

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE April 11, 2024, BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on April 11, 2024.

Members Present:

Chairman – Dale Schlieman
Vice Chairman - Mark Weimerskirch
Secretary – Scott Olson
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth
P&I – Alan Golden

Others Present: Andy Albertsen SWCD, Sheri Gades SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, and Ed Pederson County Commissioner.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman – Dale Schlieman.

Consent Agenda and Minutes:

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Olson to approve the Agenda and the Minutes with addition of 2024-CC08 contract.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

New Building Update: Moved in officially last Thursday. Pretty much everything is set up except the middle office for now. There is some extra furniture that we will be selling.

Pheasants Forever Biologist Position: The person they offered the position to has accepted and will start in June. They interviewed four people.

BWSR Soil Health Staffing Grant: We received the grant of \$485,000 for the full-time position to run for three and half years. The job will be posted, and the personnel committee will do interviews and they can offer the position.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve having the personnel committee offer the position once the interviews are completed.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

New Business:

Personnel Policy Review: Ann Goering went through the existing policy to see if we wanted to make any changes. There were a couple of things we will discuss and may have changed.

Position Descriptions & Pay Scale Review: Tessia Melvin did a tele conference with the Board and went through a presentation on job descriptions and wages. The Board will discuss more after she makes some changes.

Outstanding Conservationist: It is time to start thinking about who we want to nominate for the 2024 Outstanding Conservationist. Have some ideas for the May meeting.

RCPPI Letter of Commitment: MDA uses letter as a match for grants. This is for the next application for RCPPI. The amount is \$62,000 for ground water monitoring for a five-year grant.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Olson to approve signing the letter of commitment with MDA.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Property Taxes: We must pay the property tax for the new office for the year. We can submit to be exempt from them after this year.

SWCD Supervisor Filing: Olson and Weimerskirch are up for election this year. Filing is May 21 – June 4).

Back Yard Habitat Cost Share: Justin Golden contract 2024-CC08 West Bank Sec 12. This is a planting on .6 acres. There is a payment of \$1,000 per acre and a 10yr contract. This is for seed and to maintain it, also it is a one-time payment of \$600.00.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve the 2024-CC08 contract for backyard habitat.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Ditch redeterminations have increased acres throughout the county. People will receive a letter in May on the cost and give options for payment.
- Wind and solar ordinance have come up for discussions.

Reports:

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Wells started up again but are not recharged much.
- Trees – passed out a year-to-year comparison. Tree pick up days are April 24-25th.
- Drill list is up to 17 so far with 7 alfalfa and 10 CRP.
- PdT coordinator position application period closes April 26th.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River TAC meeting today. Public hearing scheduled during April JPB meeting. BWSR will not approve until towards the end of August.
- Upper MN – BWSR has approved the plan. Will be discussing the work plan.
- Soil Health Team Meeting was on March 11th and they had 50 people attending.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid. Also handed out a balance sheet for the first quarter.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the financial reports.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **May 9, 2024**, at 8:00 am.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY