

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES FROM THE **December 19, 2023** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on December 19, 2023.

**Members Present:**

Chairman – Dale Schlieman  
Vice Chairman - Mark Weimerskirch  
Secretary – Scott Olson  
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth  
P&I – Alan Golden

**Others Present:** Andy Albertsen SWCD, Sheri Gades SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt

Meeting was called to order by Chairman – Dale Schlieman.

**Agenda and Minutes:**

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the Agenda and the Secretary Report.**

**Affirmative: All      Motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**State Farm Building:** We received a quote for IT from Marshall and are waiting for a couple others. Looked a comparison on cost of building compared to current cost of renting. A motion was made to offer \$90,000 and closing costs.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve making an offer of \$90,000 and closing costs for the State Farm Building.**

**Affirmative: All      Motion carried.**

**Grant for 4<sup>th</sup> Employee:** We had a discussion on the possible grant for the fourth employee and how to pay them. If we received the grant, it would be covered for 3.5 years. We would be able to charge out more to 1W1P in watersheds also. The deadline is Feb 8<sup>th</sup> to apply for this grant.

**New Business:**

**Soil Health Cost Share Policy:** This is for the tree projects. Discussed making changes from last year. We will make a couple of changes in what is eligible for cost share.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the Soil Health Cost Share Policy.**

**Affirmative: All      Motion carried**

**Pam Baldwin Rain Garden Cost Share Close Out:** This project (2023-SCS-01) has been completed in Camp Lake Sec 24. Total cost of the project was \$3,260.24 and 75% is \$2,445.18.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve close out of Pam Baldwin 2023-SCS-01 cost share for \$2,445.18.**

**Affirmative: All      Motion carried**

**Contract Amendment:** We need to do a contract amendment for Katherine Wilts Johnson, Contract 03-SCS-2022 to change the amount of contract from \$1,882.50 to \$2,467.70. Cost of project has increased since first contract.

Also, Harmon Wilts Contract 01-SCS-2022 to change the amount of contract from \$2,527.50 to \$2,948.35 also due to cost increases to project.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve the contract amendments for Katherine Wilts Johnson and Harmon Wilts.**

**Affirmative: All      Motion carried**

**Close Out Cost Share Contracts:**

Harmon Wilts- 01-SCS-2022 Hayes Sec 34 Alternative Intake \$2,948.35  
Elizabeth Wilts – 02-SCS-2022 Pillsbury Sec 9 Alternative Intake \$2,028.42  
Katherine Wilts Johnson – 03-SCS-2022 Pillsbury Sec 9 Alternative Intake \$2,467.70  
Hannah Sanders – 04-SCS-2022 Pillsbury Sec 9 Alternative Intake \$2,017.34

**Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to approve close out of these contracts 01-SCS-2022, 02-SCS-2022, 03-SCS-2022 and 04-SCS-2022.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Close Out Contract 76-02-21-WBIF:** Fairfield township streambank stabilization project in Fairfield Sec 4. This is a Pomme De Terre project totaling \$60,640. They received 75% for \$46,230.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve the closing of 76-02-21-WBIF for \$46,230.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Close Out 2022 and 2023 State Cost Share Grant:** All funds have been spent.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve closing out the 2022 & 2023 State Cost Share Grants.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**PRAP Grant:** Andy has put a request in for \$10,000 for this grant through BWSR. It would update job description, pay rates, and do a market analysis.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the application for the PRAP funds of \$10,000 from BWSR.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**ESST Policy:** Need to change our employee policy so that we can use any or all our sick leave as ESST time.

**AgBMP Loans:** Josh Nelson from Murdock wants to purchase a vertical tillage RTS 570 Salford. It is a used piece of equipment. The amount he is asking for is \$28,000.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the AgBMP application for Josh Nelson for \$28,000.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Convention Report:** There were 19 resolutions up for voting. They had 5 disapproved and 14 approved.

**Reports:**

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

- Wells are going back up.
- Working on drills for fall usage.
- Fabric machine springs are here.
- Tree planter as been repaired and picked up.

**Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None**

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman:**

- Finished CSP payments.
- EQIP assessment and ranking being done.
- Staffing – Quincy Luedeke will be starting Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> as a Soil Conservationist

**District Manager – Andy Albertsen:**

- Chippewa River TAC no meeting today.
- Upper MN - 1WIP sent to BWSR for their 90-day review. Start on workplan structure.
- Soil Health Contract Management Training to decide on what is required components of cost share folder specifically cover crops and reduced tillage.
- Newsletter is being worked on and hope to have out in mid-December.

**Employee Reviews:** It was decided that there will be a 7% pay increase across the board for all employees.  
**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the 7% raise for the employees.**  
**Affirmative: All          Motion carried**

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

**Affirmative: All          Motion carried.**

**Realtor called and made counteroffer for building. Decided to allow Andy to go up to the max of \$120,000 without contacting the Board. Also, Resolution No. 2023-1 authorizing the purchase of the building.**

**Motion was made by Golden seconded by Weimerskirch to approve allowing Andy to offer up to \$120,000 without contacting the Board and Resolution No. 2023-1.**

**Affirmative: All          Motion carried**

Next meeting is scheduled for **January 11, 2024** at 8:00 am.

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

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**SECRETARY**