



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, August 2, 2018

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th 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
Ashley Gallagher
Joe Barten
Liz Dengate
Todd Matzke

Others Present:

Michelle Wohlers, NRCS

1. Call to Order

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. 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.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Secretary's Report – July 5, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

18.079 Motion by Johnson, second by Zanmiller to approve the July 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 August 2, 2018 Accounts Payable

18.080 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the August 2, 2018 Accounts Payable. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

6.2 July 31, 2018 Financial Report

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

7. Finance Committee

7.1 Approve 2nd Quarter Finance Report

Dee stated that the Finance Committee met on July 20 to review year-to date revenues and expenditures. There were no recommended budget changes at this time. The report, as is, reflects an estimated loss in revenue for the calendar year. However, when considering plus and minus adjustments, we are estimating an increase in revenue for the calendar year.

18.082 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the 2nd Quarter Finance Committee Report. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8. Rural Lands Committee

8.1 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Mike Conzemius on behalf of Farmer John LP for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin

Coudron stated that Mike Conzemius has completed the installation a water and sediment control basin. He explained that gully erosion was occurring in his field adjacent to Trout Brook. A water and sediment control basin was installed to retain runoff and reduce the erosion. This project was identified as a Priority Location in the Trout Brook Sub-Watershed Analysis (SWA), which prioritized the most cost effective projects to reduce the sediment transport to Trout Brook. The project was approved for funding at the April 5,2018 Board meeting at 90% cost share based on a cost estimate of \$3,400. Final project cost was \$4,125.

18.083 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to Mike Conzemius for installation of water and sediment control basin in Section 28, Douglas Township, Cannon River Watershed at 90% cost share, not to exceed \$3,060. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

8.2 Authorization to Execute Contract with Nick Weiland for Installation of Grassed Waterway

Coudron stated that Nick Weiland is proposing to reconstruct a grassed waterway. Gully erosion is occurring along the edge of the existing waterway, sediment has built up within the existing waterway reducing its capacity to function properly, and gully erosion is occurring at the outlet to the road right of way. These circumstances make a full design and rebuild of the grassed waterway necessary. Approximately 1,000 feet of grassed waterway will be reconstructed to reduce erosion and sedimentation. The total project cost is estimated at \$10,500.

18.084 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to execute contract with Nick Weiland for installation of grassed waterway in Section 3, Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$7,875. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

8.3 Authorization to Execute Contract with Lloyd Peine for Installation of Grassed Waterway

Coudron stated that Lloyd Peine is proposing to reconstruct two grassed waterways in the Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. Water runoff is creating gullies adjacent to an existing grassed waterway that has exceeded its expected lifespan. A 100-foot and 1,200-foot grassed waterway will be reconstructed to reduce erosion and sediment loading to downstream waterbodies and Trout Brook. Total project cost is estimated at \$9,400.

Chamberlain asked if the neighboring waterway would be able to handle the flow from this reconstructed waterway. Gallagher responded that she spoke with the neighboring landowner, inspected the entire waterway and determined that it is functioning well and can handle this flow.

18.085 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with Lloyd Peine for installation of waterway in Section 13, Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$7,050. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

8.4 Authorization to Execute Contract with Duane Kimmes for Establishment of Cover Crops

Coudron stated that Duane Kimmes is proposing to annually establish cover crops on 100 acres over a three year period. This field has been identified as being highly susceptible to groundwater contamination.

Establishing a cover crop helps to retain nutrients such as nitrate and reduce the threat of nutrients leaching into groundwater resources. A seed mix of oats or rye will follow sweet corn, soybeans, snap beans or field corn depending on the year. A seeding plan has been prepared and approved. SWCD staff will certify cover crop establishment each year.

18.086 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Duane Kimmes for establishment of cover crops on 100 acres in Section 17, Marsan Township, Vermillion River Watershed at \$35 per acre, not to exceed \$10,500. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

8.5 Authorization to Execute Contract with Steve Wagner for Establishment of Cover Crops

Coudron stated that Steve Wagner is proposing to annually establish cover crops on 65 acres over a three year period. This field has been identified as being highly susceptible to groundwater contamination.

Establishing cover crops help to retain nutrients such as nitrate and reduce the threat of nutrients leaching into groundwater resources. A seed mix of rye will follow sweet corn or field corn depending upon the year. A seeding plan has been prepared and approved. SWCD staff will certify cover crop establishment each year.

18.087 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Steve Wagner for establishment of cover crops on 65 acres in Section 31 and 36 of Nininger Township, Vermillion River Watershed at \$35 per acre, not to exceed \$6,825. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

8.6 Authorization to Execute Contract with Roger Peine for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basins and Critical Area Planting

Coudron stated that Roger Peine is proposing to construct two water and sediment control basins and install a 300-foot long by 30-foot wide critical area planting. Water runoff is creating gullies and soil loss at the locations of the proposed projects. The project will reduce erosion and sediment loads to downstream waterbodies and Trout Brook. Total project cost is estimated at \$26,200.

18.088 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract with Roger Peine for installation of two water and sediment control basins and a critical area planting in Section 23, Douglas Township, Cannon

River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$19,650. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

8.7 Authorization to Execute Contract with Angela Beissel for Installation of Grassed Waterway

Coudron stated that Angela Beissel is proposing to reconstruct a grassed waterway. Water runoff is creating gullies and soil loss adjacent to an existing waterway that has exceeded its expected lifespan. A 1,365-foot grassed waterway will be reconstructed to reduce erosion and sedimentation loading to the Lower Main Stem Watershed of the Vermillion River. Total project cost is estimated at \$10,800.

18.089 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with Angela Beissel for installation of grassed waterway, in Section 1, Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$8,100. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

9. Committee of the Whole

9.1 Authorization to Amend Agreement with Black Dog Watershed Management Organization

Watson stated that staff has been working with the BDWMO to amend our existing annual agreement due to demand with project installations under our Landscaping for Clean Water Program. The proposed amendment includes adding two more Landscaping for Clean Water projects to our 2018 work plan and budget. The proposed change was approved by the BDWMO Board at their meeting on July 20. The amendment provides additional revenues of \$1,500.

18.090 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to amend the Agreement for Services with the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization at an amount not to exceed \$26,900. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

9.2 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to the City of Apple Valley for Installation of Bioretention Basins

Coudron stated that the City of Apple Valley has completed the installation of two bioretention basins at the Hayes Arena parking lot located in the Vermillion River Watershed. These two bioretention basins (raingardens) were installed to treat parking lot runoff. The project reduces stormwater discharge from the site and prevents sediment and phosphorus from traveling to downstream waterbodies. The project was approved for funding at our April 6, 2017 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$50,000 and based on an estimated cost of \$112,950. The final project cost was \$114,794.60.

18.091 Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to approve final payment to City of Apple Valley for installation of two bioretention basins at Hayes Arena at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$50,000. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

9.3 Authorization to Execute Contract with Thomas Lake Countryhomes Association for Installation of Bioretention Basins

Coudron stated that Thomas Lake Countryhomes Association is proposing to install two bioretention basins and slope stabilization within the association property in the city of Eagan. Stormwater runoff from the site currently is untreated and flows to Thomas Lake. A 400-square foot bioretention basin and a 150 square-foot bioretention basin will capture, treat, and infiltrate the stormwater runoff. In addition, 1,200 square-foot slope stabilization will reduce soil loss on an eroding hillside. This project will reduce the amount of sediment and excess nutrients carried by stormwater runoff to Thomas Lake. Total project cost is estimated at \$23,000.

18.092 Motion by Skog, second by Dee to execute contract with Thomas Lake Countryhomes Association for installation of two bioretention basins and slope stabilization on their property in the City of Eagan,

Minnesota River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$17,250. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

9.4 Authorization to Execute Contract with Luther Memorial Church for Installation of Bioretention Basin

Coudron stated that Luther Memorial Church is proposing to install a bioretention basin. Stormwater runoff from approximately 1.55 acres of roadway, parking spaces, sidewalk, and landscaped areas currently runs into the storm sewer and is not treated before discharging to the Mississippi River. This project will direct the runoff to a new 900 square-foot bioretention basin and reduce pollutant discharge to the Mississippi River. Total project cost is estimated at \$53,400. This project will also receive cost share funding through the City of South St. Paul and a Metropolitan Council grant.

18.093 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract with Luther Memorial Church for installation of bioretention basin on their property in City of South Saint Paul, Mississippi River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$25,000. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

9.5 Landscaping for Clean Water – Round 3 Application Update

Dengate provided the Landscaping for Clean Water Round 3 Application update. She stated that 18 grants were approved with round three. To date, 32 projects are complete, 41 are in process, with a total of 73 projects this year. Ten additional projects canceled during this year for various reasons; however they may complete the raingardens on their own. Dengate added that the 4-year average is 46 completed grant projects.

Dee asked if there has been staff discussion on workload options for this program. Watson stated that several positive connections have been made through those attending our workshops. He added that while we would like to accommodate as many projects as possible, staff limitations will need to be considered as we will not be able to accommodate 73 projects annually. Staff continues to evaluate workload and an acceptable number of projects that can be efficiently installed in a given year.

10. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michelle Wohlers provided the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) agency report. She stated that with the 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding 30 (out of 87) applications were approved and producers will receive total of \$978,426 upon contract certification. Staff has certified 49 existing practices to date this year for a total of \$260,938.29. They have 145 practices remaining to be installed and certified. They are also working on the Conservation Reserve Program for Dakota and Scott, which are mostly re-enrollments. Wohlers added that they are working with the FSA office to reduce the amount of files and furniture to fit into the new space at the Farmington City Hall. Troy Daniell has been announced as the new State Conservationist, he comes from a program position in Texas. The NRCS will be announcing 50 positions throughout the state between now and the end of the fiscal year. Wohlers provided a brief update on the reorganization plan for NRCS but information is still early. The new State Conservationist will need to evaluate and determine what course of action to take. Watson asked Wohlers to provide an update on the NRCS re-organization Plan once more details are known.

Dee stated that she Gallagher, and Wohlers attended the Local Area Workgroup meeting in Rochester last month and added that the SWCD is to take the lead on that. She suggested that the meeting be held in February of next year.

Dakota County

There was no Dakota County report.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board report.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

There was no Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts report provided. However, Dee stated that she attended the Leadership Institute in Washington DC in July. She stated that they spent significant time meeting with staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She added that it was a very worthwhile event.

Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee

There was no Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee report, as they did not meet.

Dee stated that she was planning to attend the Groundwater Administrative Hearing at Boeckman Middle School from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on July 16. However, she was informed that the Judge closed the hearing prior to the scheduled ending time. She was disappointed with that news and sent an email to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and submitted the SWCD resolution and comments on-line rather than in person.

Dee mentioned a Women Caring for the Land program in Iowa which has developed conservation planning specifically to engage women in agriculture. She questioned if we have been involved with any of that programming. Dee added that 60% of farmland in Iowa, and close to half of the farmland in the US is either owned or operate by women. Watson indicated that we assisted with these events and an event was hosted in our building a few years ago.

11. Upcoming Meetings and Events

Zanmiller noted upcoming events.

Watson added that we will have a presence at the Dakota County Fair in the Natural Resources Building.

12. District Managers Report

Watson stated that most items in his report have been previously addressed. However, he stated that Melissa King will be our new Board of Water and Soil Resources Board Conservationist. He will check on her availability to attend a future Board meeting.

13. Adjourn

18.094 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog, Secretary