



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, May 12, 2022

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, Information Officer

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Lana Rotty
Curt Coudron
Matthew Sorvig
Ashely Gallagher
Todd Matzke

Others Present:

George Fischer, Dakota County
Mark Zabel, VRW JPO
Matthew Lundberg, NRCS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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. Nobody came forward.

4. Introduction of New Staff

Watson introduced Matthew Sorvig, Resource Conservationist, he began employment on Monday, May 9, 2022. Matthew provided background on his educational and work experiences.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of April 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The April 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes were presented.

7. Approval of April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes were presented.

8. Approval of May 12, 2022 Accounts Payable

The May 12, 2022 Accounts Payable were presented.

9. Approval of April Finance Reports

The April Finance Report was Accepted.

22.144 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the consent agenda items. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA**10. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Jeremy Irrthum for Installation of Grassed Waterways**

Jeremy Irrthum has completed the installation of 3,360 linear feet of two grassed waterways in Hampton Township, Pine Creek Watershed of the Cannon River. The project was approved for funding at the April 14, 2022 Board meeting at 85% cost share not to exceed \$21,930 and based on a cost estimate of \$25,800. Final project cost was \$25,500.

22.145 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve final payment of \$21,675 to Jeremy Irrthum (21-IPP-03) for installation of grassed waterways with funding coming from the FY21 WBIF Metro Cannon River grant and North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute Two Contracts with Pat Maher for Establishment of Cover Crop (1-Year)

Pat Maher is proposing to establish a cover crop totaling 127 acres on two fields. The fields are located in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract that will require cover crop establishment for one year. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted for each field. Under each contract, incentives for establishing the cover crop are: 100 acres not to exceed \$2,500 and 27 acres not to exceed \$675.

22.146 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contracts 22-IPP-07 and 22-IPP-08 with Pat Maher for establishment of cover crop on 127 acres on two fields, in Section 23 and 11, Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed, encumbering \$3,175 from agreements executed with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Execute Three Contracts with Doug Wille for Establishment of Cover Crop (3-Year)

Doug Wille is proposing to establish a cover crop totaling 157 acres on three different fields. Two fields are located in Castle Rock Township, Cannon River Watershed and the third field is located in Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract that will require cover crop establishment for three consecutive years. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted for each field. Under each contract, incentives for establishing the cover crop are: 75 acres not to exceed \$7,875, 47 acres not to exceed \$4,935 and 35 acres not to exceed \$3,675.

22.147 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contracts 22-IPP-09, 22-IPP-10 and 22-1PP-11 with Doug Wille for establishment of cover crop on 157 acres on three fields, two in Section 36 of Castle Rock Township, Cannon River Watershed and one in Section 17 & 18 of Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed, encumbering \$16,485 from executed agreements with Dakota County and the FY22 CWF Drinking Water Protection Phase 2 grant. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Don Peterson for Establishment of Cover Crop (1-Year)

Don Peterson is proposing to establish a cover crop on 253 acres. The fields is located in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted. Based on adopted cost share policy, a landowner is eligible for cover crop incentives of up to 100 acres per field.

22.148 Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to execute contract 22-IPP-15 with Don Peterson for establishment of cover crop on 100 acres in Section 7, Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed, encumbering \$,2,500 from the agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Four Contracts with Paul Gergen, Jr. for Establishment of Cover Crop (1-Year)

Paul Gergen, Jr. is proposing to establish a cover crop totaling 97 acres on four different fields. The fields are located in Hampton Township, Pine Creek Watershed of the Cannon River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract that will require cover crop establishment for one year. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted for each field. Under each contract, incentives for establishing the cover crop are 36 acres not to exceed \$900, 29 acres not to exceed \$725, 17 acres not to exceed \$425 and 15 acres not to exceed \$375.

22.149 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contracts 22-IPP-16, 22-IPP-17, 22-IPP-18, 22-IPP-19 with Paul Gergen, Jr. for establishment of cover crop on 97 acres on four fields in Section 28 of Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed encumbering \$1,525 from executed agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

15. Authorization to Execute Two Contracts with DST, LLP for Establishment of Cover Crop (1-year)

DST LLP (Scott Weber) is proposing to establish a cover crop totaling 145 acres on two fields. The fields are located in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of Cannon River. Each field will have a separate contract that will require cover crop establishment for one year. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted for each field. Under each contract, incentives for establishing the cover crop are: 55 acres not to exceed \$1,375 and 90 acres not to exceed \$2,250.

22.150 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contracts 22-IPP-20 and 22-IPP-21 with DST LLP (Scott Weber) for establishment of cover crop on 145 acres on two fields, in Section 23 and 11, Douglas Township, Cannon River Watershed, encumbering \$5,150 from executed agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

16. Authorization to Execute Two Contracts with City of Burnsville for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

The City of Burnsville is proposing to install two native prairie restorations. Both projects are located in the Minnesota River Watershed. The first project is a 0.8 acre native prairie with pollinator habitat at North River Hills Park. This is the second phase of restoration at the park; the first phase was done in 2021 under a cost share contract with Dakota SWCD. An existing sand court and non-native vegetation will be removed followed by seeding of native vegetation. The sand court removal is not eligible for cost share, but costs associated with the vegetation restoration are eligible. The total eligible cost of the project is estimated at \$4,800. This project is eligible for 85% cost share.

The second project is a 1.5 acre native prairie with pollinator habitat at Highland View Park. Existing turf grass will be removed and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$7,000. This project is eligible for 85% cost share,

22.151 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contracts 22-IPP-13 and 22-IPP-14 with City of Burnsville for establishment of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 0.8 acre at North River Hills Park at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$2,400 and 1.5 acre at Highland View Park at 85% cost share, not to exceed

\$4,500 with encumbering both contracts from the executed agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

17. Authorization to Execute Contract with Mike & Suzanne Everson for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

Michael and Suzanne Everson are proposing to install 1.9 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 cost of the project is estimated at \$7,400. This project is eligible for 85% cost share.

22.152 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract 22-IPP-23 with Michael & Suzanne Everson for establishment of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 0.8 acre in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$5,700 from executed agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

18. Authorization to Execute Contract with Dana Groh Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

Dana Groh is proposing to install a 4.0 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 cost of the project is estimated at \$15,600. The project is eligible for 85% cost share.

22.153 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract 22-IPP-24 with Dana Groh for establishment of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 4.0 acres in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$12,000 from executed agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

19. Authorization to Amend Grant Agreement with Metropolitan Council for Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program Services

Watson stated that this item was added to the new agenda that was distributed today. The Metropolitan Council is changing the time frame on the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) Grants to follow the calendar year. The current grant we are working under terminated on March 31, 2022 and no WOMP tasks have been completed since then. The amendment presented will cover the time frame of May 4, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and they are providing additional funding for those services.

22.154 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve Amendment Number One to the Grant Agreement with The Metropolitan Council for Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program with additional funds of \$8,619.64 no to exceed \$40,619.64 through December 31, 2022. All members voting in favor.

20. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report was provided by Matthew Lundberg. He stated that they have obligated 5 total contracts in Dakota/Washington counties through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), they are awaiting additional funding and plan on obligating additional applications in May/June. The recently hired District Conservationist, Lizzie Dawson, will start on June 6, 2022. Matt indicated that he attended a regional conservation partnership meeting to review irrigation methods; several producers have shown interest. Irrigation water management EQIP signups will mostly be routed through Ashley Gallagher with Dakota SWCD. Matt mentioned he is also in the planning stages of a Soil Health Field Day with Clean River Partners as part of the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization work plan for large-scale producers to share their stories; the event is planned for late summer/fall.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by George Fischer. He thanked the Board and stated that they are happy to be working together with all of the Capital Improvement Projects that were just approved. There was discussion on continuing this funding through the 5-Year agreement renewal between Dakota County and the SWCD. He noted that there have been a few staffing changes in the Physical Development Division, Erin Laberee is the new Transportation Director and Nikki Geisler is the new Parks Director. They along with Watson, and a few other unit managers met yesterday to discuss collaborative efforts. Parks are interested in expanding landscaping for clean water type projects on both public and private lands along greenway corridors. Steve Mielke will be retiring the end of May, staying on part-time with the changeover. His successor has not yet been announced.

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 (JPB) report.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation District Joint Powers Board (JPB) report.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts report was presented by Watson. He stated that the next area meeting and tour is scheduled for June 23 and will be hosted by Carver County SWCD. Resolutions will be addressed at that meeting, please forward resolution topics to Watson to be discussed at our June Board meeting. Watson stated that he would like to pursue a resolution so MASWCD could lobby to increase the Natural Resource Block Grant and Wetland Conservation Act funding as it has not changed for 12 years and the last time it was change, it was reduced. Zabel added that Carver SWCD is planning the meeting and tour to be in person.

District Manager Reports

Watson stated that he had nothing additional to add.

Board of Supervisors Reports

Dee stated that filing to run for Supervisor begins on Tuesday, May 17 and runs through May 31, 2022. Zannmiller added that the Master Gardeners are having their annual plant sale on May 14, 2022 at Whitetail Woods Regional Park.

20. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

21. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog
Secretary