



MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, June 1, 2017

8:30 a.m.

4100 220th Street, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Kevin Chamberlain, Vice Chair
Chelsea Skog, Secretary
Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer
Bruce Johnson, Public Relations

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Lana Rotty
Curt Coudron
Todd Matzke
John Stelzner
Danielle Palm, MCC

Others Present:

Michelle Wohlers, NRCS
Karen Jokela, NRCS

1. Call to Order

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Zanmiller led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation

Todd Matzke, Resource Conservationist, provided a presentation on the Agricultural Engineering Program.

4. Audience

Chair Zanmiller asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the board on an item that is not on the agenda. No one appeared.

Watson introduced Danielle Palm, Minnesota Conservation Corps Intern. He stated that she will be working here through August 11th. Dani provided information on her educational background and work experiences.

Karen Jokela, introduced herself as an employee of the Xerces Society in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She is the Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner and NRCS Partner Biologist and will be supporting the local and regional landowners with pollinator habitat on their lands.

5. Approval of Agenda

17.052 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to approve the agenda as presented. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

6. Secretary's Report – May 2, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

17.053 Motion by Skog, second by Dee to approve the May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1 June 1, 2017 Accounts Payable

17.054 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the June 1, 2017 Accounts Payable. Members voting yes: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

7.2 May 31, 2017 Financial Report

17.055 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept the May 31, 2017 Financial Report, subject to audit. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8. Finance Committee

8.1 Review 1st Quarter Finance Report

Dee stated that the Finance Committee met on May 23rd to review revenues and expenditures for the first quarter. Watson added that both revenues and expenditures are anticipated to be a slightly higher than the 2017 adopted budget. Watson noted that the committee changes in the revenue and expenditures are reflected in the working budget column of the referenced document. The anticipated year end finances from this point forward will largely depend on the number and scope of projects installed. Dee commented that with commodity prices low, she wondered if that will influence landowner willingness to proceed with conservation projects. Dee added that the finance committee will continue to meet quarterly.

9. Rural Lands Committee

9.1 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to George Hallcock for Installation of Lined Outlet 17-IPP-01

Coudron provided an overview of the George Hallcock project for the installation of a lined outlet. He stated that this project repaired and stabilized a gully using synthetic turf reinforcement mat. The total project cost was \$1,231.82. Matzke further reviewed the drainage issues that preceded the project installation. Dee commented on how rapidly this project was installed.

17.056 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to provide final payment to George Hallcock for installation of a lined outlet Section 34, Castle Rock Township, Cannon River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$923.87. Members voting yes: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

9.2 Authorization to Execute Contract with Eugene Kimmes for Installation of Diversion, Grassed Waterway and Critical Area Planting 17-IPP-04

Coudron provided an overview of the Eugene Kimmes cost-share request for the installation of a 1,040 foot diversion, reconstruction of a 1,260 foot grassed waterway, and a 1.75 acre critical area planting. The critical area planting is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Coudron stated that a 1,200 foot long gully has formed along the south side of an existing grassed waterway. He further explained that gullies have also formed on both sides of the existing drainage ditch that flows through his property. A diversion will be installed adjacent to 250th street to direct runoff into the existing grassed waterway which will be reconstructed to current practice standards. The grassed waterway then outlets to a drainage ditch. The

banks of the drainage ditch will be graded to allow better sheet flow from the fields to enter the drainage ditch and prevent the formation of gullies along the sides. Fifty-foot wide native grass filter strips will be planted on both sides of the drainage ditch for approximately 750 linear feet. The project will reduce erosion and sediment loading within the Trout Brook watershed and is designated as a priority location based on cost-effectiveness. As a priority location, the project is eligible for up to 90% cost share. The total project cost is estimated at \$21,900.

17.057 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with Eugene Kimmes for installation of diversion, grassed waterway and critical area planting in Section 14, Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed at 90% cost share, not to exceed \$19,710. Members voting yes: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zannmiller. Motion carried.

10. Committee of the Whole

10.1 Adopt Resolution Identifying “Other Watercourses” Under Minnesota Buffer Law

Watson stated that the Minnesota Buffer Law was signed in June of 2015 and was subsequently amended in August of 2016. Minnesota Statute 103F.48, the Buffer Law, requires soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to develop, adopt, and submit to each local water management authority within its boundary a summary of “other watercourses” to include in the local water management authority's plan.

The Buffer Law recognizes that cultivated lands adjacent to “other watercourses” not identified on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Buffer Protection Map may benefit from the installation of vegetated buffers or alternative practices to protect or improve water quality. It also establishes a process for SWCDs to initiate a local riparian protection program that is incorporated into local water management plans.

Watson explained that review and consultation occurred with each of the six watershed management authorities located within Dakota County to obtain feedback regarding additional watercourses. Watson stated that no “other watercourses” are proposed within the Black Dog, Eagan-Inver Grove Heights, and Lower Mississippi River WMOs and the Lower Minnesota River WD. The North Cannon River WMO is adding the watercourses identified in Figure 2.3 of existing watershed plan and the Vermillion River Watershed JPO, is adding the watercourses identified in Map 1 of existing watershed plan (see documents).

Watson added that the identification of “other watercourses” does not make these areas subject to the regulatory requirements of the Minnesota Buffer Law.

17.058 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adopt the resolution identifying “other watercourses” under the Minnesota Buffer Law as written in Resolution 2017-01 entitled Local Water Resources Riparian Protection in Dakota County. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

10.2 Review and Consider Policy Resolutions

Watson distributed a draft resolution for consideration. The resolution looks at having the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) work with the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service for developing policy that would allow for the sharing of federal Conservation Reserve Program information. General discussion followed.

11. Interagency Reports and Announcements

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michelle Wohlers provided the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) agency report. She stated that the office is working on contracts for the 12 landowners funded through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The projects include irrigation water management, cover crops, season high tunnel, basins,

grazing plans, and planting plans. Those contracts must be finalized this week. The 2018 application deadline is August 18.

Regarding the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program, she indicated that they had a total of 13 landowners apply and it appears that five will be funded. There were some issues with eligibility requirements between agencies and this unfortunately resulted in several unfunded contracts. She also noted that statewide, they received significantly more applications than there was funding available.

They have ten Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts with possibly an additional ten more. The focus of the Conservation Reserve Program is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), if that land does not include CREP, it will be moved to a 2018 application.

Wohlers stated that she is working with Karen on inter-agency training and learning about pollinator needs in Dakota County and beyond.

Watson added with the MAWQCP it was unfortunate that there was miscommunication between agencies for eligibility. He also noted that we may need to discuss a potential amendment to Cost-Share policies to include cost-share on cover crops.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Watson provided the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts report. He stated that the Area meeting and summer tour is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12 and distributed the agenda and meeting information.

Metro Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board

Zanmiller provided the Metro Conservation District Joint Powers Board report. She stated that the process of identifying "other watercourses" on the buffer maps was discussed. She also stated that the group is setting up a google document that will identify resources that can be shared throughout the area. Watson added that this is basically a cross-training opportunity. For instance, he noted that we have staff that have expertise with native plantings and may be able to offer some assistance to another of the SWCDs. They are also anticipating this to help with technical approval authority issues. Zanmiller further stated that the Children's Water Festival is being expanded and will include more local schools and a lottery system will be implemented for the selection of attendees.

Dakota County

Brad Becker provided the Dakota County report. This included an update on the Dakota County septic system program. Dakota County has jurisdiction on septic systems installed in shoreland and floodplain areas, Randolph Township, and the cities of Randolph and New Trier.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency administers this statewide regulation. However, the Dakota County ordinance has a few more requirements than the State program. Such as, property transfers with septic systems must be inspected prior to the transfer and the seller is responsible to disclose any issues. They also require slightly larger holding tanks for certain sites. All septic systems within the county must be pumped every 3 years. If the county does not receive a record of pumping, they send landowner letters regardless of jurisdiction.

The County currently has a low income loan program available to all landowners in the county. This program offers a payment not to exceed \$10,000. The County has recently implemented a new tax assessment program, allowing landowners that install a new septic system to have the option of assessing that payment over a certain number of years.

Becker stated that cities and townships can turn down regulatory authority with a six month notice. Waterford Township is giving up their regulatory authority as of July 6, 2017.

Becker further stated that another change to this program is that Michael Rutten, Environmental Specialist, is retiring effective September 29. Michael has worked at the county for approximately 30 years and one of his primary duties is to oversee the County Septic System ordinance. That vacancy has been announced and is scheduled to close on June 11.

Becker also stated that in mid-June there will be more information available on the City of Randolph Septic System issue.

Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee

Watson reported that at the May 3 meeting, the Policy Committee executed a contract with Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) for facilitating input and writing of the watershed plan. He stated that the public kick-off meeting was held last night. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for August 3.

12. Upcoming Meetings and Events

Zanmiller noted that the next Board meeting will be Thursday, July 6 and gave another reminder of the tour scheduled for July 12.

13. District Managers Report

Watson stated that with the end to the legislative session it appears Local Capacity Funding will still come from the Clean Water Fund. Watson added that Governor Dayton's letters to the legislative body mentioned the work of soil and water conservation districts. One letter specifically stated that if there is a surplus in the state budget in November, some of that surplus should be designated for soil and water conservation districts.

Watson also stated that we are in the process of getting email accounts for each of the Supervisors.

14. Adjourn

17.059 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog, Secretary