

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2015-04 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 24, 2015, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CST. Chair John Allen opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: John Allen District #1
Tim Tjosaas District #2
Rodney Peterson District #3
David Erickson District #4
Steven Gray District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: Jim Elmquist County Administrator
Becky Lubahn Deputy Clerk
Adam King SWCD Manager

Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Manager Adam King provided the Board with a Soil and Water Conservation District 2014 year in review.

SWCD 2014 Year in Review

Mr. King reported the SWCD is a political subdivision of the State, with an elected board of Supervisors that serve four year staggered terms. Two or three of the SWCD's five elected supervisors are up for election every two years. Many of the SWCD's authorities are established under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C – Soil and Water Conservation District Law.

The Dodge SWCD is a non-regulatory local unit of government that manages and directs natural resource management programs at the local level. The district works in both urban and rural settings, with landowners and with other units of government, to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources.

Dodge County's five member, elected Board of Supervisors were listed as follows:

Supervisor's Name	District Number	Townships Represented
Bill Thompson	District 1	Milton, Mantorville
Don Hesar	District 2	Ellington, Concord
Larry Scherger	District 3	Claremont, Wasioja
David Livingston	District 4	Ashland, Ripley, Westfield
Glenn Hahn	District 5	Canisteo, Hayfield, Vernon

Mr. King informed the Board the SWCD currently has three staff members:

SWCD 2014 Year in Review - Continued

- Adam King, District Manager
- Tom Johnston, District Technician
- Blaine Delzer, Conservation Technician (grant funded position)

The District Manager discussed with the Board staff turnover. District Technician, Jim Hruska retired in March of 2014 after 38 years with the Dodge County Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. King was hired in July 2014. The District Manager noted Dodge County Water Program Manager, Dean Schrandt is no longer assisting the SWCD in a managerial capacity.

Mr. King reviewed the 2014 budget vs. actual revenues and expenditures with the Board as well as 2015 budget figures.

Projects were briefly discussed as follows:

Conservation Cost-Share

\$9,908 from the Board of Water and Soil Resources for FY2014
 Technical-Assistance Option

- Worked with 30 Producers
- Installed 19 Conservation Projects
 - 12 Waterways
 - 7 Water and Sediment Control Basins
 - 178.4 lbs. of Phosphorous/Year
 - 157.25 T of Sediment/Year
 - 298.6 T of Soil/Year

Financial Assistance Provided by:

- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The following feedlot statistics were reviewed:

Feedlot Description	Project #'s - Dodge/ Mower Counties
Farms Visited	141
Farms with MnFarm Evaluations Completed	120
Farms Passed	107
Feedlots Abandoned	0
Feedlot Fixes Needed*	13
Feedlot Fixes Completed	7
Feedlot Fixes Started with Local Dollars Started	2
Feedlot Fixes Stared with Local Dollars Completed	1
Feedlot Fixes with Cost-Share Approval Set for Construction	3
Feedlot Fixes with Cost-Share Approval Completed	1

*Not all feedlot fixes require the use of cost-share funds.

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM)

SWCD 2014 Year in Review - Continued

- Wetland Restoration Program (WRP) [through NRCS] no longer exists.
 - BWSR is picking up the slack through the RIM program.
- RIM Wetlands Signup was from January 5, 2015 – February 13, 2015.
 - Had one applicant (75 acres).
 - Would have more if it were a RIM Riparian sign-up.

Dodge County Water Plan

Six Point Plan Including:

1. Public well testing and associated services.
2. Maintenance of Dodge County well database and associated services.
3. Aid in the Citizen Stream Monitoring Program (CSMP), maintenance of stream monitoring stations and other surface water related programs.
4. Aid in the Nitrate Monitoring Network, and other related ground water related programs.
5. Assist in inventory, and planning and development work necessary to prepare viable groundwater and surface water projects for inclusion in 2015 Dodge County grant applications.
6. Upon request of Dodge County, assist with other duties which satisfy the objectives of the Dodge County Comprehensive Water Management Plan, as determined by the Environmental Services Office.

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Root River Watershed

- Funded as a Pilot in 2014.
- To be completed by the end of 2015.
- BWSR to approve early 2016.

Zumbro River Watershed

- Will apply in 2015 if available.

Cedar River Watershed

- To be determined.

Commissioner Peterson wanted to know what the SWCD Board had to say about taxing authority.

Mr. King reported the SWCD Board is in favor of it.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen arrived to the meeting at 4:50 p.m. CST.

County Attorney Arrived

Special projects were listed as follows:

SWCD 2014 Year in Review - Continued

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

Edge of Field (EOF) Monitoring
- Discovery Farms: Edge of Field Monitoring

Saturated Buffer Monitoring

The District Manager reviewed the following upcoming items for 2015:

Urban Best Management Practices (BMP's)

Raingarden Workshops
- March 23, 2015; Kasson
- March 25, 2015; Dodge Center
- March 26, 2015; West Concord

Blue Thumb Partnership

Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) Academy Apprentice

Assisting with Conservation Cost-Share Technical Assistance
Survey/Design/Installation of BMP's

Mapping Tile Maps onto GIS

Assisting with MNFarm Models (feedlots)

Commissioner Peterson asked for clarification on the tile mapping that is being done.

Mr. King reported the mapping is being funded through the Conservation Corps.

Mr. Peterson wanted to know if the mapping correlates with the county's GIS system.

The District Manager stated the tile mapping should be able to correlate with the county's GIS system.

Discussion took place on saturated buffers.

Commissioner Erickson informed the Board that a saturated buffer is another form of a bio-filter which filters water.

Mr. King continued his update on upcoming items for 2015.

Funding

- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
 - Clean Water Funds (CWF)

- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
 - Funding Initiative

- Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD)
 - Technical Assistance

SWCD 2014 Year in Review - Continued

Commissioner Peterson wanted to know if the Southeast Minnesota Multi-County Water Resources Board had any involvement with the Dodge County SWCD.

Mr. King indicated that he hasn't worked with that board.

Commissioner Gray questioned whether or not the watershed districts discuss flooding and ways to prevent flooding.

The District Manager reported that they do discuss flood prevention.

The Board thanked Mr. King for the update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

JOHN ALLEN
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: