



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, March 14, 2024

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

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

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Pam LaValle
Curt Coudron
Ashley Gallagher
Todd Matzke
Matthew Sorvig

Others Present:

Brian Wisdorf, DCAO
Dain Olson, DCAO
Joe Atkins, Commissioner, Dakota County
Brad Becker, Dakota County
Nikki Stewart, Dakota County

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Chamberlain led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Chamberlain requested a moment of silence for the three first responders who recently lost their lives in Burnsville, for their families and for the community.

3. Audience

Chair Chamberlain asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Board on an item that is not on the agenda. Joe Atkins, Dakota County Commissioner came forward and shared the County Board's appreciation for the SWCD's work throughout the county. Supervisor Dee inquired with Commissioner Atkins on the status of the Extension and Conservation building.

4. Approval of Agenda

24.019 Motion by Dee second by Johnson to approve the agenda. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The February 8, 2024 meeting minutes were presented.

- 6. Approval of February 8, 2024 Accounts Payable**
The February 2024 accounts payable were presented.
- 7. Acceptance of the December 2023 Finance Report.**
The December Finance Report was presented.
- 8. Acceptance of the January 2024 Finance Report.**
The January Finance Report was presented.
- 9. Acceptance of the February 2024 Finance Report.**
The February Finance Report was presented.

24.020 Motion by Johnson, second by Zanmiller to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Dee commended staff on getting the reserves within board policy guidelines. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 10. Authorization to Execute Contract with Carol Leifeld for Installation of Grassed Waterway.**
Carol Leifeld is proposing to construct a grassed waterway in Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$14,200. Staff is recommending approval at 85% cost share not to exceed \$12,070. Project funds are available through our FY23 Cannon WBIF Grant.

24.021 Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to execute contract with Carol Leifeld (24-IPP-02) not to exceed \$12,070 for installation of grassed waterway. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

- 11. Authorization to Execute Contract with Strohfus Stock Farm LLC for Installation of Harvestable Cover (3-year).**
Strohfus Stock Farm LLC is proposing to plant 80 acres of harvestable cover in the City of Hastings, Vermillion River Watershed. Project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

24.022 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Strohfus Stock Farm LLC (24-IPP-05) not to exceed \$8,400 for establishing harvestable cover. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

- 12. Appoint District 3 Board Supervisor.**
Watson reported that 4 letters of interest were received for the vacant District 3 Supervisor position. This appointment will fill the vacancy thru the end of the current term, December 31, 2024. The chosen candidate will take the oath of office before the board meeting on April 11, 2024. Supervisor Dee noted all 4 candidates were well suited and qualified for the position. District 3 is up for election for a four-year term beginning in 2025 and interested candidates should file for office between May 21 thru June 4, 2024 to be on the ballot for this election.

24.023 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to appoint Brian Raney from the City of Eagan to the seat of District 3 Supervisor for the remainder of the term which expires December 31, 2024. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, and Johnson. Motion carried.

- 13. Authorization to Adopt Annual Report.**
Staff provided an overview of the 2023 Annual Report highlighting the work, pollutant reductions, and community engagement during 2023. The Annual Report will be sent to partners and elected officials, shared online thru our website, social media, newsletter and will be made available while tabling public events.

24.024 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to adopt the 2023 Annual Report. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

14. Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2023 Annual Report.

The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization 2023 Annual Report was presented.

15. Legislative Updates

Watson reported the legislative briefing and SWCD Day at the Capitol was March 12th & 13th. The main focus for Soil and Water Conservation Districts is to increase SWCD Aid to support State ~~our~~ conservation goals and allocating funds to the Re-invest in Minnesota (RIM) program to repair aging structures on wetland restoration projects.

16. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) report was submitted via email and presented to the Board. Upcoming grants include the 2024 Minnesota NRCS Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity and the Twin Cities Urban Agriculture Micro-grants. Matt Lundberg was named the new District Conservationist for the Farmington Field Office.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Brad Becker. Becker reported the groundwater unit is submitting a grant to the MN Dept of Health for a Water Treatment System to provide cost share for a drinking water treatment system for those who meet the criteria. A second grant is being submitted to the Minnesota GreenCorps for a summer intern position working with chloride reduction through education and outreach. A third program they are working on is free private well testing for residents in Burnsville, Lakeville, Farmington and Apple Valley.

Becker provided an update on the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, City of Randolph wastewater treatment facility and Byllesby Dam project.

Dain Olson introduced Brian Wisdorf, County Attorney who will be working with the SWCD going forward.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

No report provided.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

No report provided. The next meeting will be held March 20th at Western Service Center at 12:00.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

The Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board report was provided by Laura Zanmiller. Zanmiller reported the meeting on 2/28/2024 included the election of officers, updates on the Childrens Water Festival and the Metro Area Envirothon. Due to the increase in interest earnings, dues were reduced and each member can consider donating a portion of those dues savings to the Metro Area Envirothon. For future meetings, attendees can choose to be in person or attend virtually as long as they follow the open meeting law guidelines. Staff will be working on virtual meeting guidelines.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District report was provided by Laura Zanmiller. Zanmiller reported the next Area 4 meeting will be March 26th at the Ramsey County Public Works building. Peter Boulay, State Climatologist with the MN DNR will be the guest speaker.

District Managers Report

Watson reported a 6-month certificate of deposit in the amount of \$250,000 was recently purchased. The vacancy announcement has been posted for the Administrative Specialists position as Diane Schmidtke will be retiring May 24, 2024. Watson submitted to the Board his letter of resignation and plan to retire from the SWCD after 30 years of service; his last day will be June 14, 2024.

Board of Supervisors Announcements

Supervisor Dee thanked Ashley Gallagher for her participation in the program on February 27th for Women Landowners Workshop.

17. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

18. Adjourn

24.025 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Johnson
Secretary