



## **Minutes of the April 16, 2009 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the April 17, 2008 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Regular Board of Supervisor's meeting, conference room, USDA Service Center, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Muriel French at 7:23 PM.

**Members Present:** Muriel French, Chairperson  
Darrel Faulkner, Vice-chairman  
David Livingston, Secretary  
Larry Scherger, PR&I

**Members Absent:** Glenn Hahn, Treasurer

**Others Present:** Klaus Alberts, County Commissioner  
John Nicholson, Area Assistant State Conservationist  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist  
Jennifer Mittelstat, Whitewater CPA  
Tom Johnston, District Technician

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made by Scherger, seconded by Livingston, to approve the April 2009 meeting agenda with the following additions: April 23<sup>rd</sup> informational workshop with the county commissioners, review new state c-s contract 2-2009, review amendment #1 to state c-s contract FR4-2008 and fair booth space rental. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the March 19, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made Livingston, seconded by Scherger, to approve the March 19, 2009 regular board meeting minutes as mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments** – Jennifer Mittelstat presented the March 2009 treasurer's financial statements. After discussion, a motion was made by Faulkner, seconded by Livingston to approve the March 2009 treasurer's financial statements as presented and to pay all the presented bills which total \$795.00. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

**2009 County Budget Allocation** – The Board informed Commissioner Alberts that the District had not received its next allocation from the County as discussed at the February 2009 meeting. Mr. Alberts assured the board that the allocation had been approved and would check into why it has not been dispersed.

## **New Business**

**County Commissioner's Report** – Klaus Alberts reported on the following items:

- The Dodge County sheriff will be retiring as of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Dodge County planning and zoning director will also be retiring as of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**District Conservationist's Report** – Brian DeVetter reported on the following items:

- Construction of conservation practices is in full swing.
- EQIP applications are being taken.
- WHIP applications are also being taken. Area 7 has \$100,000 available.
- A RIM/WRP sign-up will take place from April 20 – May 5<sup>th</sup>. Two landowners have expressed an interest in signing up.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to apply for EWP funds which are available for 2007/2008 flood damaged areas. A permanent easement is required.
- Jim and Donna have been busy with the District's environmental education program.

**Area Assistant State Conservationist's Report** – John Nicholson reported on the following items:

- The NRCS budget has been approved but has not seen the figures yet.
- The Area 7 EQIP allocation has increased again this year and the cost-share rate was increased to 75%.
- Contribution agreements will again be available to Districts. Need to submit an estimate of funds needed asap. The agreements are valid for one year.
- A majority of the EWP funds will probably go to the Red River Valley area.
- Two counties in SE MN received stimulus package funds for NRCS watershed projects.
- Thanked Commissioner Alberts for the courtesy extended to him when he and the District met with the county administrator.

## Meeting Reports

- Faulkner reported on the following items of the March 23<sup>rd</sup> RC&D meeting:
  1. The “Value Added Conference”.
  2. The organizing of a Master Gardening educational meeting in each county. The U of M is also promoting community type gardens in the county.
  3. Grazing workshops will be held in Steele and Freeborn counties this summer.
- Livingston reported on the following activities in the Cedar River Watershed:
  4. Two audit bids were received for auditing CRWD’s 2007& 2008 financial records.
  5. An \$802,000 / \$814,000 sewer system project for 13 homes in an unincorporated community in the Shell Rock Watershed.
  6. The new Justice Center in Austin will be installing a rain garden with a grant.
  7. The cost for LiDar will be \$25,000.
  8. The water monitoring stations have been installed in Dodge County.
- Board members reported on the following items from the Area 7 Summer meeting:
  1. Area 7 Envirothon will be May 6th at Oxbow Park.
  2. Clean Water Legacy funds.
  3. “Selling Ourselves to County Commissioners” power point presentation.
  4. SE MN Landscapers Committee.
  5. MCIT presentation.
- Livingston reported on a meeting he and John Nicholson had with the Dodge County administrator. They explained the roles of the NRCS and the District and what this means to the County. An informational workshop between the District supervisors & staff, John Nicholson, Mark Gamm and the county commissioners was set up for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm at Mantorville. A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Faulkner to authorize available staff and supervisors to attend the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
- French reported on the following items from the Zumbro Watershed Partnership:
  1. Farm Show booth
  2. Fundraisers and membership drives that will take place during the Summer and Fall.
  3. The “Litter Bit Better clean-up campaign along the Zumbero River.
  4. ZWP is waiting for the McKnight grant to come for Ronnenberg’s salary.
  5. Enforcement issues of the DNR Shoreland Buffer law.

**Fair Booth** – After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Faulkner, to rent a fair booth space at a cost of \$150. The motion carried unanimously.

**State Cost-share Contract Amendment Approval** – After review and discussion, a motion was made by Scherger, seconded by Faulkner, to approve amendment #1 to State cost-share contract FR4-2008 for a time extension. The motion carried unanimously.

**New State Cost-share Contract Approval** – After review, motion was made by Faulkner, seconded by Scherger, to approve State cost-share contract #2-2009, for the amount of \$3,770.00. The motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence** – The Board acknowledged the following correspondence:

- Area 7 MASWCD 2009 resolution information.
- “Thank You” letter from NRSC for the financial help to sponsor the tri-county contractors meeting.
- Performance Review & Assessment Program (PRAP) information from BWSR.
- Dept. of Employee Relations – Pay Equity Workshops

**Other New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Muriel French at 9:29 pm on a motion by Livingston and a second by Faulkner.

**Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts’ Board of Supervisors will be May 21, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Recorder \_\_\_\_\_