##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE March 14, 2019 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held in the FSA Building Conference Room, Benson Minnesota March 14, 2019.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President – Dale Schlieman

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

P & I – Scott Olson

**Abse**nt: None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Tara Ostendorf BWSR, Gemma Kleinschmidt Farm Bill, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Scott Olson.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by President – Dale Schlieman

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Ahrndt** **to approve the Secretary Report and the Agenda.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**New Supervisor:**  We have Scott Olson attending the meeting as the new District 1 Supervisor to finish the term left by Clint Schuerman.

**State Conservationist:** Troy Daniell will be attending the April 11th Board meeting. We will be asking him questions concerning the lease which ends 2020, new areas, and staffing for the office.

**Personnel Policy:** The Board and staff reviewed the changes that were suggested for the new Employee Policy Handbook. There was some discussion on the sick leave portion. We compared it to our county policy as well as neighboring Swcds.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to leave the sick leave policy as is which states 800 hours max and 25% payout when leaving the position.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**New Business:**

**2019 Local Capacity & buffer Law Amendment:**  Signed form has been uploaded to Elink.

**Joint Powers Agreement for WIA Program:** We have received the agreement for working with the DNR for the Walk – In – Access Program, which needs to be signed and sent back to them.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to sign the agreement for the WIA.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**WCTSA Representatives:** The Board needs to appoint representative for the WCTSA. Since Gronseth is the alternate, he will move up to the primary and Weimerskirch will be the alternate. We also need to appoint a rep for the Pomme de Terre, so Schlieman will be the representative for that.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve the new representative for the WCTSA and Pomme de Terre**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Legislative Update:** There is a lot of discussion concerning possibility of levy authority. Andy passed out a handout with some of the options that may be coming up. We discussed how some of these would work for our district.

**Web Site Host:** We received the bill for the renewal of our website host. The costs vary from 1 to 5 years. It was much cheaper to go with the 5-yr. renewal rate of $74.80.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch to approve going with the 5yr renewal rate of $74.80.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Buffer Cost Share:** Chuck Flolo turned in his seed tags for his buffer, which was .5 acres. He received the $200 cost share for his filter strip.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Ahrndt to approve payment to Chuck Flolo for his buffer cost share in the amount of $200.00**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**BWSR Update**: Tara was present to give us an update on what is going on with BWSR presently.

* BWSR is asking for money to be put into the Governor’s budget.
* Grant applications will be starting soon
* Still working on 1W1P throughout the state

**Farm Bill Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

* Walk in Access rates are $10 - $13 per acre with a 40-acre minimum. We currently have 3 in Swift County
* 2 CREP contracts almost completed
* CRP workshop was held with 23 landowners and 3 vendors attending. This was held along with Chippewa SWCD
* Work Order for RIM easement monitoring was received and needs to be signed by the Board.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve signing the RIM Easement workorder and have Sheri sign it since she is listed as the contact.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Taking tree orders as they come in. Right now, we have 3170 bare root, 656 potted and 2 plantings.
* There are 4 seed orders currently

**District Manager** **– Andy Albertsen:**

* Handed out print out of ongoing projects and things going on
* Discussed the Ground Water meeting that was held by the DNR in Benson
* Area Technical Training Team – working on hosting different trainings. We are the fiscal agent for this grant, which is $10,000
* SWAG Grant – We have the grant which is 100% reimbursable for expenses we incur. We will need to purchase equipment to do the monitoring for this grant. The cost of the equipment is $9423.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by to Weimerskirch to purchase the equipment needed to complete the work for the SWAG grant in the amount of $9423.00.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**NRCS – Melanie Dickmann:**

* EQIP April 19th is the deadline for this signup
* MARL trip to Washington. Passed out pictures of the trip and gave a brief over view.
* CSP payments have been done
* Local Work Group will meet right after this Board meeting.

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve financial report.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2019 at 8:00 am.

**APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE SECRETARY**