## 

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE September 10th, 2020 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the USDA Service Center, Benson Minnesota September 10, 2020.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President – Dale Schlieman

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

P & I – Scott Olson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, and Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Melanie Dickman NRCS.

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

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**2019 Audit** – Has been completed and we need to sign the letter of representation and send it back to Peterson Company.

**New Business:**

**Pope/ Swift Coop Weed Management Area MOU:** This is to work together with different agencies for the weed management in the two counties.

**Motion was made** **by** **Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve signing the Pope/Swift coop Weed Management Area MOU.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**RCPP Letter of Commitment:** This agreement for the purpose of applying for a grant for irrigation management. Letter is looking for a 1 to 1 match from each agency. It can be in-kind or monetary for three years.

**Motion was made** **by** **Gronseth seconded by Ahrndt to approve signing the RCPP Letter of Commitment.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**ATV Replacement:** Discussed upgrading the 4-wheeler we currently have. It does not have a speedometer or tells the mileage. Having these would be good for the application of seed and when spraying for weeds. The trade in quote that we have so far is only about half of the price of a new one. We will look into more trade in options and put it out for sealed bids with a $4000 minimum bid.

**Motion was made** **by** **Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve putting 4-wheeler out on sealed bids with a $4000 minimum bid.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**F250 Pickup:** Dalton has been looking into air bags for the F250’s suspension. The 12-foot drill makes it squat in the rear. Air bags would help the suspension handle the weight. The cost of a pair is $225, and Dalton can install them.

**Motion was made** **by** **Gronseth seconded by Ahrndt to approve purchasing the air bags for the F250.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Flipbook Brochure:** Andy passed around a couple of flipbook brochures for all to look at. They are designed and printed by Red Canoe in northern Minnesota. They would do the design which takes about 20-30 hours at $50 per hour. Printing cost depends on quantity 250 - $360, 500 - $535. We discussed ordering one style of brochure and getting 500 of them for handing out at different events that the SWCD attends.

**Motion was made** **by** **Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve having Red Canoe design and print 500 brochures.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**2019 Local Capacity Grant:** This grant has been reconciled with BWSR as per the grant agreement. When 75% of grant has been spent, it is to be reconciled. We have spent 94% of this grant so far.

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* SWAG water testing will end at the end of September.
* Wells that were low last month again.
* 35 acres of pastures have been seeded with the drills.
* About half done with site checks.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman: By Phone**

* **MOA** with NRCS to partner on different projects This will also probably only allow us to continue to have 2 computer seats for the District.

**Motion was made** **by** **Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the MOA with NRCS/**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**County Commissioner - Ed Pederson:**

* Preliminary budget for 2021 is being reviewed

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

* PdT – 1W1P was approved by BWSR on August 26. Will begin working workplan for first two years of the grant
* Chippewa River Watershed – TAC meeting today.
  + WRAPS public participation Plan finished and must be acted on by end of the year.
  + All SWCD and County board have approved new JPA, waiting for one county attorney signature.
  + Submitted Clean Water Fund grant for $345,000 for the East Branch for projects and administration.
* Pomme de Terre Association approved Messenbrink Farms project.
* Soil Management Summit – Formally Tillage Conference, will be held December 15-16 in multiple locations. There will be 10 – 20 people and will be primarily virtual content with some demos.
* Newsletter is being worked on for delivery in early January.
* MN Ag Water Quality Certification – Jim Forsell has been certified and article submitted to all 3 papers.
  + Wentzel family Farms is being worked on to become certified.

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 8th at the USDA Service Center.

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