



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, March 9, 2023

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

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

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Pam LaValle
Curt Coudron
Matthew Sorvig
Todd Matzke

Others Present:

Lizzy Dawson, NRCS
Jennifer Tonko, Clean River Partners
Nikki Stewart, Dakota County
Mark Zabel, VRW JPO
Dain Olson, DCAO
Valerie Nepl, Dakota County
Matt Belanger, Dakota County

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:03 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

Chair Zanmiller introduced Jennifer Tonko, Executive Director of Clean River Partners. Jennifer provided a brief introduction and her professional background.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The February 9, 2023 meeting minutes were presented.

7. Approval of March 9, 2023 Accounts Payable

The March 2023 accounts payable was presented.

8. Acceptance of December Finance Report

The December finance report was presented.

9. Acceptance of January Finance Report

The January finance report was presented.

10. Acceptance of February Finance Report

The February finance report was presented.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Authorization to Execute Contract with the City of Burnsville for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat.

The City of Burnsville is proposing to install an 0.8-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Interlachen Park in the Minnesota River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$3,600 and project funds are available through our agreement with Dakota County. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$2,400.

23.024 Motion by Johnson, second by Skog to execute contract with the City of Burnsville not to exceed \$2,400 for the installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

12. Presentation on Wetland Restoration Efforts – Past, Present and Future

Watson provided a presentation on Wetland Restoration Efforts. The presentation highlighted the differing types of wetland restorations that have occurred over time and the challenges associated with maintaining desirable plant communities over time.

13. Presentation on Dakota County Groundwater Levels

Valerie Neppl from Dakota County Environmental Resources Department provided a presentation on Dakota County Groundwater levels. The groundwater-level data is used to assess groundwater resources, determine long term trends, interpret impacts of pumping and climate, and plan for water conservation.

14. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report was provided by Elizabeth Dawson. Dawson provided a training update, announced a job opening for an agronomist at the Farmington office and requested a date and time get scheduled for the Local Work Group Meeting. Brian Watson will confirm the date and time but consensus was to hold the local work group meeting after our May board meeting.

Dakota County

Nikki Stewart thanked Brian Watson for attending the Dakota County Divisional Leadership meeting and reported they are working on the Joint Powers Agreement between Dakota County and the SWCD. Neppl introduced Matt Belanger who replaced Jill Trescott as Environmental Specialist within the groundwater unit for Dakota County. Belanger provided a brief introduction on his professional background. The board welcomed Matt to Dakota County.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

There was no Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

Brian Watson reported that the Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board met on February 22 and routine business took place.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Chair Zanmiller reported that Tuesday evening a legislative briefing was held and Wednesday they met with the legislators; meetings went well and seemed positive. Both SWCD Aid bills introduced in the Senate and the House are \$22 million and the Governor's budget is \$12 million so they will be working on aligning those numbers. Jayne Hager Dee added that the briefing was very well attended by SWCD Supervisors.

District Managers Report

Brian Watson reported that discussions have started with Dakota County staff on the next 5-year Joint Powers Agreement. The Township Officers meeting will be Saturday, March 18th starting at 9 am. Watson reported that the County Board has directed County staff to explore options to vacate the Extension and Conservation Center.

Board of Supervisors Reports

There were no additional Board of Supervisors items reported.

15. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

16. Adjourn

23.025 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Skog
Secretary