17-22

Recorder: Samantha Rojo

