



Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District

916 2nd Street SE

Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927

Phone: 507-374-6364 ext. 3

www.dodgeswcd.org

Minutes of the February 17, 2026

Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District

Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Larry Scherger, Board Chair, at 6:32 P.M.

Members Present:

Larry Scherger, Chair
Rick Alberts, Vice-Chair
Glenn Hahn, Treasurer
David Livingston, Secretary
Bruce Freerksen, PR&I

Members Absent:

None

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 was one addition to the February 17, 2026 board meeting agenda. The addition is 'Training Request: Manager Meeting.' A motion was made to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting agenda as amended.

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

Approval of the January 80, 2026

The supervisors discussed the January 20, 2026 board meeting minutes. There is one correction includes change 'Dodge County Fair' to 'Dodge County Expo' in the last sentence under Dodge County Expo action item. A motion was made to approve the January 20, 2026 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
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 the EQIP program application competing ends on March 20, 2026 and should be announced early April. Bird shared the cost-share rates have not been announced yet but the NRCS is working with the Dodge SWCD district to plan

combo funding. Continuous CRP signup runs from February 12-20, 2026 and there are currently 1.9 million acres available. The general CRP sign-up runs from March 9-April 17, 2026. Bird shared the CRP rates have dropped a little bit from previous years. With the current CRP timeline, the CRP contract checks need to be completed sooner than usual. There are 36

CRP contracts that expire in 2026 and 39 expire in 2028. The Pheasants Forever biologist in Freeborn County had their last day last week and the Freeborn office will be looking to fill the position.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Report

Ann Gunness, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, shared the following email to be presented at the February 17, 2026:

1. Soil Health Practices RCPP

Remaining Available Funding for Additional Grants:

- \$8,400,000, equating to approximately 70 additional grants
- As of 02/04/2026

2. Soil Health Delivery

- Soil health delivery (used largely for Education and Outreach) for the SWCD has been approved for funding on 2/11/2026. Details will be sent soon with the level of funding approved by the Board and the granting process moving forward.

3. Clean Water Competitive Projects and Practices Grant

- Application period: open February 11 – March 26

This grant is well-suited for shovel-ready projects, including:

- Stormwater management
- Erosion control
- Other water quality improvement projects
- Up to 50% of the funding is targeted to support drinking water protection.

4. BWSR Spring Training – 2026

- Date: Tuesday, March 31 (morning)
- Spring Training supports a broader audience than BWSR Academy and improves accessibility for LGUs unable to attend the Academy.
- Sessions will focus on BWSR programs and capacity- and skill-building.
- The training will include 4–5 concurrent tracks, offering 90-minute morning sessions:
 - 8:30–10:00 a.m.
 - 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

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, Treasure, presented the January 2026 Financial Report, including the Balance Sheet covering what is in checking and savings, revenues of \$13,975 for January, and expenditures of \$57,478.26 for January, the general ledger and aging summary, with a payables total of \$4,459.45. A motion was made to approve the January 2026 Treasurer's Report, pay bills on the aging summary, for a payables total of \$4,459.45.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Deposit Renewal

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, informed the supervisors the Certificate of Deposit (CD) is set to mature on 02/26/2026. The district's CD is currently in a 6-month term with a 4.45% 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). A motion was made to renew the Certificate of Deposit for a 6-month term at a ~~4.45%~~ ^{4.1%} interest rate and to add the acquired interest to the CD total of the 6-month CD deposit would be 106,855.80.

Motion: Rick Alberts

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Reports

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor

David Livingston, District IV Supervisor, shared the Cedar River Meeting was cancelled and he was unable to attend the Policy Committee meeting. Livingston shared he will be attending the Cedar River/ SWCD Joint meeting on February 18th.

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor

Glenn Hahn, District V Supervisor, shared the Root River Meeting is next week and he attended the I90 tour. Hahn felt the ~~tour~~ ^{premises} went very well. *in Rochester.*

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor

Larry Scherger, District III Supervisor, attended the Joint Powers Board on January 28th. The same committee was elected and the 2025 projects were reviewed. Scherger shared project photos with the board.

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor

Bruce Freerksen, District II Supervisor, did not provide a report.

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor

Rick Alberts, District I Supervisor, shared he also attended the I90 Tour. Alberts shared he attended the Southeast Alliance meeting with a very good speaker on well contamination and aquifers. Alberts attended the Soil Health Tour that took place on February 17th.

Unfinished Business

Review Encumbered Non- Structural Projects

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, shared there has been no new encumbered Non-Structural Projects approved since the last board meeting.

Tree Update

Allison English, Administrative Professional, shared the tree sale is going well. English presented a spreadsheet with each individual price per tree and the profit/loss breakdown.

New Business

Southeast Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employee (MACDE) Dues and Spring Meeting

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, informed the supervisors of the mission and accomplishments of the SE MACDE. Klingfus also informed that the yearly employee fees are due and are \$25 per employee. With 4 total employees for this year the total would be \$100. The spring meeting is taking place on March 24, 2026 and the registration cost has not been announced. In past years it was \$20 per person. A motion was made to pay the yearly fees for total of \$100 and to pay for the registration for any employee that would like to attend the Spring Meeting.

February 17, 2026 Dodge SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

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

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

Watershed Cost-Share 2024WAGZ-DC-12 (Brooks) Payment

Michael Brooks of Byron, MN has requested a 2nd year cover crop payment from the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District for the installation of a 340- Cover Crop in Section 25 of Mantorville Township. Using the BWSR Pollution Reduction Estimator, the practice will provide pollution reduction of 449.5 Lbs/ac/yr of Nitrogen of TSS, and 9.9 T/yr of TSS, and 18.5 lbs/yr of Phosphorus. The year-2 payment for the cover crops install in section 25 of Mantorville township is \$3,150. A motion was made to approve the year 2 payment for ~~Graig Koop~~ for cover crops installed in Section 25 of Mantorville Township, not to exceed \$3,150. *Michael Brooks*

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

2026 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, informed the supervisors that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will hold their annual Day at the Capitol with a legislative briefing on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 and meetings with our legislators on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. There will also be a Legislative Priorities Informative Webinar on February 17, 2026. Registration for the event is \$130.00. A motion was made to approve sending any staff or supervisors that wishes to attend the 2026 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Day at the Capitol with \$130.00 for registration and lodging.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen
Seconded: Glenn Hahn
The motion carried unanimously.

MACDE Spring Managers Meeting

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, is requesting to attend the MACDE Spring Minnesota Managers meeting. The meeting is to be held from March 25 at 1PM- March 26 at 12 PM at the MnDot St Cloud Training Center. The cost for the registration is \$20.00, and one-night lodging at the Holiday Inn and Suites- St. Cloud cost of \$110 plus tax. A motion was made to approve Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, to attend the MACDE Spring Minnesota Managers Meeting on March 25-26 and pay lodging expense.

Motion: David Livingston
Seconded: Bruce Freerksen
The motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

There was no Other New Business

Correspondence & Staff Report

Correspondence – Upcoming Your Land, Your Legacy: Forever Pheasant Event.

Jessica Klingfus, District Manager, advised the board the details for the strategic planning event coming up on March 4th will be sent out shortly. The board packets are going to be mailed out with just the financials, board meeting minutes, and agenda and the additional documents added to the folder going forward.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be held Tuesday, ~~April 21~~^{March 17th}, 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.

Motion: Bruce Freerksen

Seconded: David Livingston

The motion carried unanimously.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
<i>Larry Scherger</i>	<i>3-17-26</i>	Allison English

