



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District
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Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927
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Minutes of the May 19, 2026
Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Larry Scherger, Board Chair, at 6:34 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary

Members Absent: Bruce Freerksen, PR&I

Others Present: Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Allison English, Administrative Professional, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District; Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: There were four additions to the May 19, 2026 board meeting agenda. The first addition is 'Certification Deposit Renewal' under the Treasurer's report. The last three additions are 'RCPP 20-2-3 Payment', 'RCPP 20-2-4 Payment', and '2025WAG-DC-05(Giese) Payment' under New Business. A motion was made to approve the April 21, 2026 meeting agenda as amended.
Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of April 21, 2026

Board Meeting Minutes: The supervisors discussed the April 21, 2026 board meeting minutes. There was one correction. Under David Livingston's report remove the words 'by the city' at the end of the second sentence in Livingston's report. A motion was made to approve the April 21, 2026 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as corrected.
Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

Partner Agency Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service Report

Nathan Bird, District Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, shared that the NRCS is funding two projects this year through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and 7 more applications have been funded in May. The NRCS staff are working on flagging out projects, and construction should begin soon on the first two funded projects. In the second-round batch of CRP, 5 more CRP offers in Dodge County were approved. The local work group meeting is on May 20th starting at 9 AM in the conference room of the USDA Service Center in Dodge Center. Bird shared that a new Pheasant's Forever Farm Bill Biologist is starting in the Austin office on May 25th. The new Farm Bill biologist, Erica Slechta, will be covering Mower and Freeborn Counties. Allie Papenfuss, Farmbill Biologist, is at the Dodge office and will be covering Dodge and Steele Counties. Bird also shared that the NRCS Team Lead position for Team 19 for has been posted, with hope of a permanent supervisor will be announced soon.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Report

Dave Copeland, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, was unable to attend the meeting.

Dodge County Commissioner's Report

John Allen, Dodge County District I Commissioner, was unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Treasurer's Financial Statements, Payment of New Bills

Glenn Hahn, Treasurer, presented the April 2026 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet covering what is in checking and savings, revenues of \$4,434.38 for April, expenditures of \$30,397.57 for April, the general ledger and aging summary, with a payables total of \$18,934.08. A motion was made to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report, pay bills on the aging summary, for a payables total of \$18,934.08.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Deposit Renewal

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, informed the supervisors the two Certificates of Deposit (CD)s are set to mature on 6/1/2026. The district's two CDs are currently in a 6-month term with a 4.25% interest rate. The supervisors discussed the length for the next term and if the interest should be accrued as revenue or added to the balance of the Certificate of Deposit (CD). The supervisors discussed the amount of money in the district's other bank/savings accounts. After some discussion, the decision was made to roll the two 6-month Certificates of Deposits and the interest earned into one 6-month term CD with a 4.1% interest rate and one 3-month term CD with a 4.1% interest rate. A motion was made to renew one Certificate of Deposit for 3 months at a 4.1% interest rate and one Certificate of Deposit for 6 months at a 4.1% interest rate, adding the interest to the CDs' total.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously

Supervisor Reports

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, shared he will attend the Cedar River Meeting tomorrow, May 20th. He states that at the May 6th Policy Committee meeting, there were a couple of wording changes and cost-share rate updates to the grant cost-share policy, and a new ranking sheet was presented. They continued on the process of the Minor Plan amendment, which includes simplifying the 100+ current goals down to 15 total goals and changing the priority areas. The

amended plan draft was sent out for comment to State partners. The public hearing will be at the regularly scheduled Policy meeting in August, and once approved, the minor plan amendment will be sent to BWSR to review and approve.

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, shared he attended the Root River CWMP Plan Renewal Amendment and Policy Committee Meeting. At this meeting, there were round table discussions about likes/dislikes and what needs to change in the practice overviews. The new goals for the next ten years were presented, and the priority resources in the Root River were discussed. Also discussed were the priority areas for each practice and how it will help achieve the long-term 10-year goal. Hahn shared a flyer for an upcoming Field Day and shared an article from the University of Wisconsin titled 'Four Ways to Efficiently Manage Nitrogen when costs are high.'

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, shared he attended the Watershed Alliance of the Greater Zumbro River (WAGZ) meeting on May 14th. Joe Newman, Conservation Technician, Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District, put together a presentation on the Snow/Delzer Project that was implemented in 2025 and the partnership between the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Dodge SWCD. Olmsted SWCD went over the Cascade Creek Project redesign and expansion. Scherger shared about the new dashboard to track WAGZ projects and funding, and strip-till was added as a cost-share practice. Dodge County went over well inventory project.

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, was unable to attend the meeting.

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor, did not provide a report.

Unfinished Business

Review Encumbered Non- Structural Projects

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, presented the newly encumbered Non-Structural Projects approved since the last board meeting.

Non-Structural Contracts Encumbered Since Last Board Meeting								
Funding Source	Contract Holder	Location (if applicable)	Practice	Acres	Contract Amount	Sediment (TSS T/yr)	Nitrogen (lbs/ac/yr)	Phos (lbs/ry)
Soil Health Practices(RCPP)	20-2-4		329 - Strip Till	105.85 x 3yrs	\$9,526.50	23.32	477.00	90.10
WAGZ WBIF	Mark Vacura	Wasioja 34	351-Well Decommissioning	N/A	3,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A

Tree Update

Allison English, Administrative Professional, shared the tree sale has come to a close. English shared the final profit / loss statement.

New Business

Approval of Structural Cost-Share Contracts to be Encumbered

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, presented the structural contracts that have been signed by the landowner and waiting for board approval to be encumbered.

Structural Contracts to be Encumbered										
Funding Source	Grant ID	Contract Holder	Location	Practice	Contract Exp	Contract Amount	Cost Share %	Sediment (TSS T/yr)	Nitrogen (lbs/ac/yr)	Phos (lbs/ry)
WAGZ WBIF	2026WAGZ-DC-06	Wayne Diekrager	Hayfield 2	Grassed Waterway	11/30/2026	9,465.75	75.00%	11.77	126.80	39.09
WAGZ WBIF	2026WAGZ-DC-07	Kevin Hoebling	Hayfield 2	Grassed Waterway	11/30/2026	4,509.60	41.00%	7.55	81.35	22.20
WAGZ WBIF	2026WAGZ-DC-08	Linda Tank	Claremont 13	Grassed Waterway	11/30/2026	20,640	75.00%	15.35	200.9	50.94

A motion was made to approve the structural contracts to be encumbered at the May 19, 2026 Board Meeting, as presented.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

May 19, 2026 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

Page 3 of 5

SUPERVISORS: RICK ALBERTS – BRUCE FREERKSEN– LARRY SCHERGER – DAVID LIVINGSTON – GLENN HAHN

2027 Preliminary Budget Draft

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, reviewed the 2027 Draft Preliminary Budget with the supervisors. The supervisors discussed the 2027 Draft Preliminary Budget, noting the amount for the Dodge County Appropriation. A Finance Committee is set for Wednesday, June 3, 2026. A motion was made to approve the draft preliminary budget and all it to be presented to the county and move forward with the finance committee.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

2026 Conservationist of the Year

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, presents the staff recommendation to nominate Donley Farms. Klingfus shared that Dan and Jessica Thomas of Donley Farms have reduced their overall tillage by converting their fields to strip-till throughout multiple townships. They have also added a small grain crop to their rotation, and they are expressing interest in cover crops. The supervisors discussed the staff nomination and agreed. A motion was made to nominate Donley Farms for the 2026 Conservationist of the Year.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Training Request

Zac Colton, Soil Health Conservation Technician, is requesting to attend the 2026 Cover Crop Academy. Registration is \$100 and closes June 6th. The registration cost covers 2 in-person trainings and 5 two-hour online training sessions. Lodging may be needed for the in-person trainings, but location/ time are to be determined. A motion was made to approve Colton to attend the 2026 Cover Crop Academy for a registration cost of \$100 plus lodging if needed.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

FY27 Pheasants Forever Partners Agreement

Pheasants Forever Inc. has provided a Local Partners Agreement with the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. This Local Partners Agreement will allow Allison Papenfuss, Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever Inc, to work in the Dodge Center Service Center for FY27 (July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027). The grant will support a full-time position at \$70,000/ year, and will require a 10% match, which will be split between the local PF Chapter and Dodge SWCD. A motion was made to sign and approve the Local Partners Agreement between Dodge SWCD and Pheasants Forever, Inc, for the Farm Bill Biologist II position stationed at the Dodge Center Service Center and providing \$3,500.00 in matching funds.

Motion: David Livingston

Seconded: Glenn Hahn

The motion carried unanimously.

FY26 Soil Health Practices Contract RCPP 20-2-3 Payment

Contract RCPP 20-2-3 is requesting payment from the FY26 RCPP Soil Health Practices Grant for implementing strip-till, which is covered under CPS 329 – Residue and tillage management. There were 152.62 acres strip-tilled on a one-year contract. The payment for the practice is \$30 per acre, and the landowner is requesting a total payment of \$4,578.60. A motion was made to approve the FY26 Soil Health Practices Contract RCPP 20-2-3 payment of \$4,578.60 for the installation of 152.62 acres of strip-till at \$30 per acre.

Motion: Glenn Hahn

Seconded: Rick Alberts

The motion carried unanimously.

FY26 Soil Health Practices Contract RCPP 20-2-4 Payment

Contract RCPP 20-2-4 is requesting payment from the FY26 RCPP Soil Health Practices Grant for implementing strip-till, which is covered under CPS 329 – Residue and tillage management. There were 105.85 acres strip-tilled on a three-year contract. The payment for the practice is \$30 per acre, and the landowner is requesting a partial payment of \$3,175.50 for the first year of the contract. A motion was made to approve the partial FY26 Soil Health Practices Contract RCPP 20-2-4 payment of \$3,175.50 for the installation of 105.85 acres of strip-till at \$30 per acre.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: David Livingston
The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Cost-Share Contract 2025WAGZ- DC-05 (Giese) Payment

Virginia Giese Living Trust of Kasson, MN is requesting cost-share assistance from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for a 412- Grassed Waterway, installed in Section 30 of Mantorville Township. Giese Living Trust was authorized to encumber \$9,177.30. The total cost for practice installation was \$9,450.00, and they are requesting 90% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$8,505.00, and to unencumber the remaining funds. A motion was made to approve the payment for cost-share contract 2025WAGZ-DC-05, Virginia Giese Living Trust, for the installation of a 412- Grassed Waterway at 90% of the total cost of the entire project, not to exceed \$8,505.00.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Rick Alberts
The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

There was no Other New Business

Correspondence & Staff Report

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, shared she is presenting a financial overview and 2025’s highlights to Dodge County commissioners on May 26th. Klingfus shared Colton is busy with the no-till drill tasks, and Joe is getting all the contracts together for the projects coming up. Klingfus shared the Local Work Group meeting will be May 20th at 9 AM in the conference room of the USDA Service Center in Dodge Center, and the Area 7 Resolutions Meeting will be on June 9th in Stewartville.

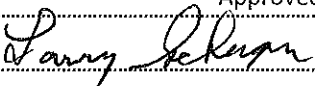
Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. in the conference room of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center, 916 2nd Street SE, Dodge Center, MN.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Larry Scherger, Chair, called for a motion for adjournment at 9:31 PM.

Motion: Glenn Hahn
Seconded: Rick Alberts
The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	6-16-26	Allison English

