



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, April 11, 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
Brian Raney

SWCD Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Brian Wisdorf, DCAO
Brad Becker, Dakota County
Georg Fisher, Dakota County
Chad Hildebrand, BWSR

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Audience

Chair Chamberlain welcomed Brian Raney as the newly appointed District 3 Board Supervisor and asked meeting attendees go around the room to introduce themselves. Chamberlain asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Board on an item that is not on the agenda. Chad Hildebrand, Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist with BWSR came forward and provided an overview of his new role.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of March 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The March 14, 2024 meeting minutes were presented.

6. Approval of April 11, 2024 Accounts Payable

The April 2024 accounts payable were presented.

7. Acceptance of the March 2024 Finance Report.

The March Finance Report was presented.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Authorization to Execute Contract with Grace Lutheran Church for Installation of Bioretention Basin.

Grace Lutheran Church is proposing to construct a bioretention basin in the City Apple Valley, Minnesota River Watershed. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$11,200. Staff is recommending approval at 85% cost share not to exceed \$9,520. Project funds are available through our FY23 Black Dog Watershed WBIF Grant.

24.028 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Grace Lutheran Church (24-CIF-01) not to exceed \$9,520 for bioretention basin. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Dee, Johnson, Raney, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

9. Authorization to Execute Contract with Thomas Irving Dodge Nature Center for Installation of Manure Management Practices.

Thomas Irving Dodge Nature Center is proposing to install manure management practices in the City of West St. Paul, Mississippi River Watershed. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$14,500. Staff is recommending approval at 85% cost share not to exceed \$12,325. Project funds are available through our FY23 State Cost Share Grant and Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

24.029 Motion by Johnson, second by Zanmiller to execute contract with Thomas Irving Dodge Nature Center (24-IPP-01) not to exceed \$12,325 for installation of manure management practices. Members voting in favor: Dee, Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Execute Contract with Harold Peine for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin.

Harold Peine is proposing to install a water and sediment control basin in Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$8,800. Staff is recommending approval at 85% cost share not to exceed \$7,480. Project funds are available through our FY23 State Cost Share Grant and our annual agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Agreement.

24.030 Motion by Johnson, second by Zanmiller to execute contract with Harold Peine (24-IPP-03) not to exceed \$7,480 for installation of water and sediment control basin. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller, Chamberlain, and Dee. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Execute Contract with Daniel Strauss for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat.

Daniel Strauss is proposing to install Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat in Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$6,600. Staff is recommending approval at 85% cost share not to exceed \$5,610. Project funds are available through our FY22 Drinking Water Protection Grant and the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program.

24.031 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to execute contract with Daniel Strauss (24-IPP-29) not to exceed \$5,610 for Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat. Members voting in favor: Raney, Zanmiller, Chamberlain, Dee, and Johnson. Motion carried.

12. Soil Health update

Watson reported we have more interest in soil health conservation projects than funds available. All soil health projects have been pulled from this month's agenda and Watson requested the rural lands committee meet to discuss and prioritize applications submitted.

13. Authorization to Execute Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County and the City of Mendota Heights for project implementation relating to the Interstate Valley Creek Streambank Stabilization and Stormwater Best Management Practices Project.

The SWCD secured a competitive FY24 Clean Water Fund grant through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to construct three stormwater management projects and three streambank stabilization projects along Interstate Valley Creek in Mendota Heights. Through the Dakota County Attorney's Office, staff drafted and presented a Joint Powers Agreement to Dakota County and City partners which outlines the parameters for coordination of this cooperative project. The City of Mendota Heights and Dakota County will be responsible for providing required grant match funds and will be responsible for long term maintenance of the completed projects.

24.032 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to execute joint powers agreement with Dakota County and the City of Mendota Heights for project implementation relating to the Interstate Valley Creek Streambank Stabilization and Stormwater Best Management Practices Project. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

14. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) report was submitted via email and presented to the Board. The local work group meeting is proposed for May 9, 2024 following the board meeting. Conservation Reserve Program general sign up is closed, 9 contracts were received in Dakota County and will begin in September. Conservation Security Program ranking deadline is this week, they will be ranking 5 applications in Dakota County. Funding opportunities are available and were presented.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Brad Becker and Georg Fisher. Becker provided a history of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds provided to the SWCD starting in 2019. Becker indicated that the 2025 CIP funding request is currently underway. Fisher presented Brian Watson with a challenge coin and thanked him for all he has done with the SWCD over the years.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

No report provided.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

No report provided.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

No report provided.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District report was provided by Laura Zanmiller. Zanmiller provided an update on membership dues, soil health programming and a possible human resources cooperative.

District Managers Report

Watson reported that Diane Schmidtke will be retiring on May 24 and cake and coffee will be served following the board meeting to recognize her employment and retirement with the SWCD. Supervisors for Districts 1, 2 & 3 are up for re-election and the filing period is May 21st thru June 4th. The tree sale distribution will be April 24th & 25th at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. Discussion occurred on the hiring process for the District Manager position.

Board of Supervisors Announcements

No report provided.

15. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

16. Adjourn

24.033 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Johnson".

Bruce Johnson
Secretary