



AGENDA

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting

July 8, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room A – Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center

4100 220th Street Farmington, MN 55024

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Audience
Anyone wishing to address the Board regarding an item that is not on the agenda may come forward at this time. Comments are limited to five minutes.
4. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

CONSENT AGENDA

To be adopted under one motion unless a request is made to move an item to Regular Agenda for discussion

5. Approval of June 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of July 8, 2021 Accounts Payable
7. Acceptance of the June 2021 Finance Report

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Eric Johnson for Establishing Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat Action
9. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Mike Serres for Installation of Grassed Waterway and Critical Area Planting Action
10. Authorization to Amend Contract with John Siebenaler for Establishing Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat Action
11. Authorization to Amend Contract with Brandy Wentzler for Establishing Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat Action
12. Authorization to Execute Contract with Audrey Anderson for Establishing Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat Action
13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Conducting Groundwater Level Monitoring Services Action
14. Authorization to Submit FY22 Clean Water Fund Grant Application to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to Implement Drinking Water Protection Practices and to Execute Agreement if Awarded Action
15. Amend 2021 Board Operating Rules Action
16. Announcements and Reports
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Dakota County
 - Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board
Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
District Managers Report
Board of Supervisor Announcements

17. Upcoming Events

Meetings and events listed below are anticipated to be held virtually unless a location is noted. Please contact staff if you have questions about meeting formats and locations since changes are occurring weekly.

July 7, 2021	Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting Rice County Fairgrounds, Straight River Rm 1814 2 nd Av. NW Faribault – 9:00 a.m.
July 8, 2021	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220 th Street West, Farmington – 9:00 a.m.
July 14, 2021	Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization Board Mtg – 3:00 p.m.
July 21, 2021	Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Board Meeting – 5:00 p.m.
July 21, 2021	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
July 21, 2021	North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization Board Meeting Greenvale Townhall, 31800 Guam Avenue, Northfield – 7:00 p.m.
July 22, 2021	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220 th Street West, Farmington – 1:00 p.m.
August 9-15, 2021	Dakota County Fair
August 12, 2021	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting Extension and Conservation Center, 4100 220 th Street West, Farmington – 9:00 a.m.

18. Adjourn



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, June 10, 2021

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

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

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Curt Coudron
Lana Rotty
Todd Matzke
Joe Barten

Others Present:

Michelle Wohlers, NRCS
George Fischer, Dakota County
Valerie Grover, Dakota County

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 9:00 a.m. Chair Zanmiller requested a roll call. Supervisors Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson were present. Supervisor Dee had previously indicated that she would need to join the meeting a bit late due to another commitment.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes were presented.

5. Approval of June 10, 2021 Accounts Payable

The June 10, 2021 Accounts Payable were presented.

6. Acceptance of April 2021 Financial Report

The April 2021 Financial Report was reviewed.

7. Acceptance of May 2021 Financial Report

The May 2021 Financial Report was reviewed.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Steve Meyers for repair of Water and Sediment Control Basin

Steve Meyers has completed the repair of a water and sediment control basin in Douglas Township, Trout Brook watershed of the Cannon River. The project was approved for funding at the October 8, 2020 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$1,275 and based on a cost estimate of \$1,700. Final project cost was \$1,240.

21.046 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve final payment to Steve Meyers for repair of water and sediment control basin in Section 8, Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River at \$930 from CY Agreements with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

9. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to John (JB) Dudley for Installation of Grassed Waterway

JB Dudley has completed the installation of a 1,393-foot grassed waterway in Waterford Township, Cannon River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the September 10, 2020 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$17,475 and based on a cost estimate of \$23,300. Final project cost was \$24,062.81.

21.047 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to John (JB) Dudley for installation of grassed waterway in Section 28, Waterford Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River at \$17,475 from CY Agreement with Dakota County and FY20 State Cost Share Grant. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Ron Beissel for Repair of Grade Stabilization Structure

Ron Beissel has completed the repair of grade stabilization structure in Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the October 8, 2020 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$4,300 and based on a cost estimate of \$8,764.25. Final project cost was \$7,743.84.

21.048 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve final payment to Ron Beissel for repair of grade stabilization structure in Section 12, Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed at \$3,616.82 from CY Agreements with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Dan Duncomb for Installation of Grade Stabilization Structure

Dan Duncomb has completed the installation of a grade stabilization structure in Douglas Township, Trout Brook watershed of the Cannon River. The project was approved for funding at the April 8, 2021 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$15,300 and based on a cost estimate of \$20,400. Due to dry site conditions, additional soil preparation and an alternative stabilization method was needed, which increased project costs. Dan has requested to amend the contract to include cost share for the increased project costs. Final project cost was \$21,503.39.

21.049 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to amend contract with Dan Duncomb to increase the cost estimate (final cost) to \$21,503.39 with 75% cost share not to exceed \$16,127.54. And to provide final payment for installation of grade stabilization structure in waterway in Section 28, Waterford

Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River at \$21,503.39 from FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Execute Contract with Peine Cattle Company for Establishing Cover Crops (multi-year)

Peine Cattle Company is proposing to establish cover crops on 100 acres over a three-year period. The field is in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted.

21.050 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract 21-IPP-24 with Peine Cattle Company for establishment of cover crops on 100 acres at \$35 per acre annually, for three years, not to exceed \$10,500 from CY Agreement with Dakota County and the FY18 Trout Book Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Pat Maher for Establishing Cover Crop (one-year)

Pat Maher is proposing to establish cover crop on 27 acres over a one-year period. The field is in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted.

21.051 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract 21-IPP-25 with Pat Maher for establishment of cover crops on 27 acres at \$25 per acre annually, for one year, not to exceed \$675 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Pat Maher for Establishing Cover Crops (three-year)

Pat Maher is proposing to establish cover crops on 75 acres over a three-year period. The field is in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted.

21.052 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract 21-IPP-28 Pat Maher for establishment of cover crops on 75 acres at \$35 per acre annually, for three years, not to exceed \$7,875 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dee joined the meeting.

15. Authorization to Contract with Noah Blaha for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

Noah Blaha is proposing to install a native prairie with pollinator habitat in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators. Total costs of the project are estimated at \$3,300.

21.053 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract 21-IPP-29 with Noah Blaha for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 1 acre in Vermillion Township of the Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$2,475 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

16. Authorization to Execute Contract with Nollie Freeman for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

Nolie Freeman is proposing to install a native prairie with pollinator habitat in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators. Total costs of the project are estimated at \$11,800.

21.054 Motion by Johnson, second by Skog to execute contract 21-IPP-30 with Nollie Freeman for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 4.50 acres in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$8,850 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

17. Authorization to Execute Contract with RESPEC for development of Irrigation Management Assistant Online Scheduling Tool

Gallagher stated that in 2019 the SWCD used Watershed Based Funding to gather input from irrigators in Dakota County. There was support to develop a publicly available, online irrigation scheduling tool, specifically the Irrigation Management Assistant (IMA) tool, that was demonstrated at an irrigator focus group meeting. This tool has been developed for parts of Benton and East Otter Tail Counties. There is also an effort to expand the IMA tool statewide through LCCMR funding. However, statewide funding has not yet been approved and development may not occur for a few years. The SWCD and Dakota County want to move forward and make the IMA tool available for the 2022 growing season. Funds are available through the Cannon River and Vermillion River Watershed Based Implementation grant and Dakota County under Groundwater Plan implementation.

RESPEC would develop the IMA tool with a completion goal of November 2021. Research could be conducted with the IMA tool this growing season, however full roll out of the IMA tool would occur over the winter months in preparation for the 2022 growing season.

Chamberlain stated that a few years ago, Steve Meyers participated with an irrigation management pilot project and he wondered if this was a similar type of program and technology. Gallagher replied the Meyers pilot program involved a few agencies; and they took measurements with a “checkbook” method, while this is a much more automated way to do this.

21.055 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with RESPEC for development of Irrigation Management Assistant Online Scheduling Tool with a not to exceed cost of \$34,226 that includes set-up costs of \$28,226 and maintenance costs of \$6,000. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

18. Authorization to Execute Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to assist with implementing the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan within Hastings Drinking Water Supply Management Area

Gallagher stated that the SWCD has had an agreement with Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) since 2017 for work related to the State of Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and the Groundwater Protection Rule which includes coordination of the Local Advisory Team (LAT). The current agreement with the MDA expires June 30, 2021.

A new agreement has been prepared that would start July 1, 2021 and expire June 30, 2023 with a not-to-exceed amount of \$7,936. The agreement would allow for continued assistance from SWCD to continue with the LAT.

21.056 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract with Minnesota Department of Agriculture to assist with implementing the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan within Hastings Drinking Water Supply Management Area at a total not to exceed \$7,936. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

19. Modify Priority Location sites identified in the Trout Brook sub-watershed Analysis (SWA)

Coudron stated that in 2016, a sub-watershed analysis (SWA) was completed to identify locations for implementing conservation practices within the Trout Brook watershed. The goal of the SWA was to determine the most cost-effective projects within the watershed and prioritize projects for implementation. The SWA considered project feasibility, estimated construction costs, and pollutant reduction potential for each identified project. For each location where a conservation practice was identified, a cost-benefit ratio was estimated and projects were ranked with the most cost-effective sites receiving the highest priority.

Since the completion of the SWA, two Clean Water Fund grants have been received to implement projects that were most cost effective within the Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The first grant (Phase 1), which has been completed and closed, specifically targeted practices with an annualized sediment reduction cost of less than \$10 per ton.

Dakota County SWCD Cost Share Policy allows the District Board to designate “Priority Locations” that would provide up to 90% cost share for projects. This increased cost share allocation creates better incentives for the most beneficial projects. In 2017, the District Board designated projects with an annualized sediment reduction cost of less than \$10 per ton be identified as Priority Locations to align with the first grant.

The Phase II grant, which is currently being implemented, specifically targets practices with an annualized sediment reduction cost of less than \$30 per ton. Staff recommends modifying the “Priority Locations” to include projects with an annualized sediment reduction cost of less than \$30 per ton to align with the Phase 2 grant which would then allow for cost share up to 90% of project costs.

Projects that exceed \$30/ton/year of sediment reduction would still be eligible for cost share allocations of up to 75% of the project cost.

21.057 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to modify “Priority Location” sites in the Trout Book Watershed to include projects with annualized sediment reduction cost of \$30 per ton/year. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

20. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michelle Wohlers provided the NRCS report. She stated that she and Matthew Schaar are working out of Farmington, Lucas is now working out of the Faribault office. She noted that there is a Soil Conservationist vacancy for the Farmington office. They received 65 EQIP applications. Of those, 13 have been pre-approved and 35 are pending approval. She stated that a new office lease is being negotiated and they will be adding space to work with clients as well as space to house additional employees. Staff attended irrigation water management training in Rice, Minnesota. A new Chief for the NRCS, Terry Crosby, has been hired. He was previously the State Conservationist in Ohio.

Dakota County

George Fischer and Valerie Grover were in attendance from Dakota County; Grover provided the report. She stated that they are beginning to implement the Groundwater Plan. This Plan has been approved by BWSR and adopted by the County Board of Commissioners. Grover highlighted a few strategies and priorities that are underway including work with groundwater quality, groundwater quantity, education, governance and developing a comprehensive approach to evaluate new opportunities. Specifics to these priorities included:

Water Quality:

Plan to assist private well owners by implementing community-focused private well testing program and target well seal grants in Mississippi River East Watershed Based Incentive Funding grant area. As for the well testing program, over the next five years they will offer every private well owner the opportunity to test for contaminants. This is approximately 2,000 annually, with the first round of approximately 635 landowners, 30% returned their post-card indicating they are participating.

Reduce agricultural chemical contamination by developing the Agricultural Chemical Reeducation Effort (ACRE). They will be contracting with a facilitator to conduct stakeholder engagement with rural landowners to identify what can be implemented and what is workable.

Establish Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Dakota County monitoring well network in the Hastings DWSMA by adding 30 wells outside that area to see if current strategies are working.

Water Quantity:

The well ordinance has been updated to prevent unsustainable groundwater appropriations and exportation.

Education:

Expanded groundwater education efforts are underway, including making the information available in multiple languages.

Governance:

Establish County Groundwater/Source Water Collaborative.

Comprehensive Approach:

With this priority, they will be requesting local agencies complete a survey so they can identify and address quality and quantity concerns, develop efficiencies-shared data, tools, and resources, identify resource needed at local level for projects, and Identify opportunities to initiate county-wide.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

There was no Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization report.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

There was no Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report. The next meeting is scheduled for July 7.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation District Joint Powers Board report. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Watson stated that the Metro Area meeting will be held virtually on June 18 at 9:00 a.m. Policy resolutions will be considered at this meeting but the annual tour has been cancelled due to Covid.

District Managers Report

Watson stated the building will be re-opening on July 6 and he asked if a return to in-person meetings would be preferred. The consensus was to hold the July meeting in person and to follow any current health safety requirements that may be in place. Watson indicated that he would like to schedule a Personnel Committee meeting in June to discuss changes to Employee Policy Handbook and to conduct his mid-year review.

Watson stated that National Pollinator week is June 21 -27. A kick-off event is being planned for June 16 at 2:00 at Spring Lake Park. Chamberlain will attend that event and Watson will update him as information becomes available. State agency staff and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan are also planning an event at the Kimber farm on June 24. Watson reminded those present that Kimber Contours received the SWCDs 2020 Conservation Cooperator award and they farm in Castle Rock Township. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Supervisor Dee indicated that she would plan to attend.

Board of Supervisors Reports

Chamberlain stated that he watched Sorg Farms plant cover crops recently . They have a machine to apply rye grass in standing corn. An application of nitrogen, will follow, the rye grass will germinate, the corn will shade it to slow or stagnate growth. The corn will be harvested, the cover crop will remain. He is very interested to see the outcome of this conservation practice.

20. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

21. Adjourn

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog
Secretary

**Dakota County SWCD
Income and Expense Summary**

June 2021

	Current Month	Year to Date
Income		
County Revenues	\$27,608.50	\$237,816.50
State Revenues	\$17,475.00	\$106,907.86
Local Revenues	\$0.00	\$65,280.57
Miscellaneous Funds	\$0.00	\$1,927.49
Charges for Services	<u>\$1,413.00</u>	<u>\$7,994.50</u>
Total Income	\$46,496.50	\$419,926.92
Expense		
County Expenses	\$3,144.82	\$3,184.96
State Expenses	\$17,601.00	\$39,433.22
Local Expenses	\$3,720.02	\$4,601.27
Operating Expenses	\$1,310.04	\$16,531.20
Payroll/Personnel Expenses	\$94,581.52	\$587,014.46
Project Expenses	<u>\$747.75</u>	<u>\$2,065.30</u>
Total Expense	\$121,105.15	\$652,830.41
Revenues Over/-Under Expenditures	<u>-\$74,608.65</u>	<u>-\$232,903.49</u>

Dakota County SWCD**Balance Sheet**

June 2021

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking - Castle Rock	\$48,803.94
Cash in Savings - Castle Rock	\$693,124.87
Cash in Checking - Vermillion Bank	\$28,621.65
Certificate of Deposit - Vermillion Bank	\$400,472.05
Petty Cash	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Cash:	\$1,171,122.51

Accounts Receivable:

BWSR	DC Drinking Water PP 10% of Grant	\$6,309.49	
DC Parks, Facilities, Fleet	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$2,440.00	
DC Parks, Facilities, Fleet	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$4,911.33	
DC Transportation	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$1,320.00	
Drill Customer	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$394.00	
MCD Cannon River Direct SWA	2020 Invoice for Services	\$9,597.93	
MCD Cannon River Direct SWA	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$3,001.70	
MCD Hosting	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$6,273.35	
NCR WMO	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	\$3,225.00	
NCR WMO WBF	Q1 2021 Invoice for Services	<u>\$3,074.14</u>	\$40,546.94

TOTAL ASSETS:**\$1,211,669.45****LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:**

Payroll/Direct Deposit 07/01/2021	-\$21,702.74
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Unearned Revenue:

Buffer Law Funds 2020	\$18,519.48	
Buffer Law Funds 2021	\$17,200.00	
Conservation Delivery 2020	\$7,961.92	
Conservation Delivery 2021	\$21,240.00	
CWF 2018 Trout Brook Watershed Projects	\$60,572.79	
Local Capacity Services 2020	\$24,060.79	
Local Capacity Services 2021	\$124,387.00	
Met Council WOMP Funds	\$5,145.57	
NRBG Wetland Conservation Act 2021	\$37,429.83	
State Cost Share 2020	\$4,579.00	
State Cost Share 2021	\$22,054.00	
WBIF 2019 Dakota SWCD	\$8,474.29	
WBIF 2019 LM WD	\$32,725.00	
WBIF 2021 Cannon River	\$151,146.68	
WBIF 2021 Miss River East	\$16,283.00	
WBIF 2021 MN River South	\$25,000.00	
WBIF 2021 Vermillion River	\$41,506.49	
DC Annual Operating Allocation	<u>\$165,651.00</u>	\$783,936.84

Total Liabilities:**\$762,234.10**

Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$682,338.84
Current Net Increase/-Decrease	<u>-\$232,903.49</u>
Fund Balance End of Current Period	\$449,435.35

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:**\$1,211,669.45**

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to provide final payment of \$4,090.09 to Eric Johnson for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Eric Johnson has completed the installation of a 3.2-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed.

The project was approved for funding at the April 8, 2021 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$9,600 and based on a cost estimate of \$14,100.

Final project cost was \$5,453.45. Project installation has been certified by staff.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

Supporting Documents:

21-IPP-12 Johnson, Eric NPR Final Factsheet

Previous Board Action:

Motion 21.029 on 4/8/2021

Authorization to Execute Contract



ERIC JOHNSON

NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION



PRACTICE:

- Conservation Cover

BENEFITS:

- 0.1 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved wildlife habitat, in particular for pollinators

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Etter Creek

INSTALLATION:

- 2021

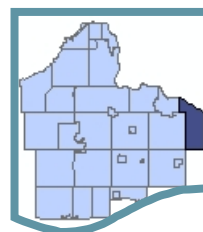
PROJECT: 3.0 acres of row crop were restored to native prairie vegetation. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

FUNDING:	Total Project Cost:	\$5,453
	Cost Share Amount:	\$4,090
	Landowner Amount	\$1,363



LOCATION:

Ravenna Township





Restoration was completed in a field that had corn stubble from last year's crop.



A no-till drill was used to plant native prairie seed and an oat cover crop.



Close up of seed installation in soil.



Oat cover crop was established 4 weeks after planting.

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to provide final payment of \$2,282.51 to Mike Serres for the installation of a grassed waterway and critical area planting.

SUMMARY:

Mike Serres has completed the installation of a grassed waterway and critical area planting in Douglas Township, Vermillion River Watershed.

The project was approved for funding at the May 13, 2021 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$11,475 and based on a cost estimate of \$15,300. Project costs were lower than estimated due to project modifications after tree clearing.

Final project cost was \$3,043.35. Project installation has been certified by staff.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

Supporting Documents:

21-IPP-20 Serres, Mike WW Final Factsheet

Previous Board Action:

Motion 21.037 on 5/13/21

Authorization to Execute Contract



MIKE SERRES

GRASSED WATERWAY



PRACTICE:

- Grassed Waterway
- Critical Area Planting

BENEFITS:

- 6.9 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 6.9 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

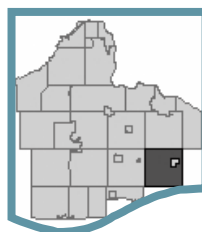
- Summer 2021

PROJECT: Gully erosion was occurring between two parcels and along a waterway that was beyond its original lifespan. The waterway was reconstructed and a critical area planting was installed to reduce future erosion.

FUNDING:	Final Project Cost:	\$3,043
	Cost Share Amount:	\$2,282
	Landowner Amount	\$761



LOCATION:
Douglas Township





Gully erosion was occurring along the property edge.



Trees were cleared throughout the project area.



The grassed waterway and critical area planting were graded.



Project areas were seeded and then covered with straw mulch.



Straw mulch was anchored using a crimper to keep mulch in place.



Vegetation growth was visible two weeks after construction.

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to amend contract with John (Jack) Siebenaler for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Jack Siebenaler is planning to install a 0.9-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Due to dry and hot conditions this year, there is concern that seed could germinate but not have enough moisture to survive through the summer if seeded under current conditions. Seeding will be postponed until late fall to allow for better establishment of the project.

Additional work is needed to control weeds until the project is seeded. Additional work increases the estimated project cost from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

The amendment would increase the not-to-exceed cost share amount from \$2,250 to \$2,700. Not-to-exceed cost share amount of \$2,700 is based on a \$3,000 per acre limit for native prairie projects. The cost share rate would remain at 75% of actual costs.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

Supporting Documents:

None

Previous Board Action:

Motion 21.041 on 5/13/2021
Authorization to Execute Contract

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorization to amend contract with Brandy Wentzler for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Brandy Wentzler is planning to install a 0.5-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Due to dry and hot conditions this year, there is concern that seed could germinate but not have enough moisture to survive through the summer if seeded under current conditions. Seeding will be postponed until late fall to allow for better establishment of the project.

Additional work is needed to control weeds until the project is seeded. Additional work increases the estimated project cost from \$1,700 to \$2,200.

The amendment would increase the not-to-exceed cost share amount from \$1,275 to \$1,500. Not-to-exceed cost share amount of \$1,500 is based on a \$3,000 per acre limit for native prairie projects. The cost share rate would remain at 75% of actual costs.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

Supporting Documents:

None

Previous Board Action:

Motion 21.042 on 5/13/2021
Authorization to Execute Contract

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Audrey Anderson not to exceed \$1,575 for the installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Audrey Anderson is proposing to install a 0.6 -acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

Total costs of the project are estimated at \$2,100. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$1,575.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-31 Anderson, Audrey NPR Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None



AUDREY ANDERSON

NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION

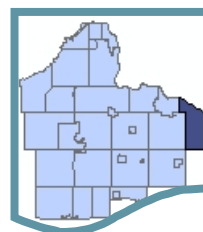


PROJECT: 0.6 acres of turfgrass will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$2,100
	Cost Share Amount:	\$1,575
	Landowner Amount	\$525



LOCATION:
Ravenna Township



PRACTICE:

- Conservation Cover

BENEFITS:

- 0.19 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved wildlife habitat, in particular for pollinators

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

- 2021

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Voice Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Brian Watson

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for conducting groundwater level monitoring services.

SUMMARY:

The DNR has provided a FY22 professional and technical services contract to conduct groundwater level measurements at various observation wells in Dakota County. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Per this contract, thirty one observation wells will be monitored on a quarterly basis and seven irrigation wells will be monitored five times (38 wells total). This is identical to what was stipulated in the FY21 contract.

The work plan includes a total of 159 well readings and payment to the SWCD would be \$30 per reading at an authorized well or nest of wells, which is consistent with historical payment amounts. The contract includes a total amount not to exceed \$3,090, but the DNR does allow for an additional payment of \$720 (24 additional readings) should they request more readings, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,810.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

The revenue generated from this agreement has been incorporated into the 2021 and 2022 staff work plans.

Supporting Documents:

None

Previous Board Action:

None

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Voice Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize submittal of FY22 Clean Water Fund Grant application to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to implement drinking water protection practices and to execute grant agreement if awarded.

SUMMARY:

The deadline for submittal of FY22 Clean Water Fund Grant applications is August 17. Staff is proposing to submit one application under this competitive grant application process.

The application would request \$150,000 in grant funds to implement drinking water protection practices that protect groundwater in vulnerable areas. The grant funds would be primarily used for cover crops, harvestable covers, and establishment of perennial vegetation to reduce nitrates in groundwater.

The 25% match requirement of \$37,500 would come from Dakota County funds that have been made available for conservation projects, landowners' contribution to projects, and in-kind contributions of staff time for design and construction oversight assistance.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

None at this time. If awarded in the spring of 2022, funding would be added to future calendar year budgets and annual staff work plans would be adjusted.

Supporting Documents:

None

Previous Board Action:

N/A

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Voice Vote

Meeting Date: 7/8/2021

Prepared by: Brian Watson

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Amend 2021 Board Operation Rules.

SUMMARY:

The Board adopted 2021 Operating Rules in January. The adopted Board Operating Rules under Article 2, Item 2 indicates that a Board Supervisor shall receive compensation for services up to \$75 per day. The \$75 per day is a cap established under Minnesota Statute.

The Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Bill signed into law on June 26, 2021 changes the Supervisor per diem cap to \$125 per day and becomes effective August 1, 2021. To accommodate this change in State Statute, our Board Operating Rules would need to be amended under Article 2, Item 2 to indicate that a Board of Supervisor shall receive compensation for services up to \$125 per day.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

No FTE impact – limited changes anticipated to overall budget.

Supporting Documents:

None

Previous Board Action:

Motion 21.007 on 1/14/21
Adopt Board Operating Rules