##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE December 16, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the Swift County Court House, Benson Minnesota December 16, 2021.

**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 Olson** **to approve the Secretary Report and the Agenda.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

BWSR Led Supervisor Workshop may be held in January. Still working on details.

**State Convention –** Dalton, Andy and Schlieman attended the State convention this year. Due to lack of items, there was no live auction. Of the 14 resolutions, 10 were approved and 4 discussed ones failed. The Mesenbrinks had a good time and they really liked their clock. Dues are going up 25% per county for the upcoming year.

**New Business:**

**Walk In Access –** The JPA is in process. We are asking for approval for Andy to sign it instead of waiting for the next Board meeting. The rates are $18 per acre and we get $250 for each sign up from the DNR.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve having Andy sign the JPA when it becomes available.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

 **Mesenbrink Farms –** Construction of the alternative intakes in Fairfield 27 only had one that has been completed. The total cost was $500.00 with 75% cost shared through PdT which is $375.00. We are waiting for copy of bill and signed voucher.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve the close out for Mesenbrink Farms cost share for $375.00 with funds from PdT grants and have Andy sign off on the voucher when it comes.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Harmon Wilts & Daughters –** They are now MAWQCP certified. They are interested in doing alternative intakes with one rock inlet each and one dense tile intake. The cost would be $3,350 for each through State Cost Share.

Harmon Wilts $3,370 total 75% = $2,527.50 Hayes 34

Elizabeth Wilts $3,370 total 75% = $2,527.50 Pillsbury 9

Kathern Wilts $2,510 total 75% = $1,882.50 Pillsbury 9

Hannah Wilts $3,350 75% = $2,512.50 Pillsbury 9

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to the Wilts’ alternative intakes through State Cost Share as listed above.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Change Pay date –** Since the end of the pay period is on January 1st, we would like to make it December 31. This keeps everything in the 2021 year.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Gronseth to end pay period on December 31st.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**2022 Budget –** Was passed out to everyone to look over. Discussed any questions that were brought up so that everyone understands the budget.

**FAC Committee Update - NRCS** was approved to purchase a new sign for the front of the building. Waiting on approval of the State office on the design which will include the SWCD. Still talking about replacing the front and back doors and rekeying all the other doors. There is a new CED in FSA Carol Schumann. Also, we can now have people come into the front entry. Benson is on the priority list for getting new lease contract.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman:**

* NRCS is working to hire a DC in the Benson office.

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Observation wells are returning to normal.
* Four site visits for tree plantings.
* Trees – Nurseries are short on supply.
* Drill rental had one more person use it.
* Working on drills and winterizing 4-wheeler and side by side.

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

* Working on ownership changes on RIM easements
* CREP batching is due next Tue. Sent out letters to get interest in the program.

**District Manager – Andy Albertsen:**

* PdT Watershed Association working on ranking spreadsheet. No TAC meeting.
* Chippewa TAC reviewed 1W1P budget, timeline, and workplan. Was submitted to BWSR and they had some edits. No TAC meeting.
* Buffers – Flagging completed on 13/15 parcels. One backed off the ditch on their own. One has refused flagging. Discussion will be had about how to handle that parcel.
* MAWQCP– The Wilts have signed all their paperwork. Mesenbrink is applying to get cost share to install two CropX soil moisture probes to be approved by MDA.
* Cooperative Weed Management – Submitted for a $5,000 grant request to MDA.
* WCTSA – Met yesterday. Discussed new hire and other items.
* Appleton Rain Garden – Have received a report that the garden is no longer there. It is a cost share project and needs to be replanted or money paid back. Will be checking on this more.
* Conservation Planning – Completed conservation Desktop/Cart training, fulfilling requirements for Level 1 Conservation Planning. Submitted to Melanie for approval.

**Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

* Work is continuing on the basement remodel at the Courthouse.
* The treasurer will be hired instead of elected.

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

Employee Reviews – Reviews were held with each employee. It was decided that stipends will remain the same as previous year. Dalton and Sheri will receive a $2 per hour base rate increase and Andy will receive a $3 per hour base rate increase.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 8:00 am.

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