

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE **January 13, 2022** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the Swift County Court House, Benson Minnesota January 13, 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

President – Dale Schlieman
Vice President – 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.

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.**

Appointment of duties:

President – Dale Schlieman
Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch
Secretary – Carl Ahrndt
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth
P & I – Scott Olson

Old Business:

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

New Business:

Official Financial Institution: We will be keeping our accounts at State Bank of Danvers in Benson, MN.

Official Newspaper: We put all notices and articles in all 3 newspapers in Swift County – Swift County Monitor, Appleton Press, and Kerkhoven Banner.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the State Bank of Danvers as our official financial institution and to use all three newspapers as official newspaper.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Chippewa Representative – Weimerskirch with Gronseth as alternate.

PdT – Schlieman with Olson as alternate.

TSA – Gronseth with Weimerskirch as alternate.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the above people designated as contacts for each group.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Election Option Discussion – We reviewed the two options and discussed the difference. It was decided to stay with option 1 which is elected at large, which is the same as we already operate.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the staying with Option 1 Elected at large for elections.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Time and Dates – Will stay the same with meeting at 8:00am and second Thursday of the month.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve keeping meeting times and date the same.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Drill Rental Agreement – The fee now is \$100 in county and \$150 out of county mobilization charge. The rate is \$10 for 10ft drill and \$12 for 12ft drill. Also discussed use of drills for cover crops. It was decided to wave the per acre charge on cover crops for the first 30 acres and charge ½ per acre on the remaining acres.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve keeping the drill charges at the current rates and to wave the per acre charge for the first 30 acres if planting cover crops and ½ per acre on remaining acres.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Cost Share Policy – No preposed changes. We discussed incentives for tillage but decided to leave rates the same and the max on a contract of \$7,500.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the Cost Share Policy the same and the rates the same with contract max of \$7,500.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Cover Crop Workshop – Who should be invited to talk, what is the main benefit, maybe have before April. We cannot use State Cost Share or Local Capacity funds for incentives which we disagree with to some extent. Andy will start working on a resolution to change the policy.

Annual Plan – Staff met the day before and went over the plan that we wanted to accomplish this year. We shared it with the Board and went over some of the high lights.

MASWCD Dues – Have gone up almost \$1,100 per county. The amount is now \$4,226.00.

CREP Outreach and Implementation Agreement – We received the agreement for \$16,549. This amount is about half of what it normally is. We do not know where the rest of their funding will come from.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve signing the CREP agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Appleton Rain Garden – Was installed in 2018 with funding from PdT cost share. The plants are about 60% gone and replaced with rock. This is a cost share contract with a 10-year life and from a Federal grant. They have three options: 1) put back as originally installed, 2) install a new rain garden in another location suitable for a rain garden, 3) return cost share funds to the SWCD, which we would return to PdT. We could ask for up to 150% of the original cost. Andy will be emailing the City of Appleton to give them their options.

MAWQCP – Received the agreement with Stearns for the water quality certification program. They will reimburse Swift SWCD up to \$5,850 in 2022 and up to \$6,069 in 2023 for work that we do.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve signing the MAWQCP agreement with Stearns SWCD and Swift SWCD.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

NRCS – Melanie Dickman:

- NRCS is hiring a DC in the Benson office.
- New sign – waiting on sign design.

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Taken over seed program and is working with Dennis at Shooting Star. Have two seed orders so far for next year.
- Four site visits for tree plantings. There are three planting so far for this spring.
- Trees – Nurseries are short on supply.
- Working on Aglearn for Conservation Planner certification.
- Sitting in on PdT meetings.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- PdT Watershed Association working on ranking spreadsheet. No JBP meeting.
- Chippewa River TAC meeting today. 1W1P budget, timeline, workplan are all nearly ready. The 60-day notice to plan will be sent out soon.
- Upper MN Meeting will be held Feb 2 from 1-3 in Ortonville.
- Conservation Planning just needs to have Board sign off
- Newsletter is being sent out soon. Printer couldn't get the paper we requested.

Commissioner – Ed Pederson:

- County is holding off on making mandate decisions as they are waiting on decision by the Supreme Court.

Financial Reports:

Handed out W2s to Supervisors.

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **February 10, 2022** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY