



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, November 10, 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
Ashley Gallagher

Others Present:

Valerie Neppel, Dakota County
Jill Trescott, Dakota County
Nikki Stewart, Dakota County
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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of October 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The October 13, 2022 meeting minutes were presented.

6. Approval of November 2022 Accounts Payable

The November 2022 accounts payable was presented.

7. Acceptance of October Finance Report

The October finance report was presented.

8. Authorization to Cancel Contract with Dan Harris for Installation of Grassed Waterway

Dan Harris was under contract (22-IPP-06) for installing a grassed waterway at 85% cost share not to exceed \$8,330. The project is located in the Vermillion River Watershed. The project has not been started and Dan Harris does not plan to install the project this year. Rather than modifying the existing contract, Dan Harris is requesting to cancel the contract and he will re-evaluate the need for the grassed waterway next spring. Staff is recommending canceling the contract so that funds can be reallocated.

9. Authorization to Cancel Contract with Pat Maher for Establishing Cover Crop (1-year)

Pat Maher had a one-year contract (22-IPP-08) for 27 acres not to exceed \$675. The project is located in the Vermillion River Watershed. Mr. Maher was unable to seed the field due to harvest timing and crops coming off too close to or after the October 15th seeding deadline. Staff is recommending canceling the contract so that funds can be reallocated.

22.208 Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to approve the consent agenda items. All Members voting in favor. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA**10. Authorization to Amend Contract with Randy Peine for the installation of two Water and Sediment Control Basins.**

Randy Peine is planning to install two water and sediment control basins in Douglas Township in the Cannon River Watershed. The contract was approved at the September 8, 2022 Board meeting at 85% of actual costs, not to exceed \$21,505 based on a cost estimate of \$25,300. Mr. Peine has obtained proposals from contractors which are all higher than the original cost estimate. Based on the contractor proposals, staff is recommending to amend the contract to a new cost estimate of \$35,100 with cost share of 85% of actual costs, not to exceed \$29,835. Project funds are available through our FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant, the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization and their FY19 Watershed Based Funding Grant, and our agreement with Dakota County.

22.209 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to amend Contract with Randy Peine (22-IPP-41) for Two Water and Sediment Control Basins to not to exceed \$29,835. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, and Skog. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Pat Maher for Establishing Cover Crop (1-year)

Pat Maher has established a cover crop on 134 acres in Marshan Township located in Vermillion River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the May 12, 2022 Board meeting with an incentive payment of \$25 per acre for 100 acres, not to exceed \$2,500. A cover crop of winter cereal rye was seeded to provide temporary cover, reduce erosion, retain nutrients, and protect soil health.

22.210 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to Pat Maher (22-IPP-07) for establishment of cover crop in the Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 100 acres for a total of \$2,500 from agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to DST LLP for Establishing Cover Crop (1-year)

DST LLP has established a cover crop on 145 acres in Douglas Township located in the Cannon River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the May 12, 2022 Board meeting with an incentive payment of \$25 per acre for 55 acres, not to exceed \$1,375; and \$25 per acre for 90 acres, not to exceed \$2,250. A cover crop of winter cereal rye was seeded to provide temporary cover, reduce erosion, retain nutrients, and protect soil health.

22.211 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve final payment to DST LLP (22-IPP-20 & 22-IPP-21) for establishment of cover crop in Douglas Township, Cannon River Watershed at 145 acres for a total of \$3,625 from our annual agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller and Skog. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Provide Payment to Sand Coulee Prairie Farms for Establishing Cover Crop (1-year)

Sand Coulee Prairie Farms has established a cover crop on 57 acres in Douglas Township located in the Cannon River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the May 12, 2022 Board meeting with an incentive payment of \$25 per acre for 57 acres, not to exceed \$1,425. A cover crop of oats was seeded to provide temporary cover, reduce erosion, retain nutrients, and protect soil health.

22.212 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to Sand Coulee Prairie Farms (22-IPP-43) for establishment of cover crop in Douglas Township, Cannon River Watershed at 57 acres for a total of \$1,425 from our annual agreement with Dakota County. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog and Johnson. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Provide Partial Payment to Dan Peine for Establishing Cover Crop (3 year)

Dan Peine has established a cover crop on 100 acres in Hampton Township located in the Cannon River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the August 11, 2022 Board meeting with an incentive payment of \$35 per acre per year over three years for 100 acres, not to exceed \$3,500 each year. A cover crop of oats was seeded to provide temporary cover, reduce erosion, retain nutrients, and protect soil health.

22.213 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve first payment to Dan Peine (22-IPP-32) for establishment of cover crop in Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed at 100 acres for a total of \$3,500 from our agreements with Dakota County and the FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, and Dee. Motion carried.

15. Authorization to Provide Partial Payment to Randy Peine for Establishing Cover Crop (3 year)

Randy Peine has completed the first year of his three-year contract to establish cover crops on 51 acres in Ravenna Township located in the Vermillion River Watershed. The project was approved for funding at the September 8, 2022 Board meeting with an incentive payment of \$35 per acre per year over three years for 51 acres, not to exceed \$1,785 each year. A cover crop of winter cereal rye was seeded to provide temporary cover, reduce erosion, retain nutrients, and protect soil health.

22.214 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve first payment to Randy Peine (22-IPP-42) for establishment of cover crop in Ravenna Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 51 acres for a total of \$1,785 from agreements with Dakota County and the FY21 Metro WBIF Vermillion Grant. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

16. Authorization to Execute the Joint Powers Agreement with the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization for 2023 services.

Staff has drafted and presented a 2023 work plan and budget to the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGHWMO) Board. The work plan and budget includes administration tasks, education and outreach, and support for the installation of projects under the Landscaping for Clean Water Program. A new administration task is records management, which allows staff to switch the official records retention location from City of Eagan to the Dakota SWCD. The 2023 workplan and budget includes a total amount not to exceed \$37,550 which is a \$4,315 increase from previous year. The increase is due to an increase in hourly rate and increase in fees for the Landscaping for Clean Water program. The E-IGHWMO Board approved the 2023 work plan and budget at their October 18, 2022 meeting.

22.215 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to authorize execution of the 2023 Agreement for Services with the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

17. Authorization to Execute the Joint Powers Agreement with the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization for 2023 services.

Staff has drafted and presented a 2023 work plan and budget to the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) Board. The work plan and budget includes general administration services, water monitoring, technical assistance, education/outreach, and support for the installation of projects under the Landscaping for Clean Water program. The 2023 work plan and budget includes a total amount not to exceed \$94,540 which is a \$9,610 increase from the previous year. The increase is largely due to additional staff time needs for a Landscaping for Clean Water shoreline restoration presentation and administrative services supporting the Minnesota Water Stewards program and a storm drain stenciling program. The LMRWMO Board approved the 2023 work plan and budget at their October 12, 2022 meeting.

22.216 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to authorize execution of the 2023 Agreement for Services with the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

18. Authorization to Execute FY22-23 grant agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for Watershed Based Implementation within the Vermillion River Watershed planning area.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) allocated \$650,684 to the Vermillion River Watershed planning area under the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) program. Under BWSRs defined procedures, a convene process was followed to coordinate funding for prioritized, targeted, and measurable projects within the planning area. Participants (Partners) in the convene process included Dakota SWCD, Dakota County, Scott SWCD, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, and the cities of Apple Valley and Lakeville (both selected as municipal representatives by other municipalities within the watershed).

Partners began meeting in early 2022 to discuss and prioritize implementation activities. Projects must be identified in a BWSR or State approved plan to be eligible for funding. Watershed priorities were identified, projects were proposed, and the highest priority projects were recommended for funding by the Partners. For the total allocation, five Dakota SWCD projects totaling \$162,000 were recommended. Additional grant match of 10% is required.

Dakota SWCD projects include:

- Lower Mainstem Vermillion Subwatershed Analysis to identify and rank projects based on cost-effectiveness (\$27,000)
- Implementing priority agricultural practices in subwatersheds that have a completed subwatershed analysis through technical assistance and cost share of practices (\$50,000)
- Implementing nitrate reduction practices in areas vulnerable to groundwater contamination through technical assistance and cost share (\$40,000)
- Promotion and development of irrigation water management through technical assistance to farmers (\$15,000)
- Promotion and technical assistance to develop projects and practices that protect groundwater (\$30,000)

Dakota County SWCD will be fiscal agent for projects led by the SWCD. A budget request has been submitted to and approved by BWSR staff. A work plan will now need to be submitted and approved and then the grant agreement can be executed. The grant agreement is initially set to expire on December 31, 2025. Listed

projects will be incorporated into the 2023 to 2025 budget and staff workplans. Grant match is available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

22.217 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to authorize execution of FY22-23 grant agreement with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for Watershed Based Implementation within the Vermillion River watershed planning area. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

19. Adopt 2023 Medical and Dental Benefits

Premiums for medical and dental insurance plans are shared by participating employees and the SWCD as the employer. PreferredOne is our current medical provider and they are no longer offering coverage to small employers in 2023. HealthPartners is our current dental provider.

The Finance Committee met on November 3 to review information from four different medical insurance providers and their plan options. The medical insurance providers reviewed included United Health Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Health Partners and Medica. It was the Committee’s recommendation to have Health Partners provide medical coverage. Medical premiums for 2023 would increase approximately 10%. The Committee also recommended retaining Health Partners as our dental provider. Dental premiums in 2023 will remain the same for single enrollments. Family enrollments would receive a 25% discount since we would be using Health Partners as the service provider for both medical and dental benefits.

The Finance Committee also recommended increasing the employee monthly medical costs to offset the 2023 insurance increase. It was recommended that two medical plan options and one dental plan option be made available in 2023 to employees:

- HealthPartners 25-90 Platinum plan option (Medical)
- HealthPartners \$2,400-100% HSA plan option (Medical)
- HealthPartners (Dental)

It is further recommended that the following health and dental employee premiums be provided for 2023:

<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>Monthly Employee Cost</u>	<u>HSA Plan Employee Credit</u>
Single	\$50	\$1,200
Single Plus One (spouse)	\$250	\$2,400
Family	\$470	\$2,400
<u>Dental Insurance</u>	<u>Monthly Employee Cost</u>	
Single	\$20	
Family	\$40	

Open enrollment for 2023 Health and Dental Benefits will begin in November. The results of employee enrollment will be incorporated into the 2023 budget.

22.218 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to select HealthPartners (Medical & Dental) as insurance providers for 2023, with the employee costs listed above. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, and Dee. Motion carried.

20. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report was provided by Matt Lundberg. Matt reported they are currently prioritizing EQIP applications for the coming fiscal year and are out certifying cover crops.

Next week Matt Lundberg and Matt Schaar will be attending Micro Irrigation training in Staples put on by the Central Lakes College.

Dakota County

Jill Trescott from Dakota County Environmental Resources provided a presentation on the recently approved Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE). The ACRE Plan was adopted by the County Board at the October meeting. The goal is to reduce agricultural chemicals in groundwater so they no longer pose threats to human health or the environment. The 4 main ACRE strategies are: 1. Collect Information, 2. Communicate & Educate, 3. Technical Assistance and 4. Financial Incentives.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

There was no Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation District Joint Powers Board report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Watson reported the MASWCD convention is December 12 – 14th. Registrations are due by December 1, 2022. He asked that Board supervisors coordinate registration with Diane. The MASWCD – Metro Area meeting will be held Friday, November 18th at the Ramsey County Public Works Building.

District Manager Report

Watson provided a summary and update on the Finance Committee meeting held on November 3. He also mentioned that a second board meeting in December will likely be needed to take action on landowner contracts and complete other business items for calendar year 2022. Watson reminded board members to use there Dakota County email account at least once every 90 days or risk losing the account.

Board of Supervisors Announcements

There were no Board of Supervisors reports.

21. Upcoming Events

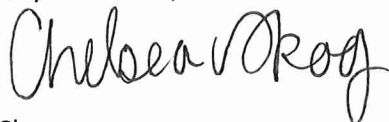
Upcoming events were reviewed. The next SWCD Board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022.

22. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Skog
Secretary