

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES FROM THE **March 14, 2024**, BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on March 14, 2024.

**Members Present:**

Chairman – Dale Schlieman  
Vice Chairman - Mark Weimerskirch  
Secretary – Scott Olson  
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth  
P&I – Alan Golden

**Others Present:** Andy Albertsen SWCD, Sheri Gades SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, and Melanie Dickman NRCS.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman – Dale Schlieman.

**Consent Agenda and Minutes:**

**Motion was made by Golden seconded by Olson to approve the Agenda and the Minutes.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**State Farm Building:** Showed spreadsheet with cost so far to do updates to building and to get the startup going. Move day is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Pheasants Forever Biologist Position:** Interviews will be on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>. There were seven applicants and four are being interviewed. These will be done virtually. PF has interviews for internships today. Reposting a grazing position to be housed in Benson.

**PRAP Grant Update:** Doing market analysis now. Draft is being put together. Wants a subcommittee to look at the wage portion before the whole Board sees it. The subcommittee will meet on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 here at the USDA building.

**BWSR Soil Health Staffing Grant:** Should find out next week if we receive the grant.

**New Business:**

**Change of Office Resolution:** We need to sign this for the State & BWSR saying we are moving to a different location.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the signing of the Resolution.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Tree Cost Share Contracts:** We have six contracts that would like cost share for planting trees. These are for 50% cost share and estimates have a minimum of \$1,000.

<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Contract #</b>	<b>Township &amp; Section</b>	<b>Total Cost with 10% contin.</b>	<b>Cost Share 50%</b>
Josh Nelson	2024-CC-01	Kerkhoven 26	\$2,728.28	\$1,364.14
Katie & Simon Johnson	2024-CC-02	Pillsbury 9	\$1,162.00	\$581.00
Kristen & Ryan Gallagher	2024-CC-03	Westbank 10	\$3,645.50	\$1,822.75
Thomas (Sherman) Olson	2024-CC-04	Westbank 10	\$2,718.00	\$1,359.00
Mike & Jodi Haas	2024-CC-05	Torning 4	\$1,312.00	\$656.00
Mike Baumgartner	2024-CC-06	Tara 19	\$2,344.00	\$1,172.00

Dalton also received JAA from Dave Voit to do tree plans.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the 6 Cost Share contracts and to sign approving Dalton’s JAA for tree planning.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried**

**Ron Schliep Cost Share:** He is doing a stabilization project in Fairfield Sec 23. Funds will come from Pomme de Terre, and contract is #76-01-23-WBIF. The estimated cost is \$44,376.86 and 75% cost share would be \$33,282.65.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve the cost share for Ron Schliep for 75% \$33,282.65.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**County Commissioner Ed Pederson:**

- Ditch redeterminations have increased acres throughout the county. People will receive a letter in May on the cost and give options for payment.
- Staffing is still a challenge. They have gone back to an auditor/ treasurer position.
- Commented on Andy's good presentation at their meeting.

**Reports:**

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

- Wells start up again next week.
- Post Hartkof easement.
- Drill maintenance is being done on all the drills.
- Put springs on fabric machine yet.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman:**

- EQIP hoping to get last one obligated today.
- CSP interviews fifteen of the oldest applications.
- LWG after the Board meeting.

**District Manager – Andy Albertsen:**

- Chippewa River TAC meeting today. Public hearing scheduled during April JPB meeting. BWSR will not approve until towards the end of August.
- Upper MN - 1WIP is on track to be approved by BWSR by March 27th.
- Cover Crop Contract Approval: currently the Board must approve a contract. Andy is looking to be able to sign off when they come in and then the Board would sign off on the voucher. This is something that is needed when we need a quick turnaround time due to planting timing. Also discussed a threshold for the contract amount for Andy to be able to sign off on. Our policy is \$10,000 per contract. Andy will call Jason Weinerman to see if this is ok with BWSR.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve Andy signing contracts up to \$10,000 and then the Board sign voucher for final approval.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

- Soil Health & Sugar Beet Meeting was on March 8<sup>th</sup> and held at McKinney's in Benson. They had thirty-five attendees.
- Irrigation Clinic is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria.
- Soil Health Team meeting in Morris on March 21.
- Legislative Day update was given by Andy, Alan, and Scott. They thought it went well.
- Ambush Park butterfly garden rehab meeting held with Caleb Schwendemann.
- SWCD Project Tracking Tool training with Jared House.

**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 **April 11, 2024**, at 8:00 am.

**APPROVED:**

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DATE

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SECRETARY