



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, November 14, 2024

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Kevin Chamberlain, Chair

Laura Zanmiller, Vice Chair

Bruce Johnson, Secretary and Information Officer

Brian Raney

SWCD Staff Present:

Ashley Gallagher

Pam LaValle

Curt Coudron

Alex Scurto

Others Present:

Brad Becker, Dakota County

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The October 10, 2024 meeting minutes were presented.

6. Approval of November 14, 2024 Accounts Payable

The November 2024 accounts payable were presented.

7. Acceptance of the October 2024 Finance Report.

The October Finance Report was presented.

8. Authorization to Cancel Contract with Andy Winter for Harvestable Cover.

Andy Winter has a 3-year contract (P23-IPP-19) for harvestable cover on 20 acres in Greenvale Township, Cannon River Watershed. The property has been sold and Mr. Winter is no longer operating the land and thus unable to maintain harvestable cover in years 2 & 3. The outstanding balance on the contract is \$1,400; staff is recommending cancelling the contract so that funds can be reallocated.

24.105 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to approve the consent agenda items. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Authorization to Provide Partial Payment to James Gergen for Soil Health Practices.

James Gergen has implemented soil health practices on 130-acres in Vermillion Township, Vermillion River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the May 9, 2024 Board meeting with an incentive payment not to exceed \$5,850.

24.106 Motion by Johnson, second by Raney to provide partial payment to James Gergen (24-IPP-15) for implementing soil health practices. Project funds are available through the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Johnson, Raney, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

10. Authorization to Provide Partial Payment to Prairie Farm Partnership for Implementing Soil Health Practices.

Prairie Farm Partnership has implemented soil health practices on 160-acres in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the May 9, 2024 Board meeting with an incentive payment not to exceed \$7,200.

24.107 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to provide partial payment to Prairie Farm Partnership (24-IPP-55) for implementing soil health practices. Project funds are available through our annual agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Members voting in favor: Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to Provide Partial Payment to Greg Fox for Establishing a Harvestable Cover (3-years).

Greg Fox has completed the first year of the three-year contract to establish a harvestable cover on 20-acres in Rosemount, Vermillion River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the August 8, 2024 Board meeting with an incentive payment not to exceed \$2,100.

24.108 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to provide partial payment to Greg Fox (24-IPP-58) for establishing a harvestable cover. Project funds are available through our annual agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Members voting in favor: Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

12. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Jerry Kimmes for Establishing Cover Crop (1-year).

Jerry Kimmes has completed the one-year contract to establish cover crop on a 103-acre field in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the May 9, 2024 Board meeting with an incentive payment not to exceed \$3,605.

24.109 Motion by Johnson, second by Raney to provide final payment to Jerry Kimmes (24-IPP-31) for establishing cover crop. Project funds are available through our agreement with Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Members voting in favor: Raney, Zanmiller, Chamberlain, and Johnson. Motion carried.

13. Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Russel Mamer for Establishing Cover Crop (1-year).

Russel Mamer has completed the one-year contract to establish cover crop on a 76-acre field in Nininger Township, Vermillion River Watershed and has been certified by staff. The project was approved for funding at the September 12, 2024 Board meeting with an incentive payment not to exceed \$2,660.

24.110 Motion by Raney, second by Johnson to provide final payment to Russel Mamer (24-IPP-64) for establishing cover crop. Project funds are available through our FY24 Conservation Contracts Program with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Chamberlain, Johnson, and Raney. Motion carried.

14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Sharing Our Roots for Native Prairie with Pollinator Habitat.

Sharing Our Roots is proposing to install a 3.4-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in Greenvale Township, Cannon River Watershed. Project funds are available through the Dakota County Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

24.111 Motion by Johnson, second by Zanmiller to execute contract with Sharing Our Roots (24-IPP-66) not to exceed \$6,035 for installation of native prairie and pollinator habitat. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Johnson, Raney, and Zanmiller. Motion carried.

15. Authorization to Execute Joint Powers Agreement with Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization for 2025 Services.

Staff has drafted and presented a 2025 work plan and budget to the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGHWMO). The work plan and budget include administration tasks, education and outreach, and support for the installation of projects under the Landscaping for Clean Water Program. The 2025 workplan and budget includes a total amount not to exceed \$44,800 which is a \$2,975 decrease from current year. The decrease is primarily due to the completion of match requirements under a Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Watershed Based Implementation grant. A workshop for the Lawns Reimagined program has been added.

24.112 Motion by Raney, second by Zanmiller to execute joint powers agreement with the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Management Organization for 2025 services. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

16. Adopt 2025 Medical and Dental Benefits

Premiums for medical and dental insurance plans are shared by participating employees and the SWCD as the employer. HealthPartners is our current medical and dental insurance provider. The Finance Committee met on October 31 and reviewed renewal information for medical and dental benefits. It was the Committee’s recommendation to have HealthPartners provide medical and dental coverage. Medical premiums in 2025 will increase approximately 15%. Dental premiums in 2025 will remain the same.

The Finance Committee recommended increasing the employee monthly medical costs to offset the 2025 insurance increase. It was recommended that the current two medical plan options and one dental plan option be made available in 2025 to employees:

- HealthPartners \$25-90% Platinum plan option (Medical)
- HealthPartners \$2,400-100% HSA plan option (Medical)
- HealthPartners (Dental)

It is further recommended that the following health and dental benefits be provided for 2025:

<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>Monthly Employee Cost</u>	<u>HSA Plan Employee Credit</u>
Single	\$64	\$1,600
Single Plus One	\$317	\$2,800
Family	\$595	\$2,800
<u>Dental Insurance</u>	<u>Monthly Employee Cost</u>	
Single	\$20	
Family	\$40	

24.113 Motion by Zanmiller, second by Johnson to adopt the 2025 Medical and Dental Benefits. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Raney, Zanmiller, and Chamberlain. Motion carried.

17. Authorization to Request Comprehensive Plan Extension from Board of Water and Soil Resources

The current Comprehensive Plan expires in 2025 and staff is recommending a request for an 18-month extension to allow for clear guidance from BWSR to meet all future requirements. Guidance from BWSR indicates that the extension request process could change in December and therefore recommended to make the request before the process changes.

24.114 Motion by Raney, second by Johnson to request Comprehensive Plan extension from Board of Water and Soil Resources. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

18. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was provided by Matt Lundberg. Lundberg provided a program/grant update.

Dakota County

The Dakota County report was provided by Brad Becker. Becker provided an update on the Braun Wetland Bank project.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

No report provided.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

The Canon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report was provided by Supervisor Chamberlain. Chamberlain reported the budget was approved at the last meeting and provided a summary of the soil health event presentation.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

No report provided. The next meeting is scheduled November 20, 2024.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The MASWCD report was provided by Supervisor Zanmiller. Zanmiller reported on the Area 4 meeting on November 7th. John Rheinberger was named Director and John Schoenecker Co-Director for 2025. Zanmiller summarized the bylaw change discussion regarding the MASWCD President having the ability to serve more than one consecutive term.

District Managers Report

Gallagher requested to schedule a meeting with the personnel committee for early December.

Board of Supervisors Announcements

No report provided.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

No report provided.

19. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

20. Adjourn

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Johnson
Secretary