



## **Minutes of the September 17, 2009 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the September 17, 2009 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 7:16 PM.

**Members Present:** Muriel French, Chairperson  
Darrel Faulkner, Vice-chairman  
David Livingston, Secretary  
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer  
Larry Scherger, PR&I (entered the meeting at 8:14 pm)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Klaus Alberts, County Commissioner  
Randy Demmer, Representative (entered the meeting at 8:10 pm)  
Jennifer Mittelstadt, Whitewater Tax  
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist  
Jim Hruska, District Technician  
Tom Johnston, District Technician

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made by Faulkner, seconded by Livingston, to approve the September 2009 meeting agenda as mailed with the following addition: two additional cost-share voucher approvals; FR2-2008 and FR3-2008. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the August 20, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Faulkner, to approve the August 20, 2009 regular board meeting minutes as mailed . The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments** – Jennifer Mittelstadt discussed the rent payment situation with the Board. After discussion, a motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Livingston, to authorize Mittelstadt to monthly prepare a check for office space rent until the landlord makes arrangements with his bank for direct deposit. The motion carried unanimously.

Mittelstadt asked the Board whether they would like her to continue to attend board meetings quarterly or only on an “as needed basis”. After discussion, a motion was made by Hahn, seconded by Faulkner to have Mittelstadt attend the meetings on an “as needed” basis. The motion carried unanimously.

Hahn reported on a meeting he and Johnston had with Jerry Fahning concerning securities the District owns. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston seconded by Faulkner to authorize Hahn and Johnston to work with Jerry Fahning to proceed with exploring options to handle these securities. The motion carried unanimously.

Mittelstadt then reviewed with the Board the treasurer’s financial statements for August 2009 and answered several questions. There was discussion concerning the District’s current financial condition as well as its’ projected 2010 condition. A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Faulkner, to approve the August 2009 treasurer’s financial statements as presented and to pay all the presented bills which total \$1,711.72. The motion carried unanimously.

Mittelstadt left the meeting.

## **Unfinished Business**

**None**

## **New Business**

**County Commissioner’s Report** – Klaus Alberts reported on the following subjects:

- The preliminary tax levy is a 1.07% increase over last year.
- Reviewed a letter the Commissioners sent to legislators who are in favor of the DM&E railroad bypass proposal.
- The County received a grant from the DNR for a youth ATV program.

**Representative Randy Demmer** – Representative Demmer listened to concerns the Board and staff has about stable funding for SWCDs. A lengthy discussion followed as Mr. Demmer gave his perspectives about this concern.

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

- Presented an overview of the CSP program.
- Discussed the USDA “Garden Initiative”
- The NRCS will be billing the District for the LAN/WAN computer usage.
- Office workload update.

Alberts left the meeting @ 9:36 pm.

## **Meeting Reports**

- **Zumbro Watershed Partnership Mtg.** (French) – A new part-time director has been hired. The ZWP chairperson has resigned. The annual Fun Float fund raiser will be held October 10th. The guest speaker was the forester for the City of Rochester.
- **Cedar River Watershed District Mtg.** (Livingston) – Reported on the rules process and members chosen for the technical and advisory committees. Discussed two potential projects as well as the status of the Nicholville project. The 10 year plan has been sent to the BWSR office for approval.

**Cost-share Voucher Payment Approvals** – After review, a motion was made by Faulkner, seconded by Hahn, to authorize payment of the following State c-s vouchers: #4-2009 in the amount of \$1,114.90, voucher #5-2009 in the amount of \$656.64, voucher FR2-2008 in the amount of \$4,769.50 and voucher FR3-2008 in the amount of \$2,563.60. Voting aye: French, Hahn, Livingston, Faulkner. Voting nay: none. Abstained: Scherger. The motion carried.

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

- Reviewed minutes submitted by Chris Hughs from the district capacity meeting held Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Livingston read a letter he composed to be sent to the county commissioners concerning decreased County funding if additional State funding is acquired by the District. A motion was made by Scherger, seconded by Hahn to send the letter to the commissioners.

## **Other New Business**

**Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Commissioners Meeting** – Mark Gamm has requested one supervisor to attend the Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> county commissioners meeting with him to present a proposal to dedicate 25% of one of his staff's time to the District in 2010. After discussion a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn, to authorize all SWCD supervisors to attend the Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**New SEMASWCD Director** - French reported that Larry Scherger was elected as a new director for the SEMASWCD.

## **Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Muriel French at 10:40 pm on a motion by Faulkner and a second by Livingston.

**Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Board of Supervisors will be October 15, 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 \_\_\_\_\_