

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JOINT MEETING HELD**

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2009-01 Joint Meeting

The Dodge County Commissioners and Soil and Water Conservation District met in a joint meeting April 23, 2009, in the Breakroom at the Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 7:00 p.m. CDT. David Hanson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. CDT. Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present and established that there was a quorum: Those Present

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

Members absent: Muriel French SWCD Officer District No. 1

Also present: David McKnight County Administrator
Mark Gamm Environmental Quality Director
Dean Schrandt Environmental Technician/Educator
Darrel Faulkner SWCD Officer District No. 2
Larry Scherger SWCD Officer District No. 3
David Livingston SWCD Officer District No. 4
Glenn Hahn SWCD Officer District No. 5
Tom Johnston District Technician
Brian DeVetter District Conservationist
Jim Hruska District Technician

Assistant State Conservationist John Nicholson reviewed information showing the amount of money brought into Dodge County by NRCS. Mr. Nicholson also reviewed the mutual agreement between the USDA, the State of Minnesota and Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. SWCD Discussion

Program	Years	Obligated Dollars
NRCS		
EQIP	1997 to 2008	\$1,085,691.61
WHIP	2000 to 2008	\$7,085.61
CSP	2000 to 2008	\$19,990.00
		\$1,112,767.22
FSA		Payments Made
CRP	2004 to 2008	\$1,560,086.00
		\$1,560,086.00
SWCD		Payments Made
State Cost Share	2000 to 2008	\$181,736.00
SE Flood Relief	2000 to 2008	\$123,333.00
Wetland Conservation Act	2000 to 2008	\$45,000.00
		\$350,069.00

EQIP funding will be changing from 50% match to 75% this year. It is unknown if this increase will be permanent.

EQIP Funding Discussed

Mr. Nicholson reviewed NRCS staff that are available to Dodge County both locally and in the southeast Minnesota area. District staffing levels and the reduction over the years was reviewed.

Staffing Discussion

SWCD Officer David Livingston reviewed reasons for trying to improve the information sharing and communication between the two organizations. SWCD board is trying to plan their future. Dodge is one of four counties in the state without a manager.

SWCD Discussion

Environmental Quality Director Mark Gamm talked about his department's reorganization and the potential for assistance to SWCD. Discussion also took place regarding potential duties of a manager.

Environmental Quality Reorganization Discussion

Discussion occurred on a number of issues related to the history of the two organizations working together and future opportunities to do so. SWCD was invited to get on any board agenda when they have issues to share.

Working Relationship Discussed

Commissioner Don Gray asked if SWCD can charge for services. SWCD can charge, but there are other local government entities that can perform similar duties for free.

Service Charge Discussion

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID HANSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

DAVID MCKNIGHT
CLERK

DATED: