

**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
Secretary – Scott Olson

Absent: Vice Chairman - Mark Weimerskirch

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 Olson seconded by Golden to approve the Agenda and the Minutes.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

State Farm Building: Closed last week for t \$100,000. Had a couple of filing fees \$376.00. Remodeling is going forward and working on IT with 2 different companies currently to get an estimate. Andy has been talking to each and likes WC Technologies.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve going forward with WC Technologies.

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 Golden seconded by Olson to approve the Andy to sign the grant when it gets awarded to keep things moving with this process.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

BWSR Soil Health Staffing Grant RFP: This grand is 100% towards staff time including startup for new hire. Asking for \$406,500 and this grant goes through December 2027.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve applying for this grant so that we can hire a 4th person.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

New Business:

Drill Rental Agreement forms & Rates: Not much in changes to policy except out of county rental.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the Drill Rental Agreement Forms & Rates Policy.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Cost Share (Conservation Contracts) Policy: We discussed changing cover crop rates from EQIP rates to what we have for the other grants. Change to one-year increments instead of 3 years so that we don't have to find a grant to cover the 3 years.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve Conservation Contracts policy changes.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

2024 Easement Delivery Work Order 76-23-WO99: This is for doing easement checks. We are paid \$50 per easement for a total of \$9,150.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to approve the 2024 Easement Delivery for \$9,150 and have Andy docu sign for the Work Order.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Stearns SWCD Contract for Services (MAWQCP): This only for staff time working with the MAWQCP program. We will

get \$20,000 in 2024 and \$20,800 in 2025.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve signing the agreement with Stearns SWCD for the MAWQCP program.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Hart Lake CPL Grant: This grant is \$145,000 for the project in Shible Sec 18. Agreement has not come so we will wait until February to sign.

CD Renewal: Discussed what to do with this CD. Credit Coop is running a program for 11 months at 5.25%.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Olson to approve rolling this CD into a new one at Credit Coop for 5.25% for 11 months.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Logo: Discussed whether we wanted to change our logo or leave as is. Board decided to leave the current logo as is.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Ditch redeterminations meetings are going on throughout the county.

Reports:

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Put signs on easement that was split up into 3 parcels.
- Trees – have 10 people interested in doing plantings.
- Open house was held, and we had 15 people come in.
- Drill maintenance is being done on all the drills.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to the purchase of transport tires for the 12 ft drill.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:

Gemma has accepted another position with PF so there will be a posting for a new hire for her job.

NRCS – Melanie Dickman:

- January 12th deadline and have 35 applicants for CSP.
- EQIP need to be ranked by next Friday.
- Quincy Luedeke started on January 2nd as a Soil Conservationist.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River TAC meeting today. JPB next Friday. Plan is posted for formal 60-day reviews.
- Upper MN - 1WIP is on track to be approved by BWSR.
- Soil Health Contract Management Training will be held Jan 24th in Montevideo.
- Soil Health & Sugar Beet Meeting on March 8th. Will be held at McKinney's in Benson.
- AgBMP Loan we have \$65,000 for Swift County. There is a potential land for Todd Rudningen for a manure spreader.
- Irrigation Clinic is scheduled for March 28th in Alexandria.

Financial Reports- Sheri Gades:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

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

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY