



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, September 6, 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
Chelsea Skog, Secretary
Bruce Johnson, Public Relations

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Lana Rotty
Curt Coudron
Ashley Gallagher

Others Present:

Brad Becker, Dakota County
Melissa King, BWSR

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. 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.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Secretary's Report – August 2, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

18.096 Motion by Skog, second by Johnson to approve the August 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 September 6, 2018 Accounts Payable

18.097 Motion by Dee, second by Chamberlain to approve the September 6, 2018 Accounts Payable. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

6.2 August 31, 2018 Financial Report

18.098 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept the August 31, 2018 Financial Report, subject to audit. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

7. Rural Lands Committee

7.1 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to Al Schaffer on behalf of ELMEGCA Farms for Installation of Grassed Waterway

Coudron stated that Al Schaffer has completed the installation of a grassed waterway. He explained that concentrated flow was causing gully erosion within the field. A 1,700' grassed waterway was constructed to adequately collect and convey runoff and to reduce field erosion. The site was graded and seeded, and temporary erosion control was installed. Rock was placed at the upstream culvert to reduce scouring and hold the erosion blanket in place. Coudron further explained that the straw waddles will breakdown over years and eventually be cut open and the fabric pulled out.

The project was approved for funding at the April 5, 2018 Board meeting at 75% cost share not to exceed \$4,612.50 and based on a cost estimate of \$6,150. The final project cost is \$4,173.43

18.099 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to approve final payment to Al Schaffer for installation of grassed waterway in Section 13, Douglas Township, Trout Book Watershed of Cannon River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$3,130.82. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

7.2 Authorization to Amend Contract with Tim McNearney for Wetland Restoration

Coudron stated that Tim McNearney's contract for a wetland restoration was approved at the April 5, 2018 Board meeting at 75% cost share with an estimated project cost of \$7,100. After obtaining contractor feedback, Mr. McNearney has requested a contract amendment to change the tile outlet to a different location. SWCD staff support the modified outlet as a more stable location. SWCD staff has modified the design to reflect this change, obtained engineering signoff, and adjusted the cost estimate accordingly. The modified design increases the cost estimate to \$8,800.

18.100 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to amend contract with Tim McNearney for a wetland restoration in Section 29, Greenvale Township, Cannon River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$6,600. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8. Committee of the Whole

8.1 Selection of 2018 Conservation Cooperator

Coudron stated that each year a selection is made to identify a landowner or entity that has made a significant contribution to protecting our land and water resources. Staff identified a number of candidates for this award and details of each nominee's accomplishments were presented.

18.101 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to select Dean Davis of Apple Valley as the 2018 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8.2 Adopt 2019 Fee Schedule

Watson stated that annually a fee schedule is adopted to establish charges for services and use of rental equipment. A draft 2019 fee schedule was provided with no changes being recommended. Watson added that the adopted fee schedule is part of the overall budgeting process and establishes the parameters for developing annual work plans with our partners under a fee for service arrangement.

18.102 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the 2019 Fee Schedule as presented. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8.3 Update on the One Watershed, One Plan Program as it relate to the Cannon River Watershed Planning Area and the 7-County Metro Area

Watson stated that in partnership with 14 local units of government that span six counties, we continue to develop a draft Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Cannon River Planning Area (Plan). It is anticipated that the draft Plan will be approved in the upcoming weeks and the formal review process will begin. It is also anticipated that with completion of the Plan, funding will be distributed for implementation activities and grant administration in the fall of 2019.

Under a pilot program for the 7-County metropolitan area, we have also completed our coordination efforts with the watershed management organizations and submitted a collaborative application on behalf of the water management authorities located in Dakota County. The 7-County metropolitan area is currently in a pilot program for the FY18-19 grant funding cycle and under the One Watershed, One Plan Program. An interim or more permanent program for the 7-County Metro area is anticipated next year and prior to the FY20-21 grant funding cycle.

Watson provided a presentation regarding the status of each funding pool, what processes are underway with the One Watershed, One Plan Program and what factors will need to be considered in the future.

9. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Dakota County

Brad Becker provided the Dakota County report. He stated that in 2012, the County enforced 50 buffers on public waters within county jurisdiction; which is the shoreland and floodplain areas in townships, not cities. The County partnered with SWCD on enforcing the buffer rule. Then in 2014, a statewide initiative required 50 buffers on all public waterways and 16 foot buffers on ditches statewide. In 2017, the State determined that counties must enforce the buffer rule or the State would take over enforcement. At that time, the County elected to enforce the buffer rule. Over last winter and spring, the county and SWCD worked together to identify the need of buffers in cities. This included Farmington, Lakeville, Vermillion, and Hastings. An inventory was generated and landowners were contacted if they were noncompliant. The Stated allowed a waiver to defer installation from June 1 to November 1, 2018.

Dee asked if the inventory showed noncompliance in areas that were privately or city owned. Becker stated that a number of the parcels were publically held, and in most cases the public entity actually didn't know they were being farmed.

Becker added that the courts were very strict with the landowners and indicated that they must abide by the law.

Dee then asked about the Randolph septic system issue. Becker stated that a Community Assessment Report was prepared and presented to the Randolph City Council by a consultant. The consultant was not asked to prepare this assessment, they saw an opportunity to get State funding to prepare this report and moved forward on their own. Basically the assessment stated how they would fix the noncompliant septic system issue. The recommendation was not to build a waste water treatment plant and upgrade failing septic systems at each landowner's expense. The Mayor and the City Council were not in favor of this report being prepared, nor with the outcome. At the next City Council meeting discussion will occur on how to move forward.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board

Zanmiller provided the Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board (MCD) report. She stated that Ramsey Conservation District no longer has a representative to the Board. The MCD Chair indicated

that he will send a letter encouraging participating and paying dues and that they should seek having a representative attend future joint powers board meetings.

The Children's water festival is seeking additional funding, as they are currently requesting to add 15 classes with more anticipated after that.

Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts assisted with drafting two FY19 Clean Water Fund grant applications to continue the Campus Ground Water Conservation Program and the Subwaterhed Analysis programs.

The NRCS office in the Earle Brown Center will be closing and MCD will need to find a new meeting location.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

There were no updates.

Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee

Chamberlain stated that there was no Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee report, as they did not meet. The next scheduled meeting is September 26. That meeting will include updates on the planning process and the JPA, and communication pieces – Fact Sheet and FAQs.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Events

Zanmiller noted upcoming events.

11. District Managers Report

Watson reminded the Board of Supervisors of the upcoming Outdoor Ed Days scheduled for September 18, 20, 25, 27. Watson stated that he is hoping the weather will cooperate so the approved projects can be installed yet this fall as it has some implications to existing grant agreement timelines. Watson introduced Melissa King, a new Board Conservationist with the Board of Water and Soil Resources who will be working in Dakota, Scott and Ramsey Counties.

12. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog, Secretary