

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE August 10, 2023 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on August 10, 2023.

Members Present:

Chairman – Dale Schlieman

Vice Chairman - Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Scott Olson

Absent: Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth and P&I – Alan Golden

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

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

Agenda and Minutes:

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

Outstanding Conservationist: Waiting for BWSR to send out the paperwork to do interview.

Local Work Group: Discussions went well last month. Do we want to keep the same thing, or do we want to change it up a little? Will look at holding it in March next year.

Swift County Fair Booth: We will set up on Wednesday afternoon. If anyone is available to work on the weekend, please feel free to do so.

Swift SWCD Strategic Plan Implementation: Passed out final copy. Also handed out a timeline as to when we would like to accomplish each item. Mark volunteered to be on the committee, and we will ask Alan also to go over the plan with staff and Jason Weinerman.

New Business:

Sam Jensen Streambank: This project is in Benson Section 4. Applied for DNR permit. The estimate no is \$11,308 from TSA and the bid is \$10,585.00 with 75% cost share being \$7,938.75.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the cost share contract for Sam Jensen.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Ag BMP Loan Application: We had \$287194.11 and \$109,000 has already gone out. New application by Austin Olson for a 25' Versatile speed for the amount of \$88,000.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Schlieman to approve the Ag BMP loan application for Austin Olson. Scott Olson abstained from voting.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Upper MN Resolution: The Board needs to adopt the Upper MN plan contingent to BWSR approval.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the Upper MN plan.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Pomme de Terre Watershed Plan Overview: Dalton handed out an overview of the plan with goals, priorities, and activities. We went through it, so everyone has idea of what is included in the plan.

Pollinator Habitat Program: Purpose of this is to convert lawn grass to native flower plantings. It would have a 10 yr minimum and a plot size of not less than .25 acres and 5 acres maximum. The payment would be \$1,000 per acre and prorated to actual contract. This program will be like any other cost share program with a signed contract.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the Pollinator Habitat Program.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Hart Lake CPL Grant Application: Craig Wilkening has a creek wash out and would like to have it repaired. The TSA plan is to move the outlet over which would change the flow to prevent another wash out. We discussed what the landowner's portion of this should be since they are the only party to benefit from this project.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve Andy moving ahead with the CPL grant application.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

2024 Budget: We passed out a copy of the budget to look over. We discussed what equipment we wanted to get and set priorities on what to spend funds on. Also discussed possible new staffing in the future.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the 2024 budget.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Nature Day: Gave a brief update on the plans and presenters. Everything is going well so far.

Reports:

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Wells monitoring shows some are going down a lot.
- RIM staking last week for Golden, Kerr, and Arnold
- Brought tree planter down to Clarkfield to get repaired.
- 2 tree planning sites for next year so far.
- Lawn mower for out at the buildings to keep the weeds and buckthorn down.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve Dalton to purchase a push mower for out at the buildings.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

- Started doing RIM and cost share inspections.
- Showed drone shots of tree plantings from this year.
- Fabric is getting low and would like to order 100 rolls again this year.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the purchase of 100 rolls of fabric.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None

NRCS – Melanie Dickman: None

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River TAC virtual meeting today. Review comments. Discussed future of coordinator position.
- Upper MN - Public review July – Sept. Public hearing in mid-October.
- Reginal Technician Meeting to be hosted by Swift SWCD and held later in September.
- Ambush Park met with Ron Hanson and others last month. Can use remaining outdoor classroom funds if needed.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson: None

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **September 14th, 2023** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY