

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES FROM THE **May 11, 2023** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on May 11, 2023.

**Members Present:**

Vice Chairman - Mark Weimerskirch  
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth  
P&I – Alan Golden

**Members Absent:**

Chairman – Dale Schlieman  
Secretary – Scott Olson

**Others Present:** Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Melanie Dickman NRCS, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Tom Orr Ag Inspector.

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 A.M. by Vice Chairman – Mark Weimerskirch

**Agenda and Minutes:**

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the Secretary Report and the Agenda.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**Legislative Update:** Andy provided an update on where things are with SWCD Aid. The legislature is in conference committee right now discussing differences between the House and Senate versions. Deadline for adjournment is a couple weeks away.

**Outstanding Conservationist:** Potential for Mark and Mike Thompson. Will continue thinking of names and try to select someone by the July meeting.

**New Business:**

**Ag Inspector Contract:** Tom Orr discussed the status of noxious weeds in the county. Tom is working with Paul Petrick with the county to better coordinate spraying for wild parsnip on county road ditches. He said he found his first wild parsnip plants on Monday.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the Ag Inspector contract with Tom Orr, designating him as County Ag Inspector through May 10, 2024.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Area 2 Meeting:** Will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> in Montevideo at the American Legion. Let Sheri know if you will be attending by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Andy, Sheri, and Dalton plan to attend.

**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.

**Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to set the Local Work Group for July 13<sup>th</sup> following the SWCD Board meeting and be held at Ambush Park in Benson.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Comp Time:** Andy discussed the need for staff to acquire comp time will trying to get all necessary activities completed in a reasonable amount of time.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to allow staff to acquire comp time.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Poster Judging:** Kaley Poegel's class from KMS submitted posters to be judged for the area 2 meeting. Posters will be judged later in the meeting and the top three selected to be submitted for the area 2 meeting.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to provide a \$20 cash prize for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$15 cash prize for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and a \$10 cash prize for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

### **Reports:**

#### **NRCS – Melanie Dickman:**

- Working on Irrigation RCPP. Six approved in Swift County. Working towards getting them obligated.
- Melanie described what RCPP is and how it works.
- No EQIP contracts selected for funding in Swift.
- Melanie requested additional EQIP funding.
- Inflation Reduction Act funding, focused on climate related conservation practices, same payment rates as CSP/EQIP.
- 1026 requests are being worked on, roughly a 6 month backlog.
- Melanie comes to Benson on alternating Thursday and Friday's.

#### **Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

- No report provided.

#### **District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

- Tree pickup day was held recently.
- Working on flagging for tree plantings.
- Drills have been going out already too.
- Haven't done the well observations yet.

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

- No Chippewa River TAC meeting today. Chippewa River website has a soft rollout. First draft 1W1P will be available for review very soon.
- Upper MN first draft 1W1P will be available for review very soon.
- Soil health grant letters were mailed out. There has been a good response to the letters and follow up will be conducted in June.
- MN Ag Water Quality certification meetings with different producers.
- New MACDE Area 2 director.
- Cleaned out storage room and have been helping Dalton with trees.
- Provided project updates on Mike Thompson, Sam Jensen, and Ron Schliep projects.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to allow Andy to sign off on voucher once the Mike Thompson project is complete.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

#### **County Commissioner Ed Pederson:**

- Short staff for various county positions.
- Doing redetermination of benefits for various county ditches.

#### **Financial Reports:**

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve financial report.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

Next meeting is scheduled for **June 8, 2023** at 8:00 am.

**Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to adjourn.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**APPROVED:**

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DATE

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SECRETARY