



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, August 11, 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
Curt Coudron
Lana Rotty
Pam LaValle
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. Introduction of New Staff

Watson introduced Pam LaValle, Finance and Grants Coordinator. She began employment on Monday, August 8, 2022. Pam provided background on her education and work experiences.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of July 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The July 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes were presented. Watson noted that under the Announcements and Reports section, there are errors in the minutes that were mailed in the Board Meeting packet, he reviewed the needed corrections, documents have been updated, new copies were distributed.

7. Approval of August 11, 022 Accounts Payable

The August 11 Accounts Payable was presented.

8. Acceptance of July Finance Report

The July Finance Report was presented.

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

REGULAR AGENDA**9. Authorization to Execute Contract with Dan Peine to Establish Cover Crops (3-years)**

Daniel (Dan) Peine is proposing to establish cover crops on 100 acres over a three-year period. The field is located in Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed.

22.177 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract 22-IPP-32 with Dan Peine for establishment of cover crops over three years on 100 acres in Section 14 of Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed, encumbering \$10,500 from FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant and agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Execute FY23 Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for Watershed Based Implementation within the Metro Watershed Planning Area of Cannon River

Gallagher stated that in early 2022, partners began meeting to discuss and prioritize implementation activities previously identified in BWSR and State approved plans. Under BWSRs defined process, partners asked to participate in these convene meetings included the Dakota SWCD (Comprehensive Plan), Dakota County (Groundwater Plan), North Cannon River WMO (Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act Plan) and Township representatives (Local Comprehensive Plan). The partners developed a list of projects, discussed eligibility with BWSR staff and submitted a draft workplan and budget. The draft workplan and budget has been approved by BWSR staff and the grant agreement has been prepared for execution. The Dakota SWCD was selected by the convene group as the fiscal agent for this grant.

The total grant allocation is \$304,886 and a local match of \$30,489 (10%) funding is a grant requirement. Projects and activities in the proposed workplan and budget include:

- Grant administration \$7,886
- Project development \$55,000
- Technical and engineering assistance \$72,000
- Cost-share for agricultural practices \$120,000
- Planning and assessments \$50,000.

22.178 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to authorize execution of the FY23 Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for Watershed Based Implementation within the Metro Watershed Planning Area of Cannon River. All members voting aye, with Supervisor Dee abstaining. Motion carried.

11. Award Contract to WSB and Associates for the Model Mining Ordinance Project and Authorize the District Manager to Execute a Contract subject to review by County Attorney

Dakota SWCD was awarded a Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for the Model Mining Ordinance Project. The SWCD is working closely with Dakota County groundwater staff on this project and they assisted with the review and scoring the proposals submitted. Two proposals were submitted and met minimum requirements. Both were reviewed, scored, and ranked. Staff is recommending entering into a contract with WSB and Associates for the Model Mining Ordinance Project in the amount not-to-exceed \$44,973.

22.179 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to award contract to WSB and Associates for the Model Mining Ordinance Project and Authorize District Manager to Execute Contract. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

12. Update on Tree Program

The SWCD reestablished a Tree Sale Program in 2022 after several years of discontinuing the program. In 2022 a total of 206 orders were processed and 11,750 tree and shrub seedlings were sold. We also sold over 900 pieces of tree products such as tubes and mats to protect the seedlings and encourage growth. A survey was sent to our tree sale customers and there was a 36% response rate. The survey was intended to gain information on the primary goal and use of the trees and shrubs and to evaluate ways for program improvements. The Tree Sale Program provides landowner opportunities to implement a conservation practices and allows staff to interact with residents. Staff are moving forward with planning the 2023 Tree Sale. Staff continue to evaluate ways to make the program as efficient as possible.

13. Selection of 2022 Conservation Cooperator

Coudron stated that each year a selection is made to identify a landowner or entity that has made a significant contribution to protecting our land and water resources. The selected Outstanding Conservation Cooperator will be invited to a future SWCD Board meeting and will be invited to participate in the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual program in December.

22.180 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to select Dave and Maureen Fasbender as the 2022 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dee left the meeting.

14. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lizzy Dawson stated that the funding under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program/Regional Conservation Partnership Program (EQIP/RCP) in Dakota County has been obligated. Staff are working on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) status reviews and contracts. Staff will be attending a Renewing the Countryside event on August 29 to connect with producers as they will be promoting the NRCS farm loan program.

Dakota County

There was no Dakota County report provided.

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. The next meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2022.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

There was no MASWCD information to report.

District Manager Reports

Watson requested the Education and Outreach Committee look at dates to schedule a meeting.

Board of Supervisors Reports

There were no Board of Supervisors reports.

16. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

17. Closed Executive Session

Conduct Annual Performance Review of District Manager

22.181 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to enter closed session. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

22.182 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to return to open session. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

18. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog
Secretary