##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE March 12, 2020 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held in the FSA Building Conference Room, Benson Minnesota March 12, 2020.

**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 SWCD, Melanie Dickman NRCS, Gemma Klienschmidt and Ed Pederson

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**.

**Old Business:**

**Legislative Days –** March 24 – 25th Andy will be going, so if anyone else plans on attending please let him know so that we can make reservations.

**Area 2 Meeting:** Was well attended. Andy gave a quick report on what was discussed. NRCS is down to 280 employees, that being 80 short of what they need. One of the topics that was talked about was a bus tour to show some of the projects that are being funded through the SWCD. We discussed holding a bus tour for the County Commissioners, and other partners that we work with. We will go forward with planning a tour. The next Area 2 meeting will be in Pope County at the Rosholt farm, on June 18th.

**New Business:**

**Chippewa River Watershed Joint Powers Agreement:** The Board needs to sign the agreement now that the boundaries have been changed. It is the same agreement previously signed with the boundary changes included.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Olson approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the boundary change.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Office Closing:** With the rapid change in what is open and closed due to the Covid-19 virus, we discussed when or if the office should close. We decided to follow FSA and NRCS as to what they do.

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

* CRP General offers there was 82, with 61 being expiring and 21 new offers. The Continuous had 17 and there are 58 expiring and she had one interested in CREP.
* New program is CRP Grassland, which is for existing grass land that is not farmed, and they are paying $33 per acre for that.
* SHIPP sign up starts March 30 – August 21. Short term CRP 3-5 yr. contracts. No more that 15% of field and offering about 50% of rental rates.
* Attended Pheasant Fest and worked at the landowner help desk.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman:**

* CSP – Ranking is going to be much harder to get into the program
* Local Work Group was discussed. We are going to possibly do a partnership breakfast and invite people to attend and then have them rank their resource concerns on a board. We talked about doing rolls, coffee, oj and fruit. The date would be April 16.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch approve holding the Local Work Group meeting on April 16 and to invite local partners to participate.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* He has 15 plantings so far
* 3 seed sales
* Working on drills and tree planter to get ready for spring

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

* PdT – 2016 Fed 319 Grant has $55,000 remaining in the grant which will expire Sept 30, 2020.
* 1W1P had 170 comments which are being looked at
* MAWQCP – The Wilts’ are almost completed. Nygaard has received payment from MDA on his well sealings, and Hettver’s have a meeting set up to look into beginning the process.
* Cover Crop Rates sheet with the different possible rates was passed out to everyone. Rates were set at $ for single species and $ for multiple species.
* Discussed possibly sending out targeted letters to landowners that have possible concerns on their land. We will keep working on this.
* Consultant/Agronomist meeting update- It will be held April 2nd at McKinney’s. We will be including NRCS, SWCD, PF and FSA as well as local crop consultants and agronomists.
* Cover Crop Cost Share – Discussion on a 1yr contract instead of just a 3 – 5 year contract.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to include a 1-year Cover Crop Cost Share into our current policy.**

 **Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

Sheri handed out 3 different types of financial reports for the Board to look at. They each were a little different and gave some different information. It was to give an option of which report they liked the most and would rather see. It was decided that we would stay with what we have now. Also, Sheri would bring a current trial balance sheet quarterly for the Board to review.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2020 at 8:00 am.

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