##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE March 11, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held in the LEC Conference Room, Benson Minnesota March 11, 2021.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President – Dale Schlieman

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

P & I – Scott Olson

**Abse**nt: None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Thomas Tjepkes, and Jason Beckler BWSR.

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

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**1W1P Upper MN Watershed:** Jason Beckler joined us by phone to discuss the options we have in participating with the planning of the 1W1P. We have a couple of options that we could do. Swift County only has 7% in this watershed. If we opt out, then we would not be eligible for any funds. We could adopt plan but no attending meetings but then we would have no say in the planning or policies. Another option is to sign MOA and not help in the planning very much, only when we can. Or we could sign the MOA and do as we are in the Pomme de Terre and be highly active. Since we do not have to decide right now, we are going to discuss it again at the next meeting.

**Drone License:** Dalton and Andy have both completed the online training courses and the testing. Both have passed and have applied for their temp licenses. The drone was ordered, and the cost was little over $1,000 for the package. The licenses are good for two years.

**4 – Wheeler:** We have no idea when the dealer will get it from the company.

**Photo Contest:** Andy has reached out to Mike Johnson for funds from the AIS money. We are looking at doing two packages for the winners. One would be a kayak, paddle, and life jacket. The other would be a paddle board, paddle, and life jacket. The contest would run for 17 weeks, with a prize each week. The total cost looks to be roughly $1,200 for the entire event.

**AgBMP Loan:** There has been interest from a producer to apply for funds to purchase a chopping corn head. Each Board member was given a handout with the eligible practices or machinery listed on it. The discussion was that we may need to prioritize what we want to see the money go for. It was decided to have each Board member look over the list and make their list of what should be a priority and what is low priority. We are going to look at it again at the next Board meeting.

**New Business:**

**Legislative Days:** This will be an online briefing on March 18th. It will be a 2hr briefing in the morning from 10:00 to 12:00. The cost of the briefing is $50. Andy has signed up for the briefing. Andy will be also attending the Zoom meeting with Tim Miller and Andrew Lang in the afternoon.

**2019 State Cost Share Grant:** This grant expired on December 31, 2021. There was $2,596.65 left that was to be spent on a project, but the project was not completed before the grant expired. We need to sign the financial document and return the funds to BWSR.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve signing the financial document and returning the funds of $2,596.65 to BWSR.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Pesticide Monitoring:** We need to sign the agreement to monitor the Shokapee Creek again this year. The amount we will receive for this is $1,300.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve signing the agreement to monitor the Shokapee Creek for $1,300.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None**

**NRCS – Thomas Tjepkes:**

* EQIP ranking ends March 26. Funding will be divided between the team which is five counties.
* CSP – General applications will be period is through March 26th.
* Staffing levels in the USDA building remain at 25%.
* Three new staff have been hired for the five county team.
* EQIP/ CIC is a new program that will be rolling out soon.

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Have 6 plantings so far.
* Tree sales have picked up a lot. We have started selling apple trees.
* Completed drone training and testing.

**District Manager** **– Andy Albertsen:**

* Completed drone training and testing.
* CRWA – TAC meeting today. Elected new officers on the JPB.
* Soil Health Team had a presentation on strip tillage. Discussed in future holding field day.
* Saturated buffer - We did a mailing and sent 11 letters and have four site requests. Waiting on two more.
* MAWQCP – Wentzel are reviewing material.
* Seed Sales so far, we have four.
* East Branch Grant – Working with Pope SWCD on a contract for services.
* Presenting at the County Commissioner meeting on April 6th.

**County Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

* Explained how the Sonstang Foundation began and what the people who started it did for Swift County. It was remarkably interesting to hear how this all began.
* Friday, they had the township meeting.
* Federated Telephone is now adding to the gopher bounty in Swift County. The bounty per gopher could be as much as $9.00 for each one.

**Financial Reports:**

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 April 8, 2020 at 8:00 am.

**APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE SECRETARY**