



## MEETING MINUTES

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

#### DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, June 7, 2018

9:00 a.m.

4100 220<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
Farmington, Minnesota

**Board Members Present:**

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

**SWCD Staff Present:**

Brian Watson  
Lana Rotty  
Curt Coudron  
Ashely Gallagher  
Liz Dengate  
Lindsey Albright

**Others Present:**

Katie Truab, MN Conservation Corps Intern

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**3. Presentation – *Soil Health and Soil Quality.***

Ashley Gallagher, Resource Conservationist, provided a presentation on Soil Health and Soil Quality.

**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 then introduced Katie Traub, Minnesota Conservation Corps Intern. Katie provided information on her educational background and work experiences.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

**18.056 Motion** by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

## 6. Secretary's Report – May 2, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

**18.057** Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to approve the May 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dee questioned if the Lower Mississippi River WMO had approved the Agreement for Services Related to Implementing the Cherokee Heights Stormwater Management and Ravine Stabilization Project, and she also inquired if the landslide along Highway 13 that happened a few weeks ago was near this project area. Watson stated the agreement has been approved. Zanmiller indicated that the recent landslide was not in the Cherokee Heights area.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

### 6.1 June 7, 2018 Accounts Payable

**18.058** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the June 7, 2018 Accounts Payable. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

### 6.2 May 31, 2018 Financial Report

**18.059** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept the May 31, 2018 Financial Report, subject to audit. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

## 8. Rural Lands Committee

### 8.1 Authorization to Execute Contract with Bryce Kimmes for the Installation of a Cover Crop

Coudron stated that Bryce Kimmes is proposing to seed an oats and radish cover crop on 80-acres following sweet corn harvest in late August to early September. The soil protection and soil building properties provided by a cover crop are especially important after canning crops such as peas or sweet corn as the risk for erosion is greater due to the earlier harvest.

The 80-acre parcel is located in Marshan Township and an area with vulnerable groundwater. The cover crop helps to retain nutrients such as nitrate and reduces the threat of it leaching into groundwater resources.

**18.060** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Bryce Kimmes for Installation of Cover Crop on 80 acres in Section 33, Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed at \$25 per acre. Members voting yes: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

## 9. Community Development Committee

### 9.1 Authorization to Amend Agreement with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

Watson stated that Joe Barten has been working with the LMRWD to amend our existing annual agreement. The changes include adding a series of our Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) workshops, the making of promotional materials, and funding for up to six LCW projects and funding for technical assistance for those projects. There is no charge shown in the work plan this year for the LCW workshops as they have already occurred, however, it is a placeholder for upcoming work plans as the LMRWD has indicated a willingness to contribute funding to our LCW program in the future.

The agreement provides funding for up to \$10,000 in general technical assistance when requested by the LMRWD. Staff assistance is anticipated to be associated with implementing their cost share programs, assistance with water quality studies, or making of informational materials on matters pertinent to the LMRWD. The amendment includes additional revenues up to \$15,460 and based on LMRWD requests.

**18.061** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to amend Agreement for Services with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District at an amount not to exceed \$23,960. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

## **9.2 Landscaping for Clean Water – Round 2 Application Update**

Liz Dengate provided the Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) Program update. She stated that the second grant application period ended May 31. They received 37 applications, 11 more than the first round. This round positioned us at or over the total amount of grants offered in the Egan Inver Grove Heights and Lower Mississippi River WMOs. Staff are reaching out to the WMOs to see if there is willingness to increase the number of grants offered. Dengate also stated that three of the six grants offered from the LMRWD have been awarded and 19 of the 25 from the VRW JPO have also been awarded. She added that there is always a chance that some landowners may not complete their project. Dengate summarized that a total of 63 applications have been awarded to date, while last year 52 projects were completed. She stated that round three ends on July 23 and is usually the lowest number of applications; however, there is one more introductory workshop and one more design class to be held.

Dengate added that this increased participation over past years is great, but it does remind us that we need to review our capacity to handle the tasks so that the appropriate assistance can be provided.

## **10. Committee of the Whole**

### **10.1 Update on Social Media Accounts**

Dengate stated that as of March 2018, Dakota SWCD had been actively using three social media platforms to inform and educate the public: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

She gave a brief presentation of how these three platforms are being used. Including, how Board Supervisors and staff can follow the accounts, future goals of using social media, and current metrics on public engagement and followers.

Dengate added that the current plan includes three Facebook posts per week, two twitter posts per day and possibly some re-tweets, and three Instagram posts per week. Instagram, which is mostly sharing of pictures, is our fastest growing media account.

She further stated that the VRW JPO is very active and they have been sharing our information. Watson added that we did meet with the VRW JPO and are coordinating with them on education and outreach materials. Supervisor Dee asked if we have been in coordination with the County social media staff. Watson replied that we have not yet been coordinating with their staff. Chamberlain asked about the time commitment on the social media accounts. Dengate responded that it can be anywhere from a few minutes to an hour per day. She further added that she can schedule posts ahead of time as well. "Next door" was also mentioned and Dengate will look into that as another platform.

### **10.2 Authorization to Submit Collaborative Plan to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for Watershed Based Funding and to Execute Grant Agreement if Awarded**

Watson stated that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) adopted policy for distributing legislative funding under a Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program. Adopted policy included allocations for both the 7-County Metro area and areas in greater Minnesota who have completed watershed based plans.

At our March Board meeting, action was taken to support the collaborative approach for the Dakota County allocation rather than a competitive approach for accessing these grant funds. Staff have been working with BWSR and each of the watershed management authorities within Dakota County to develop a collaborative plan. A total of \$1,018,000 is available to the six watershed management authorities within Dakota County and the SWCD. The final collaborative plan is due to BWSR on July 2, 2018.

Funding allocations are:

Black Dog WMO	\$114,890
Dakota SWCD	\$100,000
Eagan-Inver Grove Heights WMO	\$124,160
Lower Minnesota River WD	\$ 65,450
Lower Mississippi River WM	\$133,430
North Cannon River WMO	\$136,520
Vermillion River Watershed	<u>\$ 343,550</u>
Total:	\$1,018,000

We are continuing to refine the collaborative plan and some projects may be combined prior to submittal of the final document. Once the collaborative plan is submitted and approved, each entity will be responsible for developing their work plan and executing a grant agreement with BWSR.

**18.062** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson authorizing staff to submit to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources the Watershed Based Funding Agreement and execute the agreement if awarded. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

**10.3 Consider Resolutions for Submittal to the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

Watson stated that the call for 2018 resolutions has been made by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). Resolutions adopted locally will be considered regionally at the next MASWCD Metro Area meeting scheduled for June 20.

The resolution process is the means by which locals SWCD Boards can identify needs and issues and bring them before the MASWCD membership for review and action. This process provides a forum for education and information to SWCD Board members on statewide conservation issues. The resolutions also provide guidance and direction to the MASWCD Board of Directors.

Zanmiller stated that this resolution is needed as the pilot Watershed Based Funding approach has eliminated authorities of Metro Area Soil and Water Conservation Districts and creates inequality compared to all other SWCD roles in the State. The resolution summary is as follows:

Equal Opportunity Under Watershed Based Funding

This resolution will seek MASWCD involvement to ensure that 7-County Metro SWCD Board of Supervisors have the same opportunity to be involved in the prioritization and targeting of activities under the One Watershed, One Plan process as other local units of government involved in One Watershed, One Plan planning and implementation.

**18.063** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve resolution entitled Equal Opportunity Under Watershed Based Funding; and to submit to Metro Conservation Districts for review and consideration. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

**11. Interagency Reports and Announcements**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

There was no Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) agency report provided.

**Dakota County**

There was no Dakota County report provided.

### **Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

Zanmiller and Watson stated that they met on May 30. Ramsey Conservation District reported that their Board will be disbanded effective June 12, 2018. All duties will be transferred to Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. They remain eligible for funding.

Watson added that there is an inventory of equipment, and SWCDs have identified items that are available for use and those that are obsolete. With the enhanced technical assistance funds, Washington Conservation District will be purchasing a Trimble R10 and Scott SWCD will be purchasing a Trimble Total Station yet this year.

Watson noted that the Metro Area meeting and summer tour has been scheduled for June 20, 2018 and will be hosted by Scott SWCD. Watson provided an overview of the events scheduled for the day. Dee added that later that day she will be attending a boat tour of the Minnesota River hosted by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. Coudron will also be attending that same event.

Watson also provided information on the Locally Led Training Workshops that will be held to enhance the local working groups and associated conservation activities and programs between soil and water conservation districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. There are six workshops scheduled and registration is requested.

Watson provided information on the MASWCD Washington DC Leadership Institute the week of July 9 and the MASWCD Leadership Institute that spans 2018 to 2019. Dee has been asked to attend the DC Leadership Institute July 9 -12, 2008 and Coudron has requested to attend the Leadership Institute from August 2018 to August 2019.

**18.064** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson authorizing registration and expenses for Dee to attend the MASWCD Washington DC Leadership Institute and for Coudron to attend the MASWCD Leadership Institute 2018 to 2019. Members voting yes: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

### **Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board**

There was no Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board report provided.

### **Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee**

Watson stated that the next meeting is scheduled for June 27. The agenda will include a draft Joint Powers Agreement with options to review and discuss.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Zanmiller noted upcoming events.

### **District Managers Report**

Watson noted that the Minnesota Conservation Crew is currently completing raingarden maintenance. Today they are working on the raingarden located at the Conservation Center. Coudron added that they will also be working on a channel stabilization project at Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

Watson reminded the Supervisors that a short tour would follow the meeting. Available Supervisors toured various conservation projects and a demonstration of the Vermillion River Watershed Outlet Monitoring program located at Vermillion River fall in Hastings was provided.

**Adjourn**

**18.065** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog, Secretary