



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, February 9, 2023

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Kevin Chamberlain, Vice Chair
Chelsea Skog, Secretary
Bruce Johnson, Information Officer
Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Court Coudron
Todd Matzke
Ashley Gallagher
Diane Schmidtke

Others Present:

Valerie Nepl, Dakota County
Dain Olson, Dakota County Attorney
Elizabeth Dawson, NRCS
Matthew Lundberg, NRCS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:06 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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of January 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The January 12, 2023 meeting minutes were presented.

6. Approval of February 9, 2023 Accounts Payable

The February 2023 accounts payable was presented.

7. Authorization to enter into Engagement Letter with Peterson Company Ltd for Conducting 2022 Financial Audit.

Engagement Letter with Peterson Company Ltd for 2022 Financial Audit was presented.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Authorization to Execute Joint Powers Agreement with the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization for implementing a FY21 Watershed Based Implementation Grant.

A work plan with the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) to provide grant administration and project development tasks associated with a Mississippi River Ravine Erosion and Direct Drainage Study was presented. The agreement would include a not to exceed amount of \$22,160.

23.017 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to authorize execution of a Joint Powers Agreement with the LMRWMO for implementing a FY21 Watershed Based Implementation grant. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

9. Authorization to Execute Joint Powers Agreement with the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization for Implementing a FY22 Conservation Partners Legacy grant.

A work plan with the LMRWMO to provide grant administration and project development tasks associated with a shoreline restoration at Seidls Lake located in the cities of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights was presented. The agreement would include a not to exceed amount of \$25,940. Watson mentioned that Note 2 in the work plan would be removed so current SWCD billable rate could be used rather than a direct cost rate as required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources grant.

23.018 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to authorize execution of the Joint Powers Agreement with the LMRWMO for implementing a FY22 Conservation Partners Legacy grant with Note 2 removed from the workplan. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller and Skog. Motion carried.

10. Adopt 2023 Cost Share Policies

The 2023 cost share policies were presented. Proposed changes to previous years policy include:

- Increase in-kind labor rate to \$30/hour
- Clarification and formatting policy related to the Landscaping for Clean Water program
- Increase cover crop incentives to \$35/acre for a single-year contract and \$45/acre/year for a multiple-year contract
- Increase harvestable cover incentives to \$25/acre for a single-year contract and \$35/acre/year for a multiple-year contract
- Increase in the number of acres eligible for cover crops and harvestable covers to 160 acres per contract
- Establish a maximum of 3 years per contract on harvestable covers
- Remove the limit on years of eligibility for cover crops and harvestable covers

23.019 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to adopt the 2023 Cost Share Policies. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller Skog, and Johnson. Motion carried.

11. Consider resolution to support reauthorizing the dedication of state lottery proceeds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Conservation Minnesota, a nonprofit organization with the mission of protecting our outdoor heritage and solving important conservation issues, has reached out to seek support for reauthorization of lottery proceeds being dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF).

A draft resolution was presented in support of this effort. Also included as an attachment is the sign-on letter and informational resources from Conservation Minnesota. Adoption of the resolution would include authorization to sign the electronic letter to Members of the Minnesota State Legislature.

23.020 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to support reauthorizing the dedication of state lottery proceeds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller Skog, and Johnson. Motion carried.

12. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Elizabeth Dawson with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided an update on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program applications and approval dates. Dawson mentioned that the interest in high tunnels has increased. As urban and small-scale farming is increasing, the NRCS is working with urban partners to address future needs of these farmers. Dawson also mentioned that a Local Work Group meeting will need to be scheduled prior to July 21, 2023.

Dakota County

Valerie Nepl provided an update on the Dakota County Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE). Nepl indicated that information from the 15 observation wells installed as part of the ACRE program is now available on the Dakota County web site as well as an overview of results from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture cyanazine testing completed in 2022. Nepl mentioned highlights from 2022 groundwater implementation activities will include SWCD projects.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22 and Chelsea Skog will attend in place of Laura Zanmiller.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Laura Zanmiller reported that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) met and reviewed upcoming legislation, including the One Minnesota Budget and how SWCD's will fit in to that budget. The MASWCD Board feels SWCDs are the best option to work with the Governor's Climate Action Framework and this will help to raise our profile. Other items included completing staff reviews, National Association of Conservation Districts Farm Bill principles, the Swift County Erosion Control Water Management Program, and a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Roundtable to discuss new legislation.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

Kevin Chamberlain attended the February 1, 2023 meeting along with Brian Watson and Ashley Gallagher. Chamberlain reported that in 2023 the Board officers will remain the same as in 2022. Organizational dues will be discussed at the next meeting.

District Managers Report

Brian Watson provided an update on the Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capital events being held on March 7 and 8. Watson mentioned that he was invited to speak at a March 1 Farmers Union meeting and has been appointed to the MASWCD 2023-2024 Legislative Committee.

Board of Supervisors Reports

There were no reports provided.

13. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

14. Adjourn

23.021 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to adjourn. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsea Skog". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Chelsea Skog
Secretary