

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE April 13, 2023 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson Minnesota April 13, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner.

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

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning Meeting: Andy received an email with a couple items that Jason had questions on. Andy was going to ask what exactly he is looking for. Also, we decided to hold Strategic Planning meetings every 5 years.

New Business:

RIM Easement Work Order Agreement: This needs to be signed to allow Swift SWCD do easement checks each year. There are 140 easements that is divided in to 3yrs. The amount we get paid is \$9150.00.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Olson to approve signing the RIM Easement Work Order Agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

76-02-21-WBIF Streambank Contract: This project is in Fairfield Section 3. The cost of this project is \$61,640 and PdT funds will be used to pay 75% (\$46,230) of the costs. We will pay the landowner and PdT will reimburse us.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve 76-02-21-WBIF Streambank Contract for \$46,230, which is 75% of the costs.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

EB08-2021 WASC0B Contract: This project is for four basins to be funded through East Branch Grant. The total cost of project \$88,167.50 with cost share of 75% \$66,125.63. This grant will not have enough funds so the Swift SWCD would make up the shortfall of \$2,849.94.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve the EB08-2021 WASC0B Contract for \$66,125.63 and the Swift SWCD would cover the shortfall of \$2,849.94.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

RCPPI Irrigation Contracts: Andy would like to have the signing authority so that we can keep these contracts moving and not have to wait for a Board meeting. There are five applicants and four are at the threshold and one is at 67%. This person would get cost share of \$83,156 from NRCS and from Swift SWCD he would get \$7,373.05 to get to the 75%. We would get reimbursed by State funds that are administered by East Ottertail SWCD. There are also enough State funds to fund another producer \$142,422.87 and 75% is \$106,816.93. We would have a contract with him, and we would get reimbursed by East Ottertail again.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve Andy having signing authority and for these cost share contracts for 75% of the costs.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

AgBMP Application: Lee Tollefsrud has an application for an 875 Case IH Eco -Tiger. This is a field ripper. The cost is \$109,000 and he will be trading another piece of equipment for this.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the purchase of equipment through the AgBMP loan program.

Affirmative: Gronseth, Weimerskirch, Golden.

Against: Olson Motion carried.

Landowner Letter: Andy would like to send out a target letter to Benson & Appleton landowners for the Soil Health Grant. Only the owners that have land in the targeted area would receive this letter explaining the options they would have.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve Andy sending out the target letter to the people in the Soil Health Grant area.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Cover Crop Seed: We are asking for a Board motion on what we do on the markup on the cover crop seed. We decided on charging the “suggested retail price” that we received from the seed company.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve using the seed company’s suggested retail price that they list.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

SWCD Aid: Andy gave an update on how it is moving through the committees. Hope to have answer by end of May.

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Drill discussion on fixing the drills and having some welding done and seals replaced.
- Wells start next week or so.
- Tree sales are at approximately 132 orders.
- Seed sales are down a little so far from last year.
- PdT – Gave a handout of potential projects.
- Fabric Machine – Have the lift done and working.
- Discussed the upgrade of the 10’ drills. Truax is \$47,000 and Haybuster \$45,000. There was some discussion on asking Swift County for riparian aid money to help pay for the drill to help with buffers.

NRCS – None

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- PdT - asking for Swift SWCD to purchase ESRI license and they would reimburse us the \$550 through WBIF grant.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Weimerskirch to approve Swift SWCD to purchase ESRI license for the PdT at the cost of \$550 to be reimbursed through the WBIF grant.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

- Chippewa River 1W1P meeting today to review flagged implementation activities & actions. WRAPS holding Popcorn, Pints, Pollinator events.
- Upper MN meeting on April 19 to review flagged comments. On going discussion for structure once implementation begins.
- Soil Health CWF Grant – Have purchased the items we needed and have received most of it. We are having trouble ordering a projector.
- **Motion was made by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve Andy to order whatever projector he thinks is appropriate.**
- **Affirmative: All Motion carried.**
- MAWQCP – Meeting with Justin Golden on Friday.
- Irrigator Field Day is July 27, 5-7 pm at the Jake and Sonya Allpress farm. No cost and catered meal from Shooters. Will be using funds from PdT Grant that expires in August.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Nothing new.

Financial Reports – Sheri Gades

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid, and credit card charges. Answered any questions.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve financial report.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **April 13, 2023**, at 8:00 am.

APPROVED:

DATE

SECRETARY