



MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, May 11, 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

Others Present:

Nikki Stewart, Dakota County
Dain Olson, DCAO
Mark Zabel, VRW JPO
Matt Lundberg, NRCS
Lizzy Dawson, NRCS

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. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The April 13, 2023 meeting minutes were presented.

6. Approval of May 11, 2023 Accounts Payable

The May 2023 accounts payable was presented.

7. Acceptance of April Finance Report

The April finance Report was presented.

8. Authorization to Adopt Resolution Accepting Certain Wetland Conservation Act responsibilities from Marshan Township.

Resolution from Marshan Township to delegate certain Wetland Conservation Act Responsibilities was presented.

9. Authorization to Adopt Resolution Accepting Certain Wetland Conservation Act responsibilities from Empire City.

Resolution from Empire City to delegate certain Wetland Conservation Act responsibilities was presented.

23.036 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

10. Authorization to Execute Four Contracts with Pat Maher for Establishment of Cover Crop (1-year).

Pat Maher is proposing to establish a cover crop on four different fields totaling 225 acres located in Marshan and Ravenna Townships in the Vermillion River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract. Project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

23.037 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute four contracts with Pat Maher (23-IPP-08, 23-IPP-09, 23-IPP-10 & 23-IPP-11) not to exceed \$2,100, \$2,520, \$1,960 and \$1,295 for establishing cover crop. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute Four Contracts with Rodney Kimmes for Establishment of Cover Crop (1-year).

Rodney Kimmes is proposing to establish a cover crop on four different fields totaling 323 acres; one field is located in Hampton Township in the Cannon River Watershed and three fields are located in Marshan Township in the Vermillion River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract. Project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

23.038 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute four contracts with Rodney Kimmes (23-IPP-12, 22-IPP-13, 23-IPP-14 & 23-IPP-15) not to exceed \$3,150, \$2,660, \$2,520 and \$2,975 for establishing cover crop. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, and Skog. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Execute Two Contracts with Ken Betzold for Establishment of Cover Crop (3-year).

Ken Betzold is proposing to establish a cover crop on two different fields totaling 121 acres; one field is located in Castle Rock Township in the Cannon River Watershed and the second field is located in Castle Rock Township in the Vermillion River Watershed. Each field will have a separate contract. Project funds are available through our FY21 Cannon WBIF, FY21 Vermillion WBIF and FY22 CWF Drinking Water Protection grants.

23.039 Motion by Johnson, second by Skog to execute two contracts with Ken Betzold (23-IPP-16 & 23-IPP-17) not to exceed \$8,910 and \$7,425 for establishing cover crop. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, and Johnson. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Terry Fischbach for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat.

Terry Fischbach is proposing installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat in Ravenna Township in the Vermillion River Watershed. The total eligible costs of the project are estimated at \$7,600 and project funds are available through our agreement with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Staff is recommending approval at 85% not to exceed \$6,460.

23.040 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with Terry Fischbach (23-IPP-18) not to exceed \$6,460 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, and Dee. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Andy Winter for Installation of Harvestable Cover.

Andy Winter is proposing to plant 20 acres of harvestable cover in Greenvale Township in the Cannon River Watershed. Project funds are available through our agreement with Dakota County.

23.041 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Andy Winter (23-IPP-19) not to exceed \$2,100 for the installation of harvestable cover. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

15. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) report was provided by Lizzy Dawson. Dawson reported the local work group meeting will follow today's board meeting and provided a staff and programs update.

Watson reported he attended a virtual NRCS workshop on the Inflation Reduction Act and there will be no new programs developed with additional funds; just more funding to existing programs.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Nikki Stewart. Stewart reported Dakota County appreciates the continuing working relationship with the SWCD staff on all the work done on the model ordinance which is part of the County's ground water plan.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

The Cannon River Watershed report was provided by Ashley Gallagher. Gallagher reported there was a meeting held May 3 and discussions took place regarding the logo and dues. Both will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board report was provided by Mark Zabel, Administrator for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Zabel provided a staff update and announced he is retiring July 14th but will remain on the board of the Carver County SWCD.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board report.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was provided by Laura Zanmiller. Zanmiller reported the State Directors meeting was held in April and she made available the 2023 focus areas of the Association.

District Managers Report

Watson provided a legislative update. The MASWCD Metro Area Summer Meeting and Tour will be held June 13th and hosted by the Chisago SWCD. Registration is due by May 31st and information is available in your board packet. Watson reported Lindsey Albright mentored a student from the School of Environmental Studies on water/well monitoring and her mentorship poster is available in the board packet. Watson reported all 12 Townships in Dakota County and 7 cities have delegated WCA responsibilities to the SWCD.

Board of Supervisors Announcements

Dee reported the finance committee met in April and minor changes were made to the financial reports included in board packets to simplify them. Dee reported on current RIM easement issues and stressed the important role SWCD's have and the role the board has to make sure we are doing our job accurately.

Chamberlain reported on a meeting held with Dee and Dakota County Commissioner Mike Slavik regarding the assessment to vacate the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. The report is scheduled to be presented to the Dakota County Board in June.

Chamberlain reported on a conversation he had with a resident regarding wind erosion. Watson reported that more inquiries regarding wind erosion have occurred over the last couple of years. Discussion occurred regarding ways to address wind erosion through more focused landowner outreach, a soil loss ordinance or ensuring compliance with the Metropolitan Ag. Preserves Program.

Zabel reported BWSR approved a new pilot Rural Investment to Protect Our Environment (RIPE) program and they are looking for up to 10 SWCD's to participate. Payments are a flat rate for climate smart activity and paid directly by Virginia Tech through the USDAs Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Program. BWSR is allocating \$2.7 million to the program.

16. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

17. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Skog
Secretary