



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, June 9, 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

Others Present:

Valerie Nepl, Dakota County
Matthew Lundberg, NRCS
Lizzy Dawson, 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. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of May 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The May 12 Meeting Minutes were presented.

6. Approval of June 9, 2022 Accounts Payable

The June 9, Accounts Payable were presented.

7. Approval of May Finance Reports

The May Finance Report was Accepted.

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

REGULAR AGENDA**8. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Sara Bridges for Installation of Grassed Waterways**

Sarah Bridges has completed the installation of three grassed waterways in Eureka Township and the upper portion of the Vermillion River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the April 14, 2022 Board meeting at 85% cost share based on a cost estimate of \$22,400. Final project cost was \$26,000.

22.158 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve final payment of \$19,040 to Sara Bridges (21-IPP-04) for installation of grassed waterways with funding from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and FY21 WBIF Vermillion River Watershed Grant. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

9. Authorization to Execute Contract with Metropolitan Mosquito Control District for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District is proposing to install a 0.7-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat at their Rosemount office site located in the Vermillion River Watershed. The native prairie will increase infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat for pollinators. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,500. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. The project is eligible for 85% cost share.

22.159 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract with Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (22-IPP-25) for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on .7 acres in Rosemount, Vermillion River Watershed at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$2,100 from agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Execute Contract with MMDDB, LLC for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

MMDDB, LLC (Dave Hartung, Dan's Bar) is proposing to install a 1.1-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed. The site is located next to the municipal boundary of New Trier. The native prairie will be planted around a recently installed septic system. Native shrubs will be planted as part of the project to discourage winter snowmobile traffic from damaging the prairie. The native prairie will reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$4,900. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. The project is eligible for 85% cost share.

22.160 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with MMDDB, LLC (22-IPP-26) for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 1.1 acres in Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$3,300 from agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute Contract with Barbera Jaeger for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat

Barbara Jaeger is proposing to install a 2.5-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Inver Grove Heights, Mississippi 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 \$9,400. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. The project is eligible for 85% cost share.

22.161 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract with Barbera Jaeger (22-IPP-29) for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat on 2.5 acres in Inver Grove Heights, Mississippi River Watershed at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$7,500 from agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

12. Consider Resolution to Adopt Certain Wetland Conservation Act Authorities from Hampton Township

Watson stated that the Hampton Township Board passed a resolution at their April 19, 2022 meeting to delegate its decision and administrative authority to the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for the following WCA purposes: Official Listing as WCA Contact, Wetland Boundary and Type Decisions, No Loss Decisions, Exemption Decisions, and Providing State Required Annual Reports. With adoption of this resolution, the SWCD would perform these delegated authorities within Hampton Township.

22.162 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept Wetland Conservation Act authorities from Hampton Township as delegated. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

13. Consider Policy Resolution for Submittal to the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Watson stated that a call for 2022 resolutions has been made by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). Resolutions adopted locally will be considered regionally at the next MASWCD Metro Area meeting scheduled for June 23. A draft resolution is being brought forward for consideration that seeks additional funding for local implementation of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). This resolution will seek MASWCD involvement to pursue an increased level of funding to local units of government for implementing the WCA, a state mandate. Funding distributed to counties through a Natural Resource Block grant has remained unchanged since 2008 and prior to that year, funding was higher than it is today. Staff workload and costs to implement the WCA continue to be high in counties that are experiencing population growth and there is a presence of wetland resources. In addition, in order to meet the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Performance Standards for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, several metrics for measuring performance are predicated on the fact that SWCDs have the skill sets to implement WCA, including serving on the Technical Evaluation Panel, which requires staff knowledge and training.

The draft resolution also seeks to provide a direct appropriation option of BWSR funds to soil and water conservation districts when there is agreement from the county and to consider costs associated with increased workloads that local governments may experience under a scenario where the State of Minnesota assumes roles to implement Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; the federal wetland law.

22.163 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve resolution entitled Funding for Local Implementation of Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act; and to submit to Metro Conservation Districts for review and consideration. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

14. Announcements and Reports**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Matthew Lundberg introduced Lizzy Dawson, recently hired District Conservationist for the Farmington Office. Dawson stated that she worked for the NRCS for seven years in the Green Bay area and recently she worked at the NRCS office in North Dakota and Wisconsin. Her major studies include Plants and Agronomy. Lundberg provided the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. He stated that they have obligated 8 total contracts in Dakota/Washington counties through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). They have some Conservation Reserve Program plans to be produced. They will be conducting 4 highly erodible land checks in Dakota County. He noted that they will be implementing a few new programs; USDA Food Waste and Composting and with the Office of Urban Production - Urban and Suburban Farming. He also stated that a Peoples Garden has been established in Minneapolis; it is called Project Sweetie-Pie. They received educational and technical assistance as well as funding for the project.

Supervisor Dee asked if the USDA is aware of the proposed roundabout at the intersection of highway 52 and county road 66, as a public meeting is planned for that project. Lundberg was not aware of this specific project. Watson added that this is a very challenging intersection with environmentally sensitive areas, urban farming with the Hmong American Farmers Association, and impacts to prime farmland.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Valerie Nepl. She stated that they will be reviewing existing mining ordinances through a successful grant awarded to the SWCD.

The draft Ag Chemical Reduction Efforts (ACRE) plan is almost complete. Barr Engineering is finalizing nitrate monitoring scenarios to determine groundwater modeling numbers. They hope to use the Minnesota Department of Agriculture cover crop and perennial crop data for nitrate reductions soon. They are currently measuring 10 shallow groundwater wells. They will be seeking additional wells to test in August. Round one testing is for baseline information on nitrates and chloride.

They are offering community focused groundwater sampling at no-cost. This includes test kits for arsenic, chloride, lead, manganese, and nitrate. Individual private well testing results, health concerns, and treatment recommendations were mailed to each participant as results became available.

They are developing a pilot grant program for low income water treatment systems. Depending on the interest level, the funding may be increased.

The County will be hosting the We are Water exhibit October 13, 2022 through December 5, 2022. This is a partnership between the Libraries, Parks Department, Vermillion River Watershed, and SWCD. They are seeking water stories and they hope to interview landowners and residents of Dakota County.

The State of Minnesota Pollinator Protection Committee will be hosting an event at Schaars Bluff from 11:30 to 4:00 p.m. A program is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. There are 19 exhibitors committed at this time. Watson indicated that the SWCD is planning to attend and table the event.

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. The next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2022.

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

There was no Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts report. However, Watson reminded the Supervisors of the Area 4 Meeting and Tour scheduled for June 23.

District Manager Reports

Watson had no additional comments.

Board of Supervisors Reports

Chamberlain stated that he met with Maureen Fasbenders and they discussed some areas that needed to be corrected on their recently completed project. Watson added that staff are working with the engineer to review the situation and make needed corrections.

Dee expressed thanks to the Supervisors for filing for another term as Dakota County SWCD Board Supervisors.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

21. Adjourn

22.164 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