##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE August 12, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the Swift County Court House, Benson Minnesota August 12, 2021.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

 President – Dale Schlieman

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

P & I – Scott Olson

**Absent**: Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

**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 Olson seconded by** **Ahrndt to approve the Secretary Report and the Agenda.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**2021 Outstanding Conservationist:** Matt Mesenbrink has accepted the Swift County Outstanding Conservationist for 2021. Andy had been working with him to get the write up and pictures ready. He will be featured on the display board at the fair.

**Fair Booth:** Display board and other material are ready to go. Will set up booth on Wednesday August 18th. Andy will set it up, Sheri will work Thursday, and Dalton will work Friday.

**New Business:**

**Nature Day:** We are working on donations and have sent out letters requesting donations to business in Benson and the KMS school districts. All presenters have been contacted requesting that they come and do their presentations. We have received responses from all but two. We will be getting quotes for T-shirts as well.

**Juneteenth Holiday:** Currently we have 12 paid holidays. It was discussed that since now Juneteenth is a Federal holiday, do we add it to our policy handbook? After some discussion it was decided to add Juneteenth to the handbook as a Federal holiday.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by** **Olson to approve adding Juneteenth to the handbook as a Federal Holiday for employees.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**State & Local Funding Discussion:** We were asked our option about funding such as levy authority, or capacity money coming from general fund and not Clean Water Funding. There are several options, but we would like to see levy authority, but only use if County didn’t fund us or Local Capacity Grants were to go away.

**Proposed 2022 Budget:** The proposed 2022 budget was passed out and reviewed.

**Supervisor Per Diem:** Previously the per diem was $75 per day. It has been increased to up to $125 per day. We can leave it or raise it to someplace in the middle if we would like.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch** **to approve raising the per diem rate to $125 per day.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Gomer Cost Share Contract:**

This is for a rain garden has been completed and we are just waiting for the copies of the paid bills and for them to pay the SWCD for work done. The total cost of this project is $2,100 and we be cost sharing 75% of this cost which is $1,571.53 with funds coming from 2021 Local Capacity Grant. This is located at 404 Meadow Ln, Torning Sec. 6. We are asking for Andy to have the authority to sign off on the voucher and to pay them when they submit the paperwork. Otherwise they must wait another month for payment.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the Gomer Rain Garden Cost Share Contract #2021-02 payment for $1,571.53 and have Andy sign the voucher for payment.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Charter Communication Auto Pay:** This is another monthly bill that comes in and is due before our Board meetings. To avoid any late charges, we would like to set up this bill on auto pay.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve setting up auto pay for Charter Communications.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Rain Monitor:** Norma Wojtalewicz has stated that she is retiring from being a rain monitor for us. She has been one for many years for the District. We think we should send a thank you and a gift card as a thank you for many years of service for the District.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by** **Olson to approve sending a thank you and gift card to Norma.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman &Thomas Tjepkes:**

* CSP renewals have four that made the cut
* RCPP applications – have 2 that ranking needs to be done by next week
* Farm Fest – Thomas and Rick will be working the booth

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Doing observation wells. Most are down a foot or so, on is 27ft down and another is down 23ft.
* Drills are done for the CRP plantings, but couple are using for other planting. Have about 489 acres planted with the drills this spring.
* RIM and Cost Share checks are being done.

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

* CRP deadline for general is done and continuous deadline is August 6. Working on contracts.
* WIA signup ended in May. We had one renewal and there are three WIA in the County.
* Emergency haying will have no reduction in payments if done after August 1.

**District Manager** **– Andy Albertsen:**

* CRWA – JPB meeting tomorrow at City Hall. 1W1P was submitted and should know if accepted in August.
* Pomme de Terre – Soil Team Field Day in September. Received a one-year extension on grant. Annual meeting will be in November.
* Saturated buffer – Four site reviews performed.
* MAWQCP – Wentzel and Messenbrink are certified and waiting on Wilts.
* Upper MN – 1W1P was submitted and will find out in August if accepted.
* Drone fights for Sonteng, Messenbrink, and Lissick projects was done.
* Buffers – Started doing reviews of parcels, have 19 on site visits to do.
* Nature Day – Set for September 17th.

**Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

* County is working on the WCA position.
* Gave update on Courthouse remodel.

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

Next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021 at 8:00 am.

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