

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE **June 8, 2023** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on June 8, 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, Melanie Dickman NRCS, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Jason Weinerman BWSR.

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

Agenda and Minutes:

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

Legislative Update: Andy provided an update on where things are with SWCD Aid. They voted on 15 million the first 2 years and 12 million every year after. We will be getting the funds in July and December. There will be guidelines that we need to post on our website. The cost share policy program is being rewritten which will open the practices that we can use funds on. Jason gave a report on BWSR Legislative Summary also.

Outstanding Conservationist: After some discussion to have the Harmon Wilts Family be our choice for this year.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve having the Harmon Wilts Family as our Outstanding Conservationist for the 2023 year.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Area 2 Meeting Recap: There was a lot of info about SWCD Aid. One resolution in support of the Envirothon to be added as a line item. This would mean approximately an extra \$225 per county. This passed the Area 2 meeting and will move to the State meeting.

Local Work Group Discussion: Meeting would be held following the scheduled board meeting. We would provide a breakfast meal like we've done in the past. This meeting gathers local feedback on the local resource needs and priorities for the county from the public. We will try and start by 10:00.

New Business:

Tree Cost Share Close Outs: We have Joel James contract #2023 SHCS-03 located in Torning 20. Total cost of this project was \$3,312.38 and cost share was 50% \$1,656.19. Also, Eric Hughes contract #2023 SHCS-01 located in Marysland 25. Total of his project was \$2,732.25 and cost share at 50% was \$1,366.13.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the close out of contracts 2023 SHCS-03 for \$1,656.19 and 2023 SHCS-01 for \$1,366.13.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Swift SWCD Strategic Plan: Jason passed out a packet to everyone. Take these home and look it over. Bring questions to the next meeting.

FY24 PF Partners Agreement; Gemma brought the agreement for us to sign. We will be required to match \$3,250 again this year.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve the signing the FY24 PF Partnership Agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Appleton Girl Scouts: They reached out looking for any donation of trees that we could give them. Sheri will be checking with them to see what they plan to do with them before giving them any trees. If they have a plan to maintain them, we will give them couple potted trees.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve donating couple potted trees to the Appleton Girl Scouts.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Lease Update: Andy received an email from the leasing office looking for the building owner's information. They are looking at doing another short-term lease approximately a 5-year lease.

Reports:

NRCS – Melanie Dickman:

- Working on Irrigation RCPP. Six approved in Swift County.
- One EQIP contracts selected for funding in Swift.
- CSP ranking is done.
- Local work group in July.
- New administrative help for the area. That person will go to the offices in our area.

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:

- Two RIM applications are working on boundaries for each.
- WIA Sign Up – Two sites reenrolled.
- CRP – Working on plans.
- PF is doing WRP monitoring wo will be going to Wilken County to help them.
- Holding a field day in Swift to look at plant identification on August 17.

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- One tree planting left.
- Moving and fixing drills

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Talked about all the extra work Dalton has been doing!
- Chippewa River TAC meeting today. Internal and external review discussions.
- Upper MN - Internal review of draft plan in person on June 28th.
- Soil health Grant - Revisiting with folks in June and working on obtaining cover crop Job Authority.
- MAWQCP – Doing field checks with Grant Pearson next week.
- MASWCD – Advisor for Resolution Policy Committee.
- Irrigation RCPP – David Gades contract is fully executed.
- MDA Pesticide Sampling – Four samples collected.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Short staff for various county positions.
- Called Tom Orr about leafy spurge. Looked at places for beetles.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **July 13, 2023** at 8:00 am. Local Work Group to meet after.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY