



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, July 5, 2018

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Kevin Chamberlain, Vice Chair
Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer
Bruce Johnson, Public Relations

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Lana Rotty
Ashely Gallagher
Lindsey Albright

Others Present:

Alan Kraus, CRWP

1. Call to Order

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Zanmiller led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation – Alan Kraus, Cannon River Watershed Partnership

Alan Kraus, Conservation Program Manager with Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP), provided an update on their organizational activities. He distributed copies of the Annual Report and provided additional information on several programs their organization is involved with. He also noted that with a recent governance change, the CRWP has moved from a 25 member board to a 16 member citizen board and July 12 will be the first Board retreat for these members.

4. Audience

Chair Zanmiller asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the board on an item that is not on the agenda. No one appeared.

5. Approval of Agenda

18.066 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

6. Secretary's Report – June 7, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

18.067 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the June 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer's Report

6.1 July 5, 2018 Accounts Payable

18.068 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the July 5, 2018 Accounts Payable. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

6.2 June 30, 2018 Financial Report

18.069 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept the June 30, 2018 Financial Report, subject to audit. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8. Rural Lands Committee

8.1 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Ralph Wagner for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin

Gallagher stated that Ralph Wagner has completed installation of a water and sediment control basin. She added that a new water and sediment control basin was installed to split the distance between two existing basins. This will reduce erosion and further the lifespan of the downstream basin.

The project was approved for funding at the August 3, 2017 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$1,515 based on cost estimate of \$2,020. The landowner received three construction cost estimates and the contract was amended at the November 2, 2017 Board meeting to a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,660 based on a new cost estimate of \$4,880. The final project cost was \$6,007.91.

18.070 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to Ralph Wagner for installation of water and sediment control basin in Section 26, Nininger Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$3,660. Members voting yes: Zanmiller, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

8.2 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to John Kingston for Installation of Grassed Waterways

Gallagher stated that John Kingston has completed installation of five grassed waterways. She noted that this included a 135-foot waterway in Section 28, a 550-foot and 382-foot waterway in Section 27, and a 540-foot and 675-foot waterway in Section 34 of Marshan Township.

The project was approved for funding at the April 5, 2018 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$5,332.50 based on cost estimate of \$7,110. The final project cost was \$7,867.62.

18.071 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve final payment to John Kingston for installation of five grassed waterways in Marshan Township, Vermillion River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$5,332.50. Members voting yes: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

8.3 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Duane Kimmes for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basins

Gallagher stated that Duane Kimmes has completed installation of three farmable water and sediment control basins. She added that concentrated flow was causing erosion in the field. Each of the water and sediment control basins were constructed with underground outlets to retain runoff and reduce erosion and sedimentation.

The project was approved for funding at the April 5, 2018 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$13,725 based on cost estimate of \$18,300. The final project cost was \$15,020.

18.072 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to Duane Kimmes for installation of water and sediment control basins in Section 11, Hampton Township, Trout Brook Watershed of Cannon River at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$11,265. Members voting yes: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

9. Committee of the Whole

9.1 Authorization to Execute Contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for FY2019 Groundwater Monitoring Services

Albright stated that the DNR has provided a FY19 professional and technical services contract to conduct groundwater level measurements at various observation wells in Dakota County. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Per this contract, thirty-eight wells will be monitored on a quarterly basis (seven wells will be monitored five times). This is similar to what was stipulated in the FY18 contract. In 2016 and 2017, the DNR installed pressure transducers in several of the wells and additional equipment and training was provided. The work plan includes a total of 159 readings and payment to the SWCD would be \$30 per reading at an authorized well or nest of wells. The contract includes a total amount not to exceed \$3,090 but the DNR does allow for an additional payment of \$720 (24 additional readings) should they request more readings.

Chamberlain asked if the groundwater level data was available. It was mentioned that the SWCD only does the readings of groundwater levels and the data is sent to the DNR. However, it was decided that information on the history and trends of groundwater levels would be presented at a Board meeting in the future.

18.073 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute the FY19 contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for groundwater monitoring services. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

9.2 Consider Resolution Regarding Draft Groundwater Protection Rule Released by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Watson stated that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has recently released a proposed rule on groundwater protection. The proposed rule is to minimize potential fertilizer sources of nitrate pollution to the State's groundwater and to protect drinking water.

The proposed rule reflects a revision of the draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule that was released in June of 2017. Changes were made to the June 2017 Minnesota Department of Agriculture draft rule as a result of public feedback. Namely, the focus of the rule is now on Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) and not on vulnerable groundwater areas defined by karst geology and soils.

The draft groundwater protection resolution was reviewed. The primary intent of the resolution is to recognize the SWCD Boards objective in seeking resources to promote and implement voluntary best management practices that address the protection of our groundwater not only in DWSMAs but throughout Dakota County where soils are vulnerable to groundwater contamination.

Watson added that the Groundwater Protection resolution states that Dakota County SWCD is committed to working with landowners to evaluate opportunities that can be implemented to improve and protect our groundwater quality.

18.074 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve resolution to adopt Groundwater Protection Policy. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

10. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

There was no Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) agency report provided.

Dakota County

There was no Dakota County report provided.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board

There was no Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board report.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Watson stated that the Area meeting and tour was held on June 20 and the Dakota resolution on Equal Opportunity under the Watershed Based Funding Program was approved. Attendees also stated that the tour was informative and interesting.

Dee stated that she attended the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts boat tour that same day. She noted that Carrie Jennings was one of the three speakers featured at this event.

Watson stated that MASWCD has asked the Dakota County SWCD to be part of a conservation video that will be professionally produced. Joe Barten and Liz Dengate will be working with the MN Zoo to highlight the stormwater projects we partnered on for our section of the video.

Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee

Chamberlain provided the Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee report. He stated that progress is moving toward getting the Joint Power Board in place. At this time funding options under a joint powers agreement is the largest remaining question for the Committee. At the September 5 meeting, several options for membership dues with a tiered approach will be presented, and the Committee will need to explore all scenarios at that time and work out a final decision.

11. Upcoming Meetings and Events

Zanmiller noted upcoming events.

12. District Managers Report

Watson stated that all items in his report have been previously addressed.

13. Closed Executive Session

18.075 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to enter into closed session to conduct mid-year evaluation of the District Manager. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

An informal mid-year review of the District Manager was held to evaluate performance measures.

18.076 Motion by Dee , second by Johnson to return to open session.

14. Adjourn

18.077 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog, Secretary