

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016**

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2016-16 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole August 23, 2016, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Chair Steven Gray opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. CDT.

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:           Lisa Kramer                     Finance Director  
                                   Becky Lubahn                    Deputy Clerk

Dodge Soil and Water District (SWCD) Manager Adam King presented for the Board's consideration a 2017 county appropriation request.

SWCD 2017 Budget  
Request Reviewed

SWCD Representatives Larry Scherger and Don Hesper were available to comment on the request.

Mr. King shared the following 2017 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District budget information with the Board:

The SWCD is requesting a \$105,000 appropriation from Dodge County to assist in funding their operations in 2017. Currently the Dodge SWCD is operating with a salary reserve of \$47,777.60, and is budgeting to increase the reserve by \$26,031.20, for a total 6-month salary reserve of \$73,808.80, as well as to increase the reserve for compensated absences by \$5,680.00, for a total of \$31,711.20 being budgeted for additional reserves.

For 2017, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is challenging counties across Minnesota to increase their appropriations to their respective Soil and Water Conservation Districts by matching the increase, dollar for dollar to the SWCD, up to a specific amount. For Dodge County that amount is \$22,750. Dodge SWCD realizes the financial position of Dodge County and that an increase of \$22,750 to fully match the grant would be unlikely, but is still hopeful to take advantage of the matching grant with a more modest increase of \$15,000 to the appropriation, for a total of \$105,000.

Included in the Board packet for the Board's review was the 2017 Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District approved preliminary budget.

The SWCD Representatives reported the SWCD was \$18,000 in the hole last year.

Discussion took place on where the SWCD's reserves were at and the states recommendation that the SWCD to maintain a six month reserve in their account.

SWCD 2017 Budget  
Request Reviewed -  
Continued

Mr. King noted the reserve they have is for two employees, they currently have three employees therefore the reserve should be increased. The District Manager informed the Board that Blaine Delzer's position was funded by a feedlot grant which ended last year. Mr. Delzer is now in an education outreach position which is funded by a three year grant that ends in 2019.

Buffer land was discussed.

Don Hester reported Mr. King has been very successful in bringing grants into the SWCD. Mr. Hester noted two things that are impacting them are buffer initiatives and the One Watershed One Plan.

Environmental Services Director Mark Gamm was present and was asked to comment on his interactions with the SWCD. Mr. Gamm informed the Board he was there to support the SWCD. The Environmental Services Director reported the SWCD provide services to the citizens of Dodge County and that his office contracts with them to provide services as well.

Commissioner Gray asked Mr. King to talk about the SWCD's plans for 2017.

The Water District Manager briefly discussed the SWCD's plans for the following five grants which they received:

- Farmbill Assistance Grant
- CWA Sec. 319 CSA Restoration
- Saturated Buffer CWF
- CSA Restoration CWF
- Ripley Nitrogen Reduction MDM

Brief discussion took place regarding 2017 projects, the in's and out's of the SWCD, what goes on at the SWCD on a daily basis, cost sharing practices, the SWCD's working relationship with the Farm Service Agency, water monitoring, saturated buffers, best management practices and the Root River.

Don Hester commended the work of Adam King at the SWCD office. Mr. Hester reported Mr. King is aggressive in pursuing grants and funding to promote programs in Dodge County. Mr. Hester stated the SWCD is more efficient and conservative than it has been in the past and noted they appreciate the county support.

Commissioner Allen thanked Don Hester for his years of services and informed the Board Mr. Hester's term will end at the end of this year.

The Board thanked Mr. King, Mr. Hester and Mr. Scherger for the information.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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**STEVEN GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

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**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

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**DATED:**