

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2007-08 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole April 24, 2007, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

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:	None	
Also present:	David McKnight	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk
	Dean Schrandt	Environmental Technician/Educator

Environmental Technician/Educator Dean Schrandt continued his update to the Board on the condition of ground water and surface water in Dodge County.

Dodge County
Surface Water
Trends Update

Mr. Schrandt shared with the Board the types of testing options that are available to test water for human and animal contamination.

The Environmental Technician/Educator explained bug gathering techniques and how the citizens monitoring the streams disturb the river in order to catch bottom dwellers as they float downstream and are collected in a pail. Mr. Schrandt clarified how the bugs are removed and preserved and later identified to determine the water quality.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know what is being done to help the streams that need to be improved.

The Environmental Technician/Educator stated that in order to help the streams they need to continue utilizing open lot agreements, make sure buffers are in place and continue to promote the stream monitoring program. Mr. Schrandt noted that Environmental Quality will continue to apply for grants to obtain additional water sampling equipment.

Mr. Schrandt discussed row crop production and the importance of adequate stream buffers to protect water quality.

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know what the penalties were for taking a buffer out.

Environmental Quality Director Mark Gamm stated that taking a buffer out is a violation of the zoning ordinance and that there are consequences.

Dodge County
Surface Water
Trends Update -
Continued

The Environmental Technician/Educator shared with the Board the following suggestions for future surface water efforts:

- Continue to promote the Citizens Stream Monitoring and Stream Macroinvertebrate Program.
- Add a water sampler to the existing Continuous Monitoring Station to gather additional water quality data on nitrate, phosphorous and suspended solids.
- Cooperate with the MPCA in the development of a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) plan to improve the water quality of the Lower Branch and South Branch of the Middle Fork Zumbro.
- Maintain recent surface water information on the Dodge County website.

The Board thanked Mr. Schrandt for the information.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: