



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, May 13, 2021

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Kevin Chamberlain, Vice
Jayne Hager Dee,
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
Leslie Pilgrim, Resident

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, Dee 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.

Supervisor Johnson joined the meeting.

3. Presentation – Hastings High School Field Biology Class no Macroinvertebrate Monitoring in the Vermillion River

Joe Beattie's field biology class from Hastings High School provided a presentation (virtual) on macroinvertebrate monitoring in the Vermillion River. The student presenters included: Brooke Erickson, Elizabeth Manly-Spain, Owen Matzke, and Cam Olsen. The data presented included type and count of species, as well as an analysis of the overall health of the river based on their sampling and assessment efforts. The Board of Supervisors thanked them for the presentation and for their efforts.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes were presented.

6. Approval of May 13, 2021 Accounts Payable

The May 13, 2021 Accounts Payable were presented.

7. Acceptance of April 2021 Financial Report

The April 2021 Financial Report was reviewed.

Chamberlain stated that the second page of the April Financial Report he received did not print correctly. Watson then stated that there must have been a formatting issue and that Acceptance of the April Financial Report will again be placed on the June meeting agenda.

8. Review Year to Date Budget Report

The Year to Date Budget Report was reviewed.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Molitor Land, LLC for Installation of Grassed Waterways

Molitor Land LLC has completed the installation of grassed waterways 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 \$12,975 and based on a cost estimate of \$17,300. Final project cost was \$13,245.

21.034 Motion by Dee, second by Skog to approve final payment to Molitor Land, LLC for installation of two grassed waterways in Section 18, Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River at \$9,933.75 from FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Execute Contract with City of Burnsville for Shoreline Restoration

The City of Burnsville is requesting assistance with erosion caused by wave action along the north shore of Crystal Lake. This section of shoreline includes public access in the northwest corner of the lake and a fishing pier on the east end of the project site. The project will include the installation of coir bio-logs along the shoreline, erosion control blanket in select areas, installation of native live stakes and plug plantings to provide stabilization of the shoreline with vegetation. The project will include native vegetation to create pollinator habitat and double coir logs where there is high foot traffic for fishing access. The plantings will be protected for two growing seasons from foot traffic by fencing the area to allow plants to establish. The City will also install fishing blocks as part of the project, and they are not eligible for cost share. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$56,900.

21.035 Motion by Johnson, second by Skog to execute contract 21-CIF-01 with City of Burnsville, for North Crystal Lake Shoreline Restoration at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$25,000 from CY Agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute Six Contracts with Sorg Farms, LLC for Establishing Cove Crops (one-year)

Sorg Farms, LLC. is proposing to establish cover crops on 6 different fields. The fields are in Nininger and Ravenna Townships, Vermillion River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract that will require cover crop establishment for one year. Several of the fields had one-year contracts in 2020. Previous and current contracts will count towards the maximum incentive eligibility of 3 years for each field. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted for each field.

21.036 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contracts 21-IPP-14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 Sorg Farms, LLC for establishment of cover crop on a total of 369 acres on six fields, in Nininger and Ravenna Townships, Vermillion River Watershed, encumbering \$9,225 based on \$25 per acre on one-year contract from the CY Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Contract with Mike Serres for Installation of Grassed Waterways and Critical Area Planting

Mike Serres is proposing to construct grassed waterways and a critical area planting in Douglas Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The project includes reestablishing two grassed waterways that are beyond their lifespan and constructing new waterways. The project will convey runoff and reduce future erosion. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$15,300.

Coudron added that the application for this project is outside of Board established application rounds, however, the project is ready for construction and waiting until the next application round would delay construction until fall.

21.037 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract 21-IPP-20 with Mike Serres for installation of grassed waterways and critical area planting in Section 8, Douglas, Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$11,475 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Peter Schweich Installation of Grassed Waterway

Peter Schweich is proposing to construct grassed waterway and a critical area planting in Douglas Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The project will repair gully erosion, adequately convey runoff and reduce future erosion. This project will connect to the grass waterway on the Serres property under the previous agenda item. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6,200.

Coudron added that the application for this project is outside of Board established application rounds, however, the project is ready for construction and waiting until the next application round would delay construction until fall.

21.038 Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to execute contract 21-IPP-21 with Peter Schweich for installation of grassed waterway and critical area planting in Section 8, Douglas, Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$4,650 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Contract with DST LLP for Establishing Cover Crops (multi-year)

DST LLP (Scott Weber) is proposing to establish cover crops on 40 acres over a three-year period. The field is in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. A seeding plan for each year has been prepared and accepted.

21.039 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract 21-IPP-22 with DST LLC for establishment of cover crops on 40 acres at \$35 per acre annually, for three years, not to exceed \$4,200

from FY21 Metro Watershed Based Implementation Grant for the Cannon River. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

15. Authorization to Execute Contract with DST LLP for Establishing Cover Crops (one-year)

DST LLP (Scott Weber) is proposing to establish a cover crop on 63 acres. The field is in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted.

21.040 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to a execute contract 21-IPP-23 DST LLC establishment of cover crops on 63 acres at \$25 per acre on one-year contract, not to exceed \$1,575 from agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

16. Authorization to Execute Contract with Jack Siebenaler for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators

John (Jack) Siebenaler is proposing to install 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. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,000.

21.041 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to a execute contract with John Siebenaler for the installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 1.0 acres in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$2,250 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

17. Authorization to Execute Contract with Brandy Wentzler for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators

Brandy Wentzler 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. This site is near the Siebenaler property under the previous agenda item. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,700.

21.042 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to a execute contract with Brandy Wentzler for the installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 0.50 acres in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$1,275 from CY Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

18. Annual Tree Sale

Watson sated that a Goal adopted under our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was Land and Habitat Protection. Under this goal a strategy was identified to initiate forestry and woodlot improvements, and one example of doing this was to evaluate reinstating our Tree Sale Program that was discontinued in 2011 due to budget concerns and prioritizing staff workload. During this time period, the Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) Program was initiated in collaboration with funding from watershed management organizations and SWCD staff began to provide workshops to assist landowners in designing native gardens and raingardens.

While evaluating the reinstatement of the Tree Sale Program, staff did not pursue in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff discussions started again recently about the possibility of an annual Tree Sale.

The program will provide bare root seedlings and different forestry products to assist with the early stages of tree growth. A Nursery Stock Certificate to sell the trees is required by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and will be obtained. Bulk tree orders will need to be made and purchased from the supplier in October and order forms will be made available to the public in late November or December. The Tree handout will take place in mid to late April. We do not request information from those that purchase trees

on how the trees will be used or where they will be planted. Landowners will be provided technical assistance on establishing shelterbelts, windbreaks or habitat improvements if requested.

Leslie Pilgrim, resident of Mendota Heights, indicated her support to reinstate the tree sale program at the Dakota SWCD. She stated that a small group is pursuing the goal of 5,000 trees in 5 years within the City of Mendota Heights. She added that the City sponsors 60 tree per year at their sale, and that is not enough to reach their goal. She took it upon herself to seek out SWCDs with tree programs; and was surprised that Dakota did not have a tree sale program. She further stated that she is proud of the work accomplished at Dakota SWCD and would like to see the tree sale program once again. There is a demand with climate change and biodiversity concerns and we need roots in the ground. In addition, she feels it is important to offer this to the public.

There was continued discussion on the tree program, including offering bare root native species, costs for staff time to implement a tree sale program, potential conflict with private nurseries, using volunteers for assistance and where bulk trees are purchased.

Watson responded that staff would move forward to reinstate the tree sale program for the spring of 2022. Chair Zanmiller thanked Leslie for her research and persistence to offer a tree sale program to the residents of Dakota County.

19. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michelle Wohlers provided the NRCS report. She stated that regarding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, 6 applications were funded. With COVID, their office is still closed and available by appointment only. Most staff are in the office and masking is required. They are finding it more efficient to work from the office with field work. Lucas has relocated to the Faribault office, but is still available to help in Dakota County when needed. Wohlers reminded everyone of the Local Work Group meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. today.

Dakota County

There was no Dakota County report.

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

Watson stated that the resolution process has started. If Supervisors have ideas for policy, resolutions will need to be presented and voted on at our June 10 Board meeting. Watson indicated that if Board members have ideas to forward them and he can assist with drafting the resolution in the format being requested. The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Metro Area meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 18 and locally approved resolutions will be voted on at that meeting.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

There was no Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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

District Managers Report

Watson stated Kevin and Jayne will be participating in the Local Work Group meeting after the meeting today. Discussion continue on reopening Dakota County buildings. At this time, the June Board meeting will again be in virtual format, however, the building may be open for the July meeting.

Board of Supervisors Reports

There were no reports or updates.

20. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed. Zanmiller questioned if a tour would be held with the Area Meeting in June. Watson clarified that there would not be tour in June, however, there is discussion on holding a tour sometime in the fall.

21. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog
Secretary