



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, October 13, 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
Curt Coudron
Pam LaValle
Todd Matzke

Others Present:

Nikki Stewart, Dakota County
Lizzy Dawson, NRCS
Chris Schmidt, NRCS
Matthew Lundberg, NRCS
Dave & Maureen Fasbender

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. Recognition of 2022 Outstanding Conservationist – Dave and Maureen Fasbender

Watson recognized Dave and Maureen Fasbender who were in attendance and highlighted some of the conservation projects they have installed over the years. A plaque was presented by Chair Zanmiller recognizing the Fasbender's as the Dakota SWCD Outstanding Conservationist for 2022.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of September 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The September 8, 2022 meeting minutes were presented.

7. Approval of October 2022 Accounts Payable

The October 2022 accounts payable was presented.

8. Acceptance of September Finance Report

The September finance report was presented.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Authorization to Execute Contract with Jim Perry for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin

Jim Perry is proposing to install a Water and Sediment Control Basin in Castle Rock Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Total project costs are estimated at \$20,600 and project funds are available through our FY22 State Cost Share Grant and our agreement with Dakota County. Staff is recommending approval of the contract at 85% not to exceed \$17,510.

22.202 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract with Jim Perry not to exceed \$17,510 for installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Execute FY23 Grant Agreement with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for Buffer Law Implementation and Local Capacity Services

Watson explained that these two programs have been combined into one grant agreement. We are eligible for FY23 grant funds in the amount of \$17,000 for the Buffer Law Program and \$143,745 for the Local Capacity Services Program. There is no local match requirement as part of these two Minnesota Board of Water and Soil (BWSR) grant programs. The grant term would be from the time of execution to December 31, 2025. Discussion occurred regarding the release of these grant funds. Watson reported that funds for these two grant program are provided at the time of grant execution. As a member of the BWSR Board, Supervisor Dee indicated that she would abstain from voting.

22.203 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to authorize execution of a FY23 grant agreement with the BWSR in the amount of \$160,745 to implement the Buffer Law and provide Local Capacity Services All members voting in favor. Dee abstained. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute FY23 Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for Soil Health Cost Share.

The Soil Health Cost Share Grant combines FY22 and FY23 General Funds for soil health practice adoption purposes consistent with provisions of Minnesota Statute 103C.501. This is a non-competitive grant in the amount of \$14,175 and is available to each SWCD. There is no local match requirement as part of this BWSR grant agreement. The grant term would be from the time of execution to December 31, 2024.

22.204 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to authorize execution of a FY23 grant agreement with the BWSR in the amount of \$14,175 for Soil Health Cost Share. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

12. Approval of 2021 Financial Audit

The 2021 Financial Audit Report prepared by Peterson Company, LTD for the calendar year 2021 was provided. Watson indicated that upon approval of the financial audit report by the Board, Peterson Company will forward to the Office of the State Auditor for their review and approval. There were no issues identified in the 2021 financial audit.

22.205 Motion by Dee, second by Skog to approve the 2021 Financial Audit prepared by Peterson Company, LTD. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog and Johnson. Motion carried.

13. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report was provided by Chris Schmidt and Lizzy Dawson. Schmidt provided a staffing update and reported that forestry support is available thru partners. NRCS is having a successful year with 54 approved contracts for funding thru EQIP as well as a lot of re-enrollments in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Dawson reported that deferral letters have been sent out. Lizzy and Matt attended the annual family night at the stem school in Apple Valley. They had a sensory event, soil profile, and rainfall simulator model for the kids and families. Lizzy and Matt also participated in the SWCD's 5th grade Outdoor Education Days where they had a soil pit to teach the student about the importance of healthy soils. Watson thanked NRCS staff for assisting with the event.

Dakota County

Watson introduced Nikki Stewart as the new Director of Environment Resources. Nikki provided a brief introduction and her professional background. The Board welcomed Nikki to Dakota County.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) report was presented by Kevin Chamberlain. He reported they had a meeting on October 5th and all action items were approved. The CRWJPB approved the Roles Agreement and Rice and Dakota SWCDs will continue to provide services through 2025. The CRWJPB is having difficulty soliciting legal services. They have reached out to Counties and will start to solicit private services if County attorney offices are not available or willing to assist. Chamberlain reported on a presentation provided regarding a drainage system and wetland being restored in Le Sueur County.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board report. The next meeting is November 16, 2022.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The next Metro Area meeting is Friday, November 18th at Ramsey Public Works. Watson reported that resolutions that need to be voted on are included in the board packets. He requested the Board complete the pre-convention vote and submit their ballots to Pam LaValle for submittal. This year's annual convention will be December 12-14 which is Monday through Wednesday rather than the traditional Sunday through Tuesday.

District Manager Report

Watson reported he would like to set a date for a Finance Committee meeting in early November. Watson shared a short video created from photos and videos sent to us from recent participants in our Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) program. This information was from residents within the City of West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights and it shows a Rusty Patch Bumble Bee and migrating Monarch butterflies. This video and picture will be shared on the SWCD YouTube channel. Supervisor Dee suggested actively asking LCW participants to share pictures and videos during upcoming workshops.

Board of Supervisors Announcements

Supervisor Chamberlain reported he attended the MN Dept of Agriculture's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan Open House. Chamberlain reported there is some concern among landowners about the ramifications of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan. The focus is on the Hastings drinking water supply management area and concern with high nitrates in the groundwater. High nitrate levels are also an indicator of other pesticides and can affect groundwater resources and public health. Implementation of best management practices under the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan is currently voluntary but there is concern if it becomes regulatory.

14. Upcoming Events

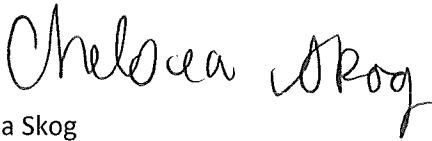
Upcoming events were reviewed. The next SWCD Board meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2022.

15. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea Skog". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chelsea Skog
Secretary