

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES FROM THE April 14, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the Swift USDA Building, Benson Minnesota April 14, 2022.

**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, Ed Pederson County Commissioner.

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 Secretary Report and the Agenda. Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**Area 2 Report** - They are working on hiring a new engineer for TSA. The presenters were very interesting with discussion on electrifying farming and battery storage.

**SWCD Aid Handout/ Legislative Update** – SWCD aid is in the tax bill, so we will have to wait and see what happens. Also discussed the handout that was handed out at last meeting on possible uses for the new funds.

**Tablet & Laptop** – Dalton’s laptop has been ordered but has about a 4 month wait before we get it. The new tablet has been purchased. We paid in full on that from local capacity funds.

**NRCS Cooperative Agreement** – Working on getting 3 computer seats. Dalton is completing his paperwork to get his Linkpass card. Also working on moving file cabinets with completed 1026s into FSA side. This would open a little more space in our office. The new sign in front of the building should be installed by next month.

**Island** – We looked at pictures and discussed some ideas on what to do with it. Will continue the discussion in future meetings.

**Ag Weather Station** – There was a discussion that if we purchased the weather station MDA would take over the maintenance of it. We looked at what some of the capabilities of the station were and how the information would be useful for producers with irrigators. It would help tell them the soil moisture, rainfall, puts out recommendations on when to irrigate.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Olson to approve contacting the salesperson to get a quote for one weather station. Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

**Plat Books** – We were approached by a plat book salesman as to whether we would like to advertise in the plat books. The cost would be \$650 for a full page and down for smaller ads. For every \$50 we would get a free plat book. With the high cost and the need for only three plat books, it was decided to just purchase them from the Courthouse when we needed new ones.

**Administration Session** – The spring Admin Session is this June 29-30 in Brainard. Sheri requested to be able to attend.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the request by Sheri to attend the Administration Session in June.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**Snow Days** – In the past we have had 5 snow days in the employee handbook. In the new handbook it was removed. Asking for a couple days back. Everyone will ask around to see what other places of business to in case of snowstorms.

**Election Filing** – To file for the SWCD Board, the filing time is May 17 – 31. Filing is done at the Courthouse.

**Outstanding Conservationist** – We need to start thinking of who we would like to have as our outstanding conservationist for the year.

**MACDE Grant** – Andy has written an application for a grant to purchase a GoPro camera. The camera could be used for educational purposes. We could film tree plantings, Nature Day, drill usage and such. The grant request was for \$817.72. The total cost would be \$4052.22, this includes staff time for the project as a match and the camera.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the MACDE grant application for a GoPro camera.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**NRCS – Brett Carlson: None**

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

- Wells are at about the same level as they were last year.
- Bareroot trees have come and Potted trees coming today. Will be picking up apples trees when he goes home over the weekend.
- Have 12 plantings to do.
- Looking to purchase an air compressor. The one he is looking at is a 20-gallon tank with a cost of \$349 from Home Depot.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve the purchase of a new air compressor.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**District Manager – Andy Albertsen:**

- PdT Watershed Association project money is available. Discussing applying for a BWSR Soil Health Grant.
- Chippewa River TAC meeting today and JPB meet tomorrow. Public kickoff was April 5<sup>th</sup> and had 99 attendees. Web site is under construction.
- Upper MN 60-day intent to plan notice closed on Monday. Huston Engineering was approved to begin work immediately.
- Irrigation Clinic – Was held on March 17 at McKinney’s and had 40 people attending including staff and presenters.
- County Water Plan meeting to discuss well sealing, manure management, plans for feedlots in July.
- Cover Crop 101 Workshop had 12 attendees.

**Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

- Discussed the ditch redetermination through out the county.
- Talked about all the trees being removed in the county also.

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid. Also, each was given a P&L and a Balance sheet to review.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

Next meeting is scheduled for **May 12, 2022** at 8:00 am.

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

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SECRETARY