



## MEETING MINUTES

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

#### DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, April 8, 2021

9:00 a.m.

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

#### **Board Members Present:**

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

#### **SWCD Staff Present:**

Brian Watson  
Curt Coudron  
Lana Rotty  
Todd Matzke  
Lindsey Albright

#### **Others Present:**

Georg Fischer, Dakota County  
Chris Schmidt, NRCS  
Michelle Wohlers, NRCS

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, the Board of Supervisors participated in the meeting via telephone and the Board meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Chair Zanmiller requested a roll call. All Supervisors were present.

#### **2. 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. Nobody came forward.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

**21.019** Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve the agenda. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4. Approval of March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

The March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes were presented.

#### **5. Approval of April 8, 2021 Accounts Payable**

The April 8, 2021 Accounts Payable were presented.

#### **6. Acceptance of March 2021 Financial Report**

The March 2021 Financial Report was accepted.

**21.020** Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve the consent agenda items. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 7. Authorization to Execute Contract with Molitor Land, LLC for Installation of Grassed Waterways

Molitor Land LLC is proposing to construct grassed waterways in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The new waterways will replace existing waterways that are beyond their functional lifespan and no longer have capacity to adequately convey runoff. The project is eligible for 75% cost share, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$17,300.

**20.021** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract 21-IPP-02 with Molitor Land, LLC for installation of grassed waterways in Douglas Township, Cannon River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$12,975 from FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

### 8. Authorization to Execute Contract with Jay Frandrup for Establishing Cover Crops (multi-year)

Jay Frandrup is proposing to establish cover crops on 120 acres over a three-year period. The field is located in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed. A seeding plan for each year has been prepared and accepted, each contract is limited to 100 acres.

**20.022** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract 21-IPP-03 with Jay Frandrup for establishment of cover crops on 100 acres at \$35 per acre annually, for three years, not to exceed \$10,500 from agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization or and through the FY21 Metro WBIF Vermillion River grant. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

### 9. Authorization to Execute Contract with Charles Schaffer for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basins

Charles Schaffer is proposing to construct five water and sediment control basins and a critical area planting in Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The water and sediment control basins will capture surface water runoff and outlet the runoff to previously constructed grassed waterways to reduce future erosion and sedimentation. The critical area plantings will also reduce rill erosion. The project is eligible for 75% cost share, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$36,200.

Supervisor Chamberlain noted that Charles Schaffer has been farming contour strips for many years and appeared to be working well and wondering if that would be continued. Coudron replied that he would not be continuing those and would be entering into a 10-year contract with the water and sediment control basins and critical area plantings.

**20.023** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to execute contract 21-IPP-04 with Charlie Schaffer for installation of five water and sediment control basins and critical area planting in Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$27,150 from agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

### 10. Authorization to Execute Three Contract with Peine Farms for Establishing Cover Crops (multi-year)

Peine Farms, Inc. is proposing to establish cover crops on 361 acres on three different fields over a three-year period. The fields are located in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. Seeding plans for each year have been prepared and accepted, each contract is limited to 100 acres. Each contract acres are: 135 acres not to exceed \$10,500, 151 acres not to exceed \$10,500, 75 acres not to exceed \$7,875.

**20.024** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract 21-IPP-05, 21-IPP-06, 21-IPP-07 with Peine Farms for establishment of cover crops on 275 acres at \$35 per acre annually, for three years, not to exceed \$28,875 from agreements with Dakota County or the FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

**11. Authorization to Execute Contract with Molitor Brother, LTD Partnership for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin**

Molitor Brothers LTD Partnership is proposing to construct a water and sediment control basin in Douglas Township, Mississippi River Direct Watershed of the Vermillion River. The basin will capture surface water runoff and convey it through an underground outlet to reduce future erosion and sedimentation. The project is eligible for 75% cost share, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$5,800.

**20.025** Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract 21-IPP-08 with Molitor Brothers for installation of water and sediment control basin in Douglas Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$4,350 from agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

**12. Authorization to Execute Contract with Dan Duncomb for Installation of Grade Stabilization Structure**

Dan Duncomb is proposing to construct a grade stabilization structure in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The structure will replace a structure that was originally built in 1958 and needs repair. The project is eligible for 75% cost share, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$20,400.

Supervisor Dee asked with the Duncomb and Peine projects being next door to each other, would there be any effects from either of the projects to each other. Coudron stated that these projects would not have any effect to each other.

**20.026** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract 21-IPP-09 with Dan Duncomb for installation of grade stabilization structure in Douglas Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$15,300 from FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

**13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Ambrey Gartner for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators**

Ambrey Gartner is proposing to install 0.8-acre of native prairie with pollinator habitat in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Existing non-native vegetation will be removed, and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat. The project is eligible for 75% cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$5,500.

**20.027** Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract Ambrey Gartner for the installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 0.8 acres in Marshan Township of the Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$2,400. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

**14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Century South Single-Family Homeowners Association for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators**

Century South Single-Family Homeowner's Association is proposing to install 0.5-acres of native prairie with pollinator habitat in the City of Hastings, Vermillion River Watershed. Existing non-native vegetation will be removed, and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat. The project is eligible for 75% cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$5,600.

**20.028** Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to a execute contract with Century South Single-Family Homeowners Association for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 0.5 acres in City of Hastings, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$1,500. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zammiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

**15. Authorization to Execute Contract with Eric Johnson for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators**

Eric Johnson is proposing to install a 3.2-acre of native prairie with pollinator habitat in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The area is currently agricultural cropland and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat. The project is eligible for 75% cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$14,100.

**20.029** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to a execute contract with Eric Johnson for the installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 3.2 acres in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$9,600. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zammiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

**16. Authorization to Execute Contract with City of Burnsville for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators**

City of Burnsville is proposing to install 8 acres of native prairie with pollinator habitat in Minnesota River Watershed. Existing non-native vegetation will be removed, and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat. The project is eligible for 75% cost share up to \$3,000 per acre, with a \$15,000 maximum. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$33,900.

Dee questioned the need for the existing trees to be removed from this area. Coudron stated that most of the trees are not native and they would provide unnecessary shade for the plantings, while the projects is promoting the improved habitat of rusty patched bumble bees (federally endangered species) that have been document in that area.

**20.030** Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to a execute contract with City of Burnsville for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 3.2 acres in Minnesota River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$15,000. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zammiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

**17. Review 2020 Annual Report**

Staff has generated a 2020 Annual Report showcasing stats, news, and successes from the past year, basically providing a snapshot of the year. The draft was sent to the Education and Outreach Committee for initial review which resulted in the adding more pollutant reduction outcomes to the report. Watson noted that Supervisor comments and suggestions can be incorporated post-meeting and the Annual Report will be considered final and distributed. The Report will be mailed to select partners, posted and shared online through our website, social media, and newsletter; and made available while tabling public events once the pandemic lifts.

**18. Announcements and Reports**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Michelle Wohlers provided the NRCS report. She stated that regarding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, priority was given to the 82 high priority applications that were not funded last year. Of those 48 were assessed and ranked, four have been pre-approved. This includes 2 cover crop projects, 1 erosion control project, and 1 on farm energy project. Those contracts must be finalized by May.

NRCS and SWCD staff will be meeting monthly to review current and upcoming projects to ensure sharing of information, elimination of duplication, and to increase efficiency while serving landowners. Wohlers stated that the Local Work Group Meeting has been scheduled for May 13.

Wohlers is working with SWCD staff to develop the 2021 monitoring list for farmland easements and Lucas Altwegg has been relocated and will be working from the Faribault office. Currently they are working with 50% of staff in the office and are taking landowner appointments for services. Lastly, she stated that the renewal of the lease with the City of Farmington is in the works.

Chris Schmidt added that the Conservation Engineering Technician position has been filled in the LeCenter office and that will help the service area team. He noted that the decision to move Lucas to the Faribault Field Office was made after filling that vacancy. Lucas will be responsible for the bulk of the Rice County workload; however, he will still be available to provide assistance to the team as needed. Eventually the plan is for a one Soil Conservation Technician, a second Soil Conservationist (as opposed to a Soil Conservation Technician) and District Conservationist at the Farmington Field Office.

He anticipated the vacant District Conservationist position in Waconia to be announced soon.

In Dakota, they received 3 applications for the 2021 Classic Conservation Stewardship Program, and 3 applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program 2022 renewals. They have requested additional National funds as a result of not many preapprovals for EQIP, they hope to know this by the end of April.

The General Conservation Reserve Program deadline has been extended due to lack of acres enrolled and they are still accepting offers.

#### **Dakota County**

George Fischer provided the Dakota County report. He stated that he is impressed with the projects that the SWCD just approved. The annual report in a great way to show what you have done and how well you did it and how we are all better off. The pollutant reductions are also helpful to report how we are better off as well. They are looking forward to continued work with staff on land conservation plan, ground water plan, and aquatic invasive species program.

#### **Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization**

There was no Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization report.

#### **Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board**

There was no Metropolitan Conservation District Joint Powers Board report.

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

There was no Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District report.

#### **Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board**

Chamberlain provided the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report. He stated they met yesterday and the meeting went well. Signature authority was assigned it was discussed and agreed that each member organization must have a Board Member and an assigned alternate Board Member so they are available if the need should arise. At Dakota we have Chamberlain as the assigned a member and Dee as the alternate. The Executive Committee was slated to be made of four officers plus two delegates. However; after discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee would be comprised of the four officers plus one delegate for a total of five members to avoid ending in a tie vote. This year Commissioner Slavik will be the delegate on the Executive Committee. This Committee will meet prior to each meeting if there are discussion items. A Conflict of Interest statement was provided to each member and alternate. It was not yet determined if each organization must approve this statement, or if the member and alternate must be aware of it. They are seeking clarification on that. The next meeting is scheduled for July 7.

**Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization**

There was no Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) report.

**District Managers Report**

Watson stated that he will schedule a Finance Committee meeting to review the first quarter budget report prior to the May 13 meeting. He noted that for this meeting, the projects were moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for individual review and discussion. He requested guidance from the Supervisors regarding that change. The consensus was to place all projects on the Regular Agenda. He also stated that at the recent Township Officers Meeting he spoke on the amount of calls the SWCD is receiving regarding flooding concerns. Aerial photos over the last five years and precipitation data reinforce this wetter pattern. Watson has not heard anything official regarding the opening of this building. Dee questioned how the Dakota County Board of Commissioners are meeting? It was stated that they are meeting in hybrid mode; and discussing timelines for in person meetings. Dee suggested we follow their timeline. He again reminded the Supervisors of the Local Work Group Meeting scheduled for May 13. Dee also asked how the legislative day follow-up was going. Watson replied that no appointments have been scheduled.

Chamberlain asked if ditches being proposed for cleaning are under jurisdiction of the county and if they make the decision to clean them out. Watson stated that some of the inquiries do include ditches under County jurisdiction; however, landowners have been able to clean them out on their own if they coordinate with the County. Chamberlain asked if the “patchwork” method where segments of a ditch are cleaned but not the entire ditch could contribute to the wetness. Watson confirmed that this could cause wetness in some locations and not others.

**Board of Supervisors Reports**

There were no reports or updates. However, Chamberlain stated that he is seeing a lot of fields with cover crops this year and that the landscape is much greener this year than in years past.

**Upcoming Events**

The upcoming events were reviewed.

**19. Adjourn**

**20.031** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog  
Secretary