

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE **December 29, 2022** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson Minnesota December 29 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman – Dale Schlieman
Vice Chairman - 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 and Alan Golden.

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

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

State Convention: Was held December 12-14. Both the resolutions that Swift SWCD had presented were approved. It was well attended with Chuck Rau being elected State President.

CD Signatures: Currently only Dale and Sheri can sign at Co-op Credit for the CD. We put \$100,000 in a CD moving funds from savings. Discussed adding Andy to the signature card.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the having Sheri, Dale, and Andy sign for the CD at Co-op Credit.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Soil Health Grant: Our grant application for \$285,000 was funded. This is a 50-40-10- grant for 3yrs (2023-2026). Andy is working on the workplan for the grant. This will include CRP, strip till, MAWQCP cover crop practices. This also includes staff time, education, and outreach. There will be a flat rate for the acreage that is enrolled.

Cost Share Voucher: Close out on Contract #2021-01 State Cost Share. This is located in Shible Township, Section 19. Total cost of project was \$60,738.00 and we cost shared 75% for \$45,553.50. Funding sources:2020 State Cost Share \$8,488.10, 2020 Local Capacity \$20,000, 2021 State Cost Share 8,550.19, 2021 Local Capacity \$84820.47, and 2022 Local Capacity \$3694.74.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve closing out and paying Contract #2021-01 for \$45,553.50.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

New Business:

2023 Budget: We made a couple of updates on the preliminary budget from August. Everyone was given a copy of the budget prior to this meeting to review.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the 2023 Budget.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Cost Share Contract SCS2023-01: This is for a rain garden in Camp Lake Section 24. It was designed by Rick Gronseth and total cost is \$3,398 which we would cost share 75% of, \$2,548.50.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve cost share contract #SCS2023-01 for the rain garden at 75% of \$3,398, for the amount of \$2,548.50.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

AgBMP Loan: Tronn Tosel is looking to upgrade to a planter for no till residue. The maximum per person loan is \$200,000. The total for this piece of equipment is \$244,152.30 from Precision Ag360, located in Hancock, MN. We currently have \$80,000 available after approving this loan request.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the AgBMP loan for \$200,000 contingent that it is being purchased for that amount from Precision Ag 360 and not someplace else.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Strategic Planning Meeting: The last one was held 5 years ago. We need to pick a time frame, what we want to discuss, SWCD aid, what to do with additional funding, and priorities for spending funds. Tentative date is March 16th. Will continue to work on getting this set up.

Unrestricted Fund Policy: What do we want for months of reserve? What does it take to keep the SWCD running if we would lose funding? Will wait to vote on it until the February meeting after the year end reports are completed.

Employee Handbook: Handed out copy to each of the Board to review and vote on at the January meeting.

NRCS – Brett Carlson: None

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Received quotes for a new drill \$45,000 - \$46000 for a new one. Look at possibly updating in the future. Have a few repairs to do on the ones we have.
- Working on tree plantings and cost share.
- Fabric machine could use an electric pump, so would not have to have a tractor with hydraulics. The cost for the retrofit was about \$1,000.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve Dalton to retrofit an electric pump for the fabric machine.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River working on 1WIP beginning to work on implementation activities through March.
- Upper MN beginning to work on measurable goals and practices.
- Fall Newsletter – Has been published. Will split the cost with Parks & Drainage 50/50.
- Buffer checks with Kody Fossum. Sent notification of noncompliance to Kody regarding 3 who have minor buffer violations.
- Working on a plan for ditch spraying to make more of an impact than just random spraying.
- Irrigation RCPP sign up #2 is currently going on. Applications from sign up 1 were carried over but have to be reranked.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- End of year meeting today at 9:00 am
- Set levy at 4%
- Interviews beginning soon for administrator, auditor, and engineer.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Employee Reviews: Board met with each employee and discussed how the year went and if they had any concerns. They then set the pay scale option A that was presented to them.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the employee pay scale for Option 1.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **January 12, 2023** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED:

DATE

SECRETARY