

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE February 8, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on February 8, 2024.

Members Present:

Chairman – Dale Schlieman
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth
P&I – Alan Golden

Absent: Vice Chairman Mark Weimerskirch and Secretary Scott Olson

Others Present: Andy Albertsen SWCD, Sheri Gades SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman – Dale Schlieman.

Consent Agenda and Minutes:

Motion was made by Schlieman seconded by Golden to approve the Agenda and the Minutes.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

State Farm Building: Painting is almost completed, lights have been rehung, flooring is going on today. Spectrum change over is scheduled for February 21. We can get a new sign out in front using what is existing and have skins replaced. Quick Signs from Willmar gave us a quote for \$2,450. We can put old sign on Zielsdorf Auction.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve going forward with Quick Signs for \$2450.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

PRAP Grant Update: Met with DDA to go over job description updates. Hope to have wrapped up in 3-4 months.

BWSR Soil Health Staffing Grant RFP: Just an update on when this grant application ends. Amount that we are asking for was \$485,000 and runs through December 2027. This would be for the new person we will be hiring.

Audit: Has been completed and filed with the State. Also received letter from Peterson Company to do the audit for 2023. The cost of that audit will be \$4500.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to approve having Peterson Company do the audit for 2023.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Hart Lake CPL Grant: This grant is \$145,000 for the project in Shible Sec 18. Agreement needs to be signed and sent back.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve signing the grant agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Area 2 Meeting: We are not going to it due to the driving time.

New Business:

AgBMP Loan: Todd Rudningen looking for loan for a manure spreader. We only have \$66,000 in the account and he will ask for \$63,000. He can get additional funding from another program.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the AgBMP loan application.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Upper MN Agreement: This agreement with the Upper MN says we will have access to funds from the 1W1P.

Annual Plan: Passed out a copy to each Board member to put in their binders.

Annual Report: We put up the report on the tv so that we can show some of the projects we completed.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to approve the Annual Plan and Annual Report.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Ditch redeterminations meetings are going on throughout the county.
- Staffing is still a challenge.

Reports:

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Wells start up again in March.
- Trees – have 11 people interested in doing plantings and 9 possible cost share projects.
- Drill maintenance is being done on all the drills. Need to purchase a 10' drill spare tire.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to the purchase of spare tire for drill.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:

- In a new capacity now but finishing any folders she had started.
- CRP Continuous sign up is open until March 15. They will be doing them in a batching system.
- New PF position should be posted next week.

NRCS – Melanie Dickman:

- EQIP ranking done on Monday and hoping to find out who got funded. Had 8 cropland, 1 grazing, 1 CMNP dairy and 1 high tunnel application.
- CSP 23 applications, the high screened will get a second screening.
- 1026 are moving much faster now that they are being done in Fergus Falls.
- RCPP- still working on it to get people paid. There were 6 that got funding in Swift County.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River TAC meeting today.
- Upper MN - 1WIP is on track to be approved by BWSR by March.
- Soil Health Contract Management Training was held in Montevideo. There were 30 people in attendance. They discussed development of folders for contracts. Cover crop contracts approval as they come in due to time crunch in seeding time.
- Soil Health & Sugar Beet Meeting on March 8th. Will be held at McKinney's in Benson.
- Irrigation Clinic is scheduled for March 28th in Alexandria.
- Website host plan is changing next month from \$60 per year to \$120 per year.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **March 14, 2024** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED:

DATE

SECRETARY