



## MEETING MINUTES

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

#### DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, August 8, 2024

9:00 a.m.

4100 220<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Ashley Gallagher  
Pam LaValle  
Curt Coudron  
Dru Larson  
Alex Scurto

**Others Present:**

Brad Becker, Dakota County  
Brian Wisdorf, DCAO  
Matt Lundberg, NRCS

**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.

**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. Nobody came forward.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**24.073** Motion by Zanmiller second by Johnson to approve the agenda. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Introduction of New Staff**

Gallagher introduced Dru Larson, Conservation Technician and Alex Scurto, Resource Conservationist. Larson and Scurto provided a brief introduction.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. Approval of July 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The July 11, 2024 meeting minutes were presented.

**7. Approval of August 8, 2024 Accounts Payable**

The August 2024 accounts payable were presented.

**8. Acceptance of the July 2024 Finance Report.**

The July Finance Report was presented.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**9. Authorization to Provide Partial Payment to Strohfus Stock Farms LLC for Establishing Harvestable Cover.**

Strohfus Stock Farm LLC (John Strohfus) has completed the first year seeding under his three-year contract to maintain harvestable cover on 80 acres in the City of Hastings, Vermillion River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the March 14, 2024 Board meeting with an incentive payment not to exceed \$8,400.

**24.075** Motion by Raney, second by Johnson to provide partial payment of \$2,800 to Strohfus Stock Farm LLC (24-IPP-05) for establishing harvestable cover. Project funds are available through the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and our agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Dee, Johnson, Raney, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

**10. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Harold Peine for Installation of a Water and Sediment Control Basin.**

Harold (Nick) Peine has completed the construction of a water and sediment control basin in Hampton Township, Vermillion River Watershed. The project was completed in cooperation with the landowner, Ryan Finnegan and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the April 11, 2024 Board meeting at 85% cost share not to exceed \$7,480.

**24.076** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to provide final payment of \$6,764.72 to Harold Peine (24-IPP-03) for installation of a water and sediment control basin. Project funds are available through our FY23 Conservation Contracts Grant and our agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Dee, Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

**11. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Independent School District 191 for Installation of a Bioretention Basin.**

Independent School District 191 has completed the installation of a bioretention basin (raingarden) at Nicollet Middle School in Burnsville, within the Minnesota River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the September 14, 2023 Board meeting at 85% cost share not to exceed \$50,000.

**24.077** Motion by Johnson, second by Dee to provide final payment of \$50,000 to Independent School District 191 (23-CCP-01) for installation of a bioretention basin. Project funds are available through our FY23 State Cost Share grant and the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Members voting in favor: Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller, Chamberlain, and Dee. Motion carried.

**12. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Grace Lutheran Church for Installation of a Bioretention Basin.**

Grace Lutheran Church has completed the installation of a bioretention basin (raingarden) in Apple Valley, Minnesota River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the April 11, 2024 Board meeting at 85% cost share not to exceed \$9,520.

**24.078** Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to provide final payment of \$6,581.23 to Grace Lutheran Church (24-CIF-01) for installation of a bioretention basin. Project funds are available through our FY23 Black Dog Watershed Based Implementation Grant. Members voting in favor: Raney, Zanmiller, Chamberlain, Dee and Johnson. Motion carried.

**13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Greg Fox for Establishing Harvestable Cover (3-year).**

Greg Fox is proposing to plant 20 acres of harvestable cover in Rosemount in the Vermillion River Watershed. Project funds are available through our FY23 Vermillion River Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and our agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

**24.079** Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to execute contract with Greg Fox (24-IPP-58) not to exceed \$2,100 for establishing harvestable cover. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Chamberlain, Dee, Johnson, and Raney. Motion carried.

**14. Authorization to Execute Contact with Steven Groves for Establishing Harvestable Cover (3-year).**

Steven Groves is proposing to plant 25 acres of harvestable cover in Greenvale Township in the Cannon River Watershed. Project funds are available through the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

**24.080** Motion by Johnson, second by Zanmiller to execute contract with Steven Groves (24-IPP-60) not to exceed \$2,625 for establishing harvestable cover. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Dee, Johnson, Raney, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

**15. Selection of 2024 Outstanding Conservationist.**

Coudron stated that each year a selection is made to identify a landowner or entity that has made a significant contribution to protecting our land and water resources. The selected Outstanding Conservation Cooperator will be invited to a future SWCD Board meeting and will be invited to participate in the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual program in December.

**24.081** Motion by Dee to select Chip Callister as the 2024 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator, second by Johnson. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

**16. Adoption of Annual Guidelines on the use of SWCD Aid Payments.**

Local Capacity grants that have been allocated to Soil and Water Conservation Districts from the Clean Water Fund were eliminated and replaced by SWCD Aid derived from the general fund. Allocations will be provided directly from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The Dakota SWCD will receive \$186,062.87 in FY24 and in FY25. The intended use for these funds needs to be adopted and posted to our website. A draft template on how these funds will be used has been prepared for adoption.

**24.082** Motion by Dee, second by Raney to adopt the guidelines for use of SWCD Aid. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

**17. Announcements and Reports**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was provided by Matt Lundberg. Lundberg provided a staff, disaster relief, and grant update.

**Dakota County**

The Dakota County report was provided by Brad Becker. Becker provided a County budget process update regarding CIP funding.

**Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization**

No report provided.

**Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board**

The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report was provided by Kevin Chamberlain. Chamberlain reported at the last meeting dues were slightly decreased.

**Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board**

No report provided. The next meeting is scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

No report provided. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**District Managers Report**

Gallagher provided a staffing update and reported the draft audit will be presented at the September board meeting.

**Board of Supervisors Announcements**

Supervisor Zanmiller will be working the Master Gardeners table at the Dakota County Fair on Friday afternoon and invited all to stop by.

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**

No report provided.

**18. Upcoming Events**

The upcoming events were reviewed.

**19. Adjourn**

**24.083** Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Johnson

Secretary