

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE July 13, 2023 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Ambush Park, Benson, Minnesota on July 13, 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, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Sheri Gades SWCD, Melanie Dickman NRCS, Ed Pederson County Commissioner,

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

Agenda and Minutes:

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

Outstanding Conservationist: Andy talked to the Harmon Wilts Family, and they agreed to be our Outstanding Conservationists for the 2023 year.

SWCD Aid Resolution: Each of the Board members received a copy of the resolution prior to the meeting. We went through during this meeting to see if anyone had questions. Andy recommended that the Board adopt it.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve the signing the SWCD Aid Resolution that needs to be posted on our website.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Swift SWCD Strategic Plan: Andy went through and said the content was good. Asking if the Board had any input and to read over.

New Business:

Swift County Fair Booth: Sheri has received the email inquiring about the Fair Booth and if we wanted to have one. We will have the same 15ft size booth. The cost this year is \$155.00.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve having the fair booth costing \$155.00.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Brent Wilts Tree Cost Share Amendment: We are amending it due to wanting another row added to the plan. The original cost was \$1339.26 and are increasing it to \$1524.37. He will still get 50% cost share.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve amending Brent Wilts SHCS-11 to \$1524.37 with 50% cost share.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Tree Cost Share Close Outs:

- Dain Erickson contract #2023 SHCS-02 located in Appleton 22. Total cost of this project was \$4,037.74 and cost share was 50% \$2,018.87.
- Dawn & Daryl Broesder contract #2023SHCS-04 located in Torning 18. Total cost of this project was \$2,109.99 and cost share was 50% \$1,055.00.
- Andrew Streed contract #2023SHCS-05 located in Edison 34. Total cost of this project was \$2,771.04 and cost share was 50% \$1,385.52.
- Jacob Connelly contract #2023SHCS-06 located in Swenoda 1. Total cost of this project was \$2,675.22 and cost share was 50% \$1,337.61.

- Alan Golden contract #2023SHCS-07 located in West Bank 35. Total cost of this project was \$1,785.21 and cost share was 50% \$892.61.
- JR & Jenny Trump contract #2023SHCS-08 located in Camp Lake 20. Total cost of this project was \$2,197.15 and cost share was 50% \$1,098.58.
- Ben Johnson contract #2023SHCS-09 located in Dublin 7. Total cost of this project was \$1,917.95 and cost share was 50% \$958.98.
- Larry Payne contract #2023-SHCS-10 located in Cashel 20. Total cost of this project was \$1,055.74 and cost share was 50% \$527.87.
- Brent Wilts contract #2023SHCS-11 located in Hayes 34. Total cost of this project was \$1,524.74 and cost share was 50% \$1,524.37.
- Tim & Erin Nagler #2023SHCS-12 located in Six Mile Grove 7. Total cost of this project was \$2,247.14 and cost share was 50% \$1,123.57.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve the close out of all contracts for the 2023SHCS.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

FY24 MN DNR Observation Well Agreement: We will have 29 wells to monitor this year. This is up one, but it is a nest well so will be counted as one stop. We have 22 stops and will receive \$30 per stop. Also, Dalton will do 8 readings over the year. They will pay us \$5,280 for the monitoring.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Olson to approve the signing the FY24 MN DNR Observation Well Agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Version Tablet: The old tablet had not had an upgrade in a long time and has not been used. It costs us \$10 per month to keep. Discussed discontinuing service for it.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Olson to approve discontinuing service for this device.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Upper MN River Partnership Resolution: Handed out to Board to take home and review for changes. Will review it at a future meeting for adoption.

Personnel Policy Update: Was recommended that we change the wording from Columbus Day to Indigenous and to mention that there is a nursing room available to anyone who needs it.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve the changes mentioned to the Personnel Policy.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

MCIT: Sheri received a notice from MCIT that they would not cover any exposure to “forever chemicals” in the future.

Gronseth brought up checking on a different seed supplier due to the cost. He checked with Aggazi on their costs, and it was cheaper than what we have. Andy said that he is confident that Shooting Star has a very good product and wants to continue using their mixes.

Reports:

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Doing wells.
- Working on tree planter.
- Fix drills.
- Sent cost share letters out yesterday.
- Will start doing RIM and cost share inspections.

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:

- Doing field monitoring for WRP.
- CRP – Working on plans before the end of the fiscal year.
- Training new tech in LQP on CRP.
- Holding a field day in Swift to look at plant identification on August 17.

NRCS – Melanie Dickman:

- Irrigation RCPP all six approved and obligated in Swift County
- EQIP deadline is at the end of October.
- CSP renewals we have 3.
- Nothing new on staffing in the Benson office.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River TAC meeting today. Internal review discussions.
- PdT coordinator resigned. Review RFP on Friday and posted until July 31 for interim coordinator host.
- Upper MN - Internal review complete. Public review July – Sept.
- Soil health Grant – Making some cold calls and met with a couple people and they are thinking about applying for the grant.
- MAWQCP – Scott Hennen withdrew his application Justin Golden likely to sign certification soon in West Bank Sec 12.
- AgBMP Loan is receiving additional \$150,000 or so due to increase in the program budget from the State Legislature. This will cover the remaining pending project.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- With the bridge repairs going on the alternate routes are causing some issues with the roads.
- Trouble finding employees.
- Working on budget.

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.

Next meeting is scheduled for **August 10th, 2023** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY