



Minutes of the April 21, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of the April 21, 2011 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 Chairman Larry Scherger at 7:15 PM.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chairman
Darrel Faulkner, Vice-chairman
David Livingston, Secretary
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
Muriel French, PR&I

Others Present: John Nicholson, NRCS Assist. State Conservationist
Brian DeVetter, District Conservationist
Dean Schrandt, Dodge County
Jim Hruska, District Technician
Tom Johnston, District Technician

Approval of Meeting Agenda – A motion was made by Hahn, seconded by French, to approve the April 2011 meeting agenda with the following additions: John Nicholson and PERA Agreement and Authorization for Access form. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the March 17, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by French, seconded by Hahn, to approve the March 17, 2011 regular board meeting minutes as e-mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments – Hahn reviewed with the Board the March 2011 treasurer's financial statements. After discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Livingston, to approve the March 2011 treasurer's financial statements as presented and to pay all the presented bills which total \$1,589.08. The motion carried unanimously.

Dean Schrandt discussed revising the long range budget projection he prepared last year. Farm Assist. Grant and WCA grant funding should be stable in 2012; additional funding from bio-reactor grant and CRWD BMP inventory; anticipate funding cuts from BWSR, feedlot grants and county (20 %?). Also, Schrandt discussed several SWCD staffing scenarios which could occur because of the retirement of one SWCD staff person in the near future.

Unfinished Business

Conservation Technician – Dean Schrandt reported that the person hired for the conservation technician position decided not to accept the position the Friday before the starting date. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by French, to offer the position to the 2nd person of choice from the last round of interviews. If that person declines the position, to repost the position for two weeks. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Area NRCS Assistant State Conservationist – John Nicholson addressed the Board concerning whether they would have any objections with the stationing of a NRCS half-time clerical person in the Dodge Center field office starting April 25th. The position would be funded at least to September 30, 2011. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Faulkner to accept Mr. Nicholson's offer. The motion carried unanimously.

Also, Mr. Nicholson discussed the 2011 NRCS budget as well as reporting that he has allocated an additional \$50,000 for EQIP projects in Dodge County.

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

- \$167,000 has been approved for EQIP projects in Dodge County.
- Office staff has started some field work.
- Discussed the pre-construction seeding practice for projects being constructed during the summer.
- There were nine WRP-RIM applications sent in for funding. One was approved.
- CRP re-enrollments are going well.
- Working with the DNR and Extension offices to set up an invasive species workshop sometime this summer.
- Discussed his 1026 and 038 workload.
- Had the Board sign EQIP conservation plans.

State Cost-share Contract Amendment – The board reviewed amendment #1 to state cost-share contract FR2-2011 requesting an additional \$3,633 in cost share funds. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn to approve amendment #1 to state cost share contract FR2-2011. The motion carried unanimously.

Audit Bid Letter – The Board reviewed a letter prepared to be sent out for audit bids. A motion was made by French, seconded by Falkner to approve the presented letter for audit bids. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Reports

- **Feedlot Advisory Board** (Hahn) – The board recommended denial of a request for a modification of a conditional use permit concerning bio-filters for a hog building.
- **Hiawatha Valley RC&D** (Faulkner) – Because of budget cuts, NRCS will no longer be providing administrative staff to the Hiawatha Valley RC&D as of April 25th. The

organization is going to try to remain functional despite the cuts. Reported on the Earth Day celebration he attended at Cascade Meadows Science Center,

- Cedar River Watershed District (Livingston) – Reported on the following items: several fall projects are scheduled in the Dobbins Creek watershed; the Austin school system cost-share request for funding rain garden projects; the North Street project in Austin; the final review of CRWD work plan will be next month; Pete Fryer will be assisting with surveys for CWL projects; discussed road culvert and well head protection inventories; a replacement has been found for Dan Rygner.
- Zumbro Watershed Partnership (French) – Reported on the following items: ZWP has applied for a grant for sealing wells in the city of Oronoco; heard options concerning Lake Shady; the ZWP is in the process of updating its' 10 year plan of work.

Nicholson and DeVetter left the meeting at 9:32 pm

Correspondence – Acknowledged correspondence from the MASWCD concerning the 2011 resolution process.

Other New Business

PERA- Agreement and Authorization for Access Form – After review and discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Hahn, to authorize the chairman to sign the PERA form. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Larry Scherger at 9:50 pm on a motion by French and a second by Hahn.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Board of Supervisors will be May 19, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building, 916 2nd St. SE, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Approved _____ Date _____ Recorder: _____