



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, April 13, 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
Ashley Gallagher
Todd Matzke
Lindsey Albright

Others Present:

Brad Becker, Dakota County
Dain Olson, DCAO
Mark Zabel, VRW JPO
Brynne Spangler, Student ISD 196

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:01 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. Presentation

Brynne Spangler, Student of ISD 196 and mentor participant provided a summary of her mentorship experience. Brynne was mentored by Lindsey Albright, Water Resource Specialist and her experiences included aquatic invasive species awareness, monitoring surface and groundwater flow, social media outreach and Landscaping for Clean Water Program research. The Board thanked Brynne for her interest in environmental studies and wished her the best as she pursues a post-high school degree.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The March 9, 2023 meeting minutes were presented.

7. Approval of April 13, 2023 Accounts Payable

The March 2023 accounts payable was presented.

8. Acceptance of March Finance Report

The March finance Reports were accepted.

9. Adopt 2022 Annual Report

The 2022 Annual Report was adopted.

10. Authorization to amend contract with WSB and Associates for Model Mining Ordinance Project.

The WSB Associates Contract for Model Mining Ordinance was amended.

23.027 Motion by Skog, 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 Mark Malecha for Installation of two Water and Sediment Control Basins.

Mark Malecha is proposing to install two Water and Sediment Control Basins in Greenvale Township in the Cannon River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$17,100 and project funds are available through our agreement with Dakota County and the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$14,535.

23.028 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Mark Malecha not to exceed \$14,535 for the installation of two water and sediment control basins. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Execute Contract with Carol Leifeld for reconstruction of an existing grassed waterway.

Carol Leifeld is proposing reconstruction of an existing grassed waterway in Hampton Township in the Cannon River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$24,500 and project funds are available through our FY21 Cannon WBF grant. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$20,825.

23.029 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to execute contract with Carol Leifeld not to exceed \$20,825 for the reconstruction of an existing grassed waterway. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, and Skog. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Mary Schwendig for installation of two grassed waterways.

Mary Schwendig is proposing installation of two grassed waterways in Hampton Township in the Vermillion River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$16,800 and project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$14,280.

23.030 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with Mary Schwendig not to exceed \$14,280 for installation of two grassed waterways. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, and Johnson. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Arthur Kalmes for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat.

Arthur Kalmes is proposing installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat in Burnsville in the Minnesota River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$1,900 and project funds are available through our agreement with Dakota County. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$1,500.

23.031 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract with Arthur Kalmes not to exceed \$1,500 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, and Dee. Motion carried.

15. Authorization to Execute Contract with Jeff Hoffman for installation of native prairie with pollinator habitat.

Jeff Hoffman is proposing installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat in Rosemount in the Vermillion River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$8,600 and project funds are available through our agreement with Dakota County. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$5,700.

23.032 Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to execute contract with Jeff Hoffman not to exceed \$5,700 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

16. Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with Metropolitan Council to conduct water monitoring.

A workplan with the Metropolitan Council under their Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program to conduct water monitoring services on the Vermillion and Cannon Rivers was presented. The agreement would include a not to exceed amount of \$32,000 and includes both monitoring locations with a two-year term of February 2, 2023 until December 31, 2024.

23.033 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute Grant Agreement with Metropolitan Council to conduct water monitoring. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

17. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Brian Watson presented the NRCS report on behalf of Lizzy Dawson who is attending training. The report highlighted upcoming training and meetings and reported three additional EQIP applications have been preapproved. Staff updates include two new Soil Conservation/Urban Planners hired; one for the St. Paul office beginning on April 24th and the other for the Faribault office beginning May 21st.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Brad Becker. Becker provided information on the Aquatic Invasive Species program.

Becker provided an update on the Thompson Oaks project in West St. Paul. It's an old golf course and they are re-building the wetland that use to exist on the site. They will be removing the contaminated debris before restoring the wetland. Then the site will be redeveloped into condominiums and a boardwalk thru the site connecting to a regional greenway.

Becker provided an update on the Byllesby turbine upgrade Project – they are replacing the turbines and doing so will double the electrical production at the site. Construction should be done this fall and they should be able to start selling power on the open market in the spring of 2024.

Becker reported the City of Randolph is transitioning to a municipal shared wastewater treatment plant. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of connecting to the sewer pipe with costs varying from \$5,000 - \$20,000. The County is providing a grant program for qualifying low-income homeowners; the grant will provide payment for 50% and the other 50% can be assessed to homeowners.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board

Mark Zabel reported he was requested by BWSR to participate in this year's annual tour on August 23, 2023 and they would like to partner with the SWCD. Discussions occurred regarding the number of attendees, the approach, and if the Legislative tour should be combined or separate. The Legislative tour is typically in September.

Zabel provided a staff update; Mark Ryan has accepted a position as the Senior Water Resources Engineer with Dakota County so his position is open and they are currently seeking applications.

Cannon River

There was no Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report. The next meeting is May 3.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board report.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Zanmiller reported on the Metro Area meeting held on March 30. The Metro Area summer meeting and tour will be hosted by Chisago SWCD on June 13. Watson highlighted a recent email from the MASWCD regarding the SWCD Aid Bill. The bill has been included in the House Tax Committee's Ominous Bill but funded at a lesser amount than what was hoped. There is less clarity on the status of the SWCD Aid Bill in the Senate.

District Managers Report

Watson reported he would like to schedule a finance committee meeting for the end of April or beginning of May. Watson noted that County staff has initiate an assessment to explore options that vacate the Extension and Conservation Center. Dakota County staff has indicated that the assessment report is targeted to go to the County Board between mid-May and mid-June. Chamberlain and Dee will reach out to meet with Commissioner Slavik to discuss.

Board of Supervisors Reports

Dee reported that she and Pam attended a recent BWSR Treasurer's training event.

18. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

19. Adjourn

23.034 Motion by Dee, second by Skog to adjourn. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Skog
Secretary