

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2006-04 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 28, 2006, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. David Erickson opened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #3
	Don Gray	District #4
	David Hanson	District #5
Members absent:	Klaus Alberts	District #1
Also present:	David McKnight	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk
	Mark Kanable	District Conservationist for NRCS
	Jewel McKenzie	Hiawatha Valley RC&D Coordinator
	Diana Strain	RC&D Program Assistant

NRCS District Conservationist Mark Kanable, Hiawatha Valley RC&D Coordinator Jewel McKenzie and Program Assistant Diana Strain met with the Board to learn about the needs and interests of the communities the Board represents and determine if RC&D can assist them in any way.

RC&D Issues and  
Stage Coach Trail  
Discussion

Jewel McKenzie thanked the Board for taking the time to meet with them this morning. Ms. McKenzie informed the Board that she was hired as the Hiawatha Valley RC&D Coordinator in January.

Commissioner Erickson was interested in knowing if RC&D had any connection with the Mantorville park project. Mark Kanable reported that RC&D worked with the Kasson Lyons on a park in Kasson. Mr. Kanable stated that DNR was involved in the Mantorville park project and that there was grant money available from DNR for that project.

Commissioner Erickson commented that Dodge County has not been as active in RC&D as Steele County has been.

RC&D Issues and  
Stage Coach Trail  
Discussion

Program Assistant Diana Strain informed the Board that RC&D was approached by Planning Director Duane Johnson and asked what they could do with the Stage Coach Trail. Ms. Strain reported that discussion then took place regarding what projects RC&D could assist with. During another discussion that took place at RC&D the Stage Coach Trail was brought up and it was at that time that DNR expressed interest in seeing a full proposal on this particular project. Duane Johnson has been working on putting this information together for DNR.

Commissioner Erickson stated the issue Dodge County ran across with the proposed Stage Coach Trail was that it goes to Olmsted County and that Olmsted County did not want to tie it into their system. Steele County was however interested in connecting to this trail from the west side of Dodge County.

Commissioner Gray reported that he had an opportunity to talk to a new Olmsted County Commissioner about their take on the project, she was not sure why Olmsted County did not want to tie into this trail and was going to check into it further.

Mr. Kanable elaborated further on the proposed bike trail which would go east past the Hubbell House in Mantorville towards Oxbow Park in Byron.

Commissioners discussed the east portion of the proposed bike trail that would go through Wasioja Township. It was noted that several portions of the proposed trail will be situated next to gravel roads. Commissioners reviewed the route that the bike trail would take through Dodge County.

Ms. McKenzie questioned if Olmsted County would be receptive to connecting to their own system since the Douglas Trail was near the proposed trail to Oxbow Park.

Commissioner Hanson commented that he knows of one individual at Oxbow Park that is not in favor of a trail going through the park.

The Board discussed the possibility of a new bike trail coming to Oxbow Park from the City of Byron past the new school which is currently being built just off County Road 5.

Commissioner Erickson indicated that we need to talk to Steele County regarding bringing the trail through Rice Lake State Park from Owatonna.

Ms. Strain informed the Board that Duane Johnson has done a nice job with the proposal and that the only thing missing was the budget information.

County Administrator David McKnight stated that the next step would be to schedule a time to have the Planning Director and the Board talk more about the proposal.

Ms. Strain invited the commissioners to bring forward and ideas/projects they had for Dodge County to RC&D.

RC&D Issues and  
Stage Coach Trail  
Discussion

Mr. Kanable informed the Board that the next RC&D meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 2006.

The NRCS District Conservationist questioned if the Board wanted to present the Planning Director’s proposal at the March meeting.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know what the Board’s role would be and questioned if they need to go out and try to contact people to make proposals to RC&D. A brief discussion took place on how people are informed of what RC&D has to offer.

Ms. Strain shared with the Board information on the Value Added Program. Ms. McKenzie reported that there is considerable interest for the Value Added Program and moving the conference to a Midwestern location.

The RC&D Office Assistant briefly discussed the Grazing Management Program with the Board and encouraged everyone to bring ideas forward to them for consideration by RC&D.

Ms. McKenzie informed the Board that there are always ideas floating around that they have been presented with and that RC&D tries to match the grants they have available with what has been presented to them for ideas.

Commissioner Erickson thanked Ms. Strain, Ms. McKenzie and Mr. Kanable for the information.

Commissioner Tjosaas commented that we need to work with Olmsted County and Steele County on the proposed trail project.

The County Administrator thanked the RC&D and NRCS staff for coming.

No Board action was needed at this time. The meeting gave the commissioners an opportunity to receive some first hand information about what RC&D is and how they could possibly help promote or help find funding for future projects within Dodge County including possibly more trail improvements.

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

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID ERICKSON  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATED: