

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE **March 9, 2017** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held in the FSA Building Conference Room, Benson Minnesota, March 9, 2017.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

President – Dale Schlieman
Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch
Secretary – Clinton Schuerman
Treasurer - Orvin Gronseth
P & I – Carl Ahrndt

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Peterson County Commissioner, Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Gemma Kleinschmidt PF and Tara Ostendorf BWSR.

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

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve the Agenda and Secretary Report.
Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

Old Business:

Building for Storage: We received a couple of bids for construction and a well, but will be taking more bids. Tara explained how the Local Capacity grant should be spent. Depending on how the funds are designated in the next grant period, we may have to wait until then to build a storage building if we want to use Local Capacity grants.

Tara Ostendorf: Tara gave a report on attending the One Watershed One Plan meeting for the Pomme de Terre. Also how CREP will roll out from BWSR's stand point.

New Business:

Steve Thayer Cost Share: Steve is looking to construct 2 Sediment Basins in Hayes Section 33. The total estimate for this project is \$7,889, we would cost share up to 75% which would be \$5,916.75.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded Schuerman by to approve the Steve Thayer Cost Share for 2 Sediment Control Basins in the amount of \$5,916.75.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Pomme de Terre Watershed: They have a Contract for Services agreement that the Board needs to sign.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve signing the Contract for Services for the Pomme de Terre Watershed.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Pomme de Terre TAC Rep: The District needs to appoint a new representative from Swift SWCD to service on the TAC committee due to Tom's retiring. It was discussed that we have Andy serve on the TAC.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Schuerman to approve having Andy service as Swift SWCD's representative to the Pomme de Terre TAC.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

AgBMP Loan Rep: After talking with officials for the AgBMP loan program, they suggested that we designate the District Technician as the official rep instead of naming a person. That way if they leave the District the next person would just step into the position.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Schuerman to approve Andy as the representative for the AgBMP program.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schuerman seconded Ahrndt by to approve the change of policy to state that the District Technician be serve as the representative for the AgBMP program.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Survey Equipment: Andy received information from Frontier Precision on survey equipment – Trimble tablet and R10 unit. Funding would come from the Local Capacity money. We have money from the FY16 capacity to use for this purchase in the amount of \$33,841.86.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded Schuerman by to approve the purchase of the Trimble tablet and R10 unit.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

NACD: They are requesting a letter of support be sent to our legislators to show support for NRCS taking the DUN's and SAM's number from their applications for funding projects. It is a long and sometimes difficult process to do and takes a lot of time. Also must be done every year to keep current.

Motion was made by Schuerman seconded Ahrndt by to approve sending a letter of support to Colin Peterson.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

2001Ford Pickup: It was discussed as to whether we need to keep the 2001 pickup since we have the new truck. We discussed selling it on sealed bids and ask a minimum of \$7500. It will be in the Peach and Canary for 2 weeks and close on April 10th. Bids will be opened at the next Board meeting on April 13th.

Motion was made by Ahrndt seconded by Gronseth to approve putting the 2001 Ford Pickup out for sale on bids to be opened at the next Board meeting.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Debit Card: We discussed the use of the debit card for the District. It is to be used for supplies, QuickBooks updates, and ordering equipment online.

Tree Planter Rental: We will not be renting out the tree planter. If people want to have trees planted then the District personal will do the planting.

Desk: We will list the old desk in Tom's office on Benson Swap & Shop. Will ask \$25.

T Jennings Torgleson Funeral: The Board will be planting a tree in Jennings name. He was a past Supervisor and served on the Board.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve purchasing a tree and planting it in T Jennings Torgleson's name.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Severance Pay: Due to some confusion in the Employee Handbook on what is paid out when someone leaves the employment of the Swift SWCD, we looked at clarifying the policy to be clear. All vacation time accrued up to the date of leaving and ¼ of sick time will be paid.

Motion was made by Schuerman seconded by Ahrndt to approve the clarification on payouts and make sure it is stated that way in the Employee handbook.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Outstanding Conservationist: The Board discussed who we should consider as the 2017 Outstanding Conservationist. A unanimous decision was made to have Tom Orr be this year's choice.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve Tom Orr as 2017 Outstanding Conservationist.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Jeff Hellermann – Acting DC for NRCS: Stopped in to let us know that Barb Zeroth would be coming on March 20th to fill in as Acting DC for Swift County.

- EQIP – working on a lot of applications, some needed corrections
- CSP eligibility dead line is March 10th.
- Civil Rights MOU was read and gone over. Board members signed.

Buffer Technician – Andy Albertsen:

- 2013 Pickup needs to be looked at possible new ignition switch.
- Second mailing has gone out to 340 landowners.
- Buffer Task Force committee met on Tue at the Courthouse.

Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt:

- Working on writing CRP plans
- New CREP agreement and training coming up
- CP 21, 23, and 23A have a minimum of 5 acres
- Next Gen Habitat Projects – Promote pollinators & monarch butterfly habitat. Small acres – free seed. Pay \$50 per acres. Contract for 3-5 Years. It is on a first come bases

Financial Report:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

Motion was made by Schuerman seconded by Ahrndt to approve the Treasurer’s report subject to audit and pay bills.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Next meeting is scheduled for **April 13** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY