



## **Minutes of the February 17, 2011 Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the February 17, 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 1:17 PM.

**Members Present:** Larry Scherger, Chairman  
David Livingston, Secretary  
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer  
Muriel French, PR&I

**Members Absent:** Darrel Faulkner, Vice-chairman

**Others Present:** Don Gray, County Commissioner  
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 Livingston, to approve the February 2011 meeting agenda with the following additions: review state cost-share contracts FR1-2011, FR2-2011 & FR3-2011; Envirothon volunteer; bio-reactor update. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the January 20, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made Hahn, seconded by Livingston, to approve the January 20, 2011 regular board meeting minutes as mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements and New Bill Payments** – Hahn reviewed with the Board the January 2011 treasurer's financial statements. After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by French, to approve the January 2011 treasurer's financial statements as presented and to pay all the presented bills which total \$2,271.00. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Conservation Technician** – Dean Schrandt reported that he, Larry Scherger, Pete Fryer and Tom Johnston interviewed four candidates for the conservation technician on Feb. 9, 2011. After evaluating the interviews it was the general consensus of the panel that the position should be re-posted for applications. After discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Hahn, to re-post the conservation technician position until February 28, 2011 and to have the existing panel evaluate the new applications and before the March 2011 board meeting, interview up to four of the applicants. The motion carried unanimously.

**Bio-reactor Update** – Schrandt reported that the county was approved for CWL funding for the installation of a second bio-reactor in the County. The SWCD will receive \$4,000-\$5,000 for taking water samples.

**Accounting Services** – The Board reviewed another quote received for accounting services since the last board meeting. After discussion, a motion was then made by French, seconded by Hahn, to accept the quote from Accounting Plus for the district's 2011 accounting services. The motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

**County Commissioner's Report** – Don Gray reported on the following items:

- He had talked with the county's finance director about performing the district's accounting. It possibly could be done but would not fit into the county's accounting system very well.
- Encouraged board members to participate in RC&D tours. They are usually very interesting.

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

- 9 WRP-RIM applications have been processed on approx. 600 ac. for total easement payments of approx. \$2.8 million.
- He has received 25 applications for the EQIP program. Most of the applications are for waterways.
- A general CRP sign-up will be held March 14-April 15, 2011.
- Reviewed with the board the mutual agreement between NRCS and the District.
- Also reviewed the "Justice for All" nondiscrimination statement and policies.

**2010 Annual Report and 2011 Annual Plan** – After review and discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by French, to approve the District's 2010 annual report and 2011 annual plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**SEMACDE Annual Meeting** – After discussion, a motion was made by Livingston, seconded by French, to authorize district staff to attend the meeting, pay for three registrations (includes Dean Schrandt) and two memberships. The motion carried unanimously.

## Meeting Reports

- Feedlot Advisory Board (Hahn) – Will be meeting in the near future to view a swine set-up.
- Zumbro Watershed Partnership (French) – The ZWP educator is filling in for the coordinator while she is on maternity leave. The blue heron will be the official mascot for the ZWP. A viewing of the documentary “Troubled Waters” will be held Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. The Lake Shady dam is to be removed sometime in 2012 or 2013. In the mean time meetings are being held to discuss what to do with the old lake bed. Town meetings are being held concerning the recent flooding of the Zumbro River. The ZWP’s LCCMR grant funding seems to be in question.
- Cedar River Watershed District (Livingston) – During a workshop before the official meeting, a representative for the city of Austin presented a comparison of snow storage costs if stored in the floodplain vs. storing it on a farm field. Austin’s flood mitigation project has purchased 300 structures within the floodplain. During the official meeting, modifications to the CRWD cost-share program were presented. An Austin school has three rain garden sites it would like to develop @ \$10,000 per site. Salt is being detected in wells around the Twin Cities. The CRWD will be hosting a meeting in Blooming Prairie March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Gray and Schrandt left the meeting at 4:35 pm

Correspondence – The Board acknowledged the following correspondence:

- MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol- Feb.28-March1, 2011.

## Other New Business

New State Cost-share Contracts – The board reviewed three new state cost-share contracts; contract FR1-2011 for a grass waterway and armored outlet requesting \$11,392.25 in c-s funds, FR2-2011 for a grade stabilization structure repair requesting \$1,867.00 in c-s funds and FR3-2011 for four grass waterways requesting \$7,959.00 in c-s funds. A motion was made by Livingston, seconded by Hahn, to authorize the chairman to sign cost-share contracts FR1-2011, FR2-2011 and FR3-2011. The motion carried unanimously.

## Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Larry Scherger at 4:50 pm on a motion by Hahn and a second by French.

## Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation Districts’ Board of Supervisors will be March 17, 2011 at 1:15 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 \_\_\_\_\_