



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, July 14, 2022

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer
Bruce Johnson, Information Officer

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Lana Rotty
Curt Coudron
Todd Matzke

Others Present:

Brad Becker, Dakota County
Dain Olson, Dakota County
Chris Schmidt, NRCS
Lizzy Dawson, NRCS
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. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of June 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The June 9 Meeting Minutes were presented.

6. Approval of July 14, 2022 Accounts Payable

The July 14 Accounts Payable were presented.

7. Approval of June Finance Reports

The June Finance Report was Accepted.

22.166 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 Garden Homes Townhouse Association of Installation of Grade Stabilization**

Garden Homes Townhouse Association has completed the installation of a grade stabilization to repair an eroding gully. The project is located within the City of Burnsville, Minnesota River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the August 12, 2021 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$25,000 and based on a cost estimate of \$44,000. Final project cost was \$60,948.75.

Dee stated that this is a good project, many homeowners involved and makes for community good will. She asked if staff provided a presentation of the project process. Coudron stated, there was no formal presentation, however, many residents were onsite several times and brought information back to association meetings.

22.167 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to approve final payment of \$25,000 to Garden Homes Townhouse Association (21-CIF-04) for installation of grade stabilization and repair of gully with funding from the FY21 WBIF Minnesota River South Grant. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

9. Authorization to Amend Contract and Provide Final Payment to Caroline Leifeld Trust for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basins

Caroline Leifeld Trust (Carol Leifeld) has completed the installation of two water and sediment control basins in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The project was approved for funding at the September 9, 2021 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$8,625 and based on a cost estimate of \$11,500. Since the approval of the original contract, the SWCD Board adopted the 2022 Cost Share Policies that increased the maximum cost share percentage from 75% to 85%. Contractor costs have also increased with unanticipated increases in fuel prices and inflation. A request has been made to amend the contract to 85% cost share and include the increased project costs. Final project cost was \$11,969.60.

22.168 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to amend contract and approve final payment of \$10,174.16 to Caroline Leifeld Trust (21-IPP-37) for installation of two grassed water and sediment control basins in Douglas Township with funding from agreement with North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization and FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative grant. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Amend Contract and Provide Final Payment to John Ista for Installation of Grassed Waterway

John Ista, in cooperation with Kenneth Messner, has completed the installation of grassed waterway in Sciota Township, Cannon River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the April 14, 2022 Board meeting at 85% cost share not to exceed \$12,495 based on a cost estimate of \$14,700. Due to rainfall events during construction, additional work was needed to divert tile discharge around the project site. A request has been made to amend the contract to include the increased project costs of \$15,290.

22.169 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to amend contract and approve final payment of \$12,996.90 (85%) to John Ista (22-IPP-37) for installation of grassed waterway in Sciota Township with funding from agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute Contract with Thomas Bergum for Installation of Streambank Stabilization

Thomas Bergum is proposing to install 85 feet of streambank stabilization along North Creek in Lakeville, Vermillion River Watershed. The streambank stabilization will use coir logs, erosion control blanket, and native plants to reduce future streambank erosion and reduce the amount of sediment that is transported downstream. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6,000. The project is eligible for 85% cost share not to exceed \$5,000.

Dee questioned with neighbors on both sides with eroding streambank what benefit will be realized from this project. Coudron replied that it is a good opportunity to showcase bioengineering and native streambank stabilization options as opposed to riprap; and hopefully the neighbors will see the benefit and perhaps repair their streambanks as well. Dee questioned why the City doesn't step up on a project like this. Coudron explained that the City has participated in a number of streambank stabilization projects but in this case we have a single landowner requesting assistance rather than a larger City sponsored CIP project. Coudron further explained the sediment reduction benefits.

22.170 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract 22-CCS-01 with Tom Bergum for installation of streambank stabilization, City of Lakeville, Vermillion River Watershed at 85% cost share, not to exceed \$5,000 from agreement with Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Execute Two Contracts with Greg Fox for Establishment of Cover Crops (1-year)

Greg Fox is proposing to establish a cover crop totaling 65 acres on two fields. The fields are located in the City of Rosemount, 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: 25 acres not to exceed \$625 and 40 acres not to exceed \$1,000.

22.171 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contracts 22-IPP-12 and 22-IPP-22 with Greg Fox for establishment of cover crop on 65 acres on two fields, encumbering \$1,625 from agreements executed with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Dee, Zanmiller, Johnson. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Steve Wagner for Establishment of Cover Crops (3-year)

Steve Wagner is proposing to establish a cover crop totaling 100 acres over a three-year period on a field located in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed. A seeding plan has been prepared and accepted. The contract is for 100 acres not to exceed \$10,500. Under District cost share policy, payment for the first year will be made upon certification of the installation and District Board approval. Payments for additional years will be made annually when cover crop seeding has been completed for that year and has been certified by District staff.

22.172 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract 22-IPP-17 with Steve Wagner 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 FY22 Clean Water Fund Drinking Water Protection grant and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Groundwater Level Monitoring Services

The DNR has provided a FY23 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, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Per this contract, thirty observation wells will be monitored four times a year and seven irrigation wells will be monitored five times (37 wells total). In past years, 38 wells were monitored but the DNR has closed one of the observation wells. The work plan includes a total of 155 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 \$2,940, but the DNR does allow for an additional payment of \$720 (24 additional readings) should they request more readings. The total contract amount will not exceed \$3,660.

22.173 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute the FY23 contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for groundwater monitoring services. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

15. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Chris Schmidt, Matthew Lundberg, and Lizzy Dawson were on-hand from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lundberg stated that they are working on Conservation Reserve Program plans for producers. Project Sweetie-Pie, the Peoples Garden that has been established in Minneapolis is holding an urban agriculture event next week.

Schmidt reminded those present that Lizzy Dawson started on June 7. A new Soil Conservationist in Faribault started on June 6. A new Forester in Waconia started July 5. A Summer Intern housed in Waconia started on June 6 and will work 8 weeks and spend time in each office within the Customer Service Team (CST). For FY22 EQIP, there have been 47 applications obligating over \$800,000 for the Faribault CST. Minnesota has requested additional funding.

Lizzy Dawson added that she has been involved with the RCCP funding. There was a total of 7 applications for Dakota County and two for Washington. In all, 17 applications were received for the \$700,000 allocation. Dakota County had one application that ranked high. Funding awards to be announced soon.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Brad Becker. He thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to be at the meeting and provided an update on the County Budget process.

Becker then introduced Dain Olson, Assistant Dakota County Attorney. Dain will be providing assistance to the SWCD and also assists the Environmental Resource Department. Olson provided background on his past work experiences and is looking forward to this role with Dakota County.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

There was no Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization report.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

Dee provided the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (JPB) report. She attended the meeting in place of Chamberlain; however, she did not attend the-tour. The ten-year Education and Outreach plan was approved. The plan listed 50 educational activities. The Plan states that many activities would be provided by a third party vendor, mainly Clean Water Partnership (CRP). Dee asked for clarification at the JPB meeting on the process and there was no set process. She responded that she understands use of consultants but has concerns with offering all outreach to CRP. Specifically, she questioned how the group knows they are the best fit to lead each of the educational efforts and who will manage and evaluate their work. Watson added that Rice SWCD serves the lead role for the Education and Outreach activities and they will be responsible to evaluate and manage the Education and Outreach Plan.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation District Joint Powers Board (JPB) report. The next meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2022.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Area 4 meeting took place on June 23, 2022. There was discussion on the resolution to work toward exempting SWCDs from nursery stock licensure. The resolution passed with further discuss anticipated by the MASWCD Legislative Committee and at the annual convention.

District Manager Reports

Watson requested the Finance Committee meet to review quarter 2 finances and discuss the 2023 budget. He noted that he has a meeting with the County Manager on August 11, 2022. There are new computer requirements that will impact the Boards issued iPads. If you have questions, please contact Dave Holmen. Watson added that an interview was held yesterday for the Finance and Grants Coordinator.

Board of Supervisors Reports

There were no Board of Supervisors reports.

16. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed. The Dakota County Fair was noted and Watson added that a Water Bar will be outside the Natural Resources building on select days during the fair. The next SWCD Board meeting will be during the fair and staff will provide an update on accessing the building and parking lot during the fair.

17. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog
Secretary