

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE August 11, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson Minnesota August 11, 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

President – Dale Schlieman
Vice President - Mark Weimerskirch
Secretary – Carl Ahrndt
P & I – Scott Olson

Absent: Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Weinerman BWSR, Chuck Rau Chairman Area 2, Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, and Dalton Herrboldt.

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

Chuck Rau spoke to us via Teams meeting. He is running for State President of MASWCD and can no longer be the Area 2 President. He is asking for someone to replace in in Area 2. If anyone is interested to contact him.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

Ag Weather Station: Part of the station is here; the rest is due to arrive the middle of August and installed in mid-September.

Island: Handed out summary of meeting that was held with Andy and Sheri along with four others who live on the lake. We discussed some of the things that came out of the meeting. We do not need a permit for non-lethal methods of getting the birds to leave the island. If that doesn't work, we would need a deprivation permit from Fish and Wildlife. We will continue having discussions with the group as time goes on.

Fair Booth: The Swift County Fair will be held August 17-21. We will be having a booth again this year and give 3 certificates away for either one bundle of bareroot trees, or 5 one gallon potted or one apple tree.

New Business:

Preliminary Budget 2023: Passed out the preliminary budget for all to review and discuss. Showed what the fund balance was and what we could possibly do in the future with the funds.

Nature Day: All presenters except the main one have been contacted and they have committed. The date for Nature Day is September 16, 2022. Both the schools attending have been contacted and we have gotten a response from Benson so far.

Cost Share Amendment: C/S contract #2021-01 needs to be amended due to rise in cost prior to the project starting. The original cost was \$41858.85 increasing to \$45503.50. The landowner is ok with the increase. This is a 75% cost share project.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the Cost Share contract #2021-01 amendment increasing from \$41,858.85 to \$45,503.50 which will be 75% cost shared.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Contract Amendment: Contract #76-01-14-319 PdT Funds were spent on this project. Due to tearing out part of the project, they were required to send back 150% of the part of the project that was destroyed. The amount to be returned was \$3,178.02.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the contract #76-01-14-319 amendment to pay back the amount of \$3,178.02 for the part of the project that was removed.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Swift County Conservation Fund: Andy gave a presentation on the possibility of Swift County riparian aid money to fund salary and equipment for the ditch department riparian protection and the general county funds could be used for cost share projects. Andy will be working further with this idea and present it to the County Commissioners.

Soil Health Grant Update: Deadline for this grant is August 22nd. We have reached out to all the landowner about what the grant could offer and what they could possibly do with these funds. There is still some work to be done on the grant application but looking to see if we should proceed.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve applying for the Soil Health Grant.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Soil Management Summit: This will be held in St Cloud on December 15-16. In the past we have offered scholarships for \$125 to five individuals. We would like to offer this again

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve offering 5 scholarships for \$125 each.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

NRCS – Brett Carlson: None

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Tree site visits being done. Have done 5 already.
- Well readings are not down as far as last year so far.
- RIM & C/S site inspections being completed.

We need tree tubes and stakes for the upcoming tree season. We can get 1000 for a pretty good price but will cost \$4600 for tubes, stakes, and shipping.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve purchasing the 1000 tree tubes and stakes.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- PdT Watershed Association still has project money is available.
- Chippewa River TAC meeting today.
- Upper MN public kickoff meeting was held July 28 in Clinton.
- Irrigation RCPP We had 6 applications
- Soil Health Team – No official team meeting this fall but a field day on September 14th.
- Swift County Pasture & Feedlot Workshop was held July 12th with about 20 people attending.
- Nitrate Clinic – Will be held in 3 different locations on 3 different days.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **September 8th 2022** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED:

DATE

SECRETARY