

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2012-06 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole March 27, 2012, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Chair Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	Jane Olive	District #1
	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #3
	Don Gray	District #4
	David Hanson	District #5

Members absent: None

Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk
	Kevin Kiser	CRWD Board Representative
	Melissa DeVetter	Zoning Administrator

Kevin Kiser, Dodge County's Representative to the Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) provided the Board with a CRWD update.

CRWD Update

Included in the Board packet for the Board's review was the 2011 CRWD Annual Report.

After nearly two years of work, the CRWD Board of Managers passed new rules and a permitting program directed at reducing future flooding and improving water quality.

CRWD staff are administering the rules and permitting program, which both went into effect December 1st. CRWD's new rules cover areas related to storm water, flood plains, water body alterations, erosion control and enforcement.

All watershed districts are required by state law to implement rules to accomplish their purpose. The CRWD's rules are intended to fill gaps in existing federal, state and local regulations, not duplicate existing regulations.

Rules, permitting and fines were discussed.

Mr. Kiser stated that educating the general public on the activities of the watershed district is important to him.

With the Cedar River's headwaters in Dodge County, Mr. Kiser reported that he sees opportunity for projects in this area.

CRWD Update -
Continued

Kevin Kiser informed the Board that any questions they or the public have regarding the watershed district can easily be addressed by contacting one of the CRWD Board Managers or Bev Nordby, the Mower County SWCD Administrator.

Commissioner Erickson stated that he has heard concerns from Dodge County citizens that Mower County is going to run the show in regards to the CRWD.

Mr. Kiser reported that there is opportunity for Dodge County to be more involved in the watershed district.

The makeup and background of the CRWD Board members was discussed. Mr. Kiser is a rural landowner that was appointed to fill the vacant position left after Richard Fuller retired from the CRWD Board. Kevin Kiser manages the Freeborn Coop and brings his management skills and communication skills to this Board.

Discussion took place on the number of representatives from each county that serve on the CRWD Board. It was clarified that representatives from each of the four counties (Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele) serve on the CRWD Board.

Kevin Kiser informed the Board that there are funds available to Dodge County for watershed projects.

Commissioner Hanson suggested that Mr. Kiser work with the Dodge County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Dodge County Environmental Services and the townships included in the watershed district to inform them that there are funds available to Dodge County for projects; they just need to pursue those funding options.

Commissioner Erickson stated that he appreciated Mr. Kiser coming in and providing an update on CRWD activities.

Mr. Kiser commented that he'd like to see funds appropriated to Dodge County for watershed projects.

The Board thanked Mr. Kiser for the update.

Accounting Services Director Sara Marquardt met with the Board to provide them with a redistricting update.

Redistricting
Update

Commissioner Olive wanted to know who in Kasson is in District 1.

Ms. Marquardt clarified that on the Dodge County Redistrict map for Kasson, 16th Street NE is the proposed dividing line. Anyone that lives on the north side of this road near the Kasson-Mantorville High School will be in District 1. The Zoning Administrator reported that there are 407 people in this area.

District 3 was discussed. District 3 starts at Main Street in Kasson and includes everyone south of this road.

Ms. Marquardt informed the Board that she is asking each of the cities to approve the redistricting plan.

Redistricting
Update - Continued

The Zoning Administrator reported that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:00 a.m. to allow the public to comment on the proposed redistricting plan. The redistricting plan needs to be approved by May 1st.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: