

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE **May 12, 2022** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the Swift USDA Building, Benson Minnesota May 12, 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

President – Dale Schlieman
Vice President - Mark Weimerskirch
Secretary – Carl Ahrndt
Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth
P & I – Scott Olson

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Jason Weinerman BWSR, and Tom Orr Ag Inspector.

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

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Jason Weinerman introduced himself as the new Board Conservationist for Swift County. He is based in Waite Park and just had Swift added to his area. He plans on attending 4-5 meeting per year.

Old Business:

Outstanding Conservationist 2022 – Time to start thinking of an outstanding conservationist for this year. Looking for and ideas from the Board and staff. Will continue to work on it.

Election Filing – To file for the SWCD Board, the filing time is May 17 – 31. Filing is done at the Courthouse. We have District 2,3, and 4 that are up for election.

Ag Weather Station – Reached out for a quote on a weather station and so far, received one for around \$10,000. We are inquiring to see if we could fund it with 1WIP money through the PdT. We are continuing to work on getting more figures and answers to our question for the next Board meeting.

Legislative Update – Andy gave a quick update on the SWCD Aid that passed the in the House. Senate tax bill did not include it. Will be keeping a watch on what happens with this.

Island – Ken Hanson came and gave a brief history of the island and what it was used for. He had a lot of history of the island. Would like to see it used for the public to enjoy. We thanked him for coming and giving another perspective on the use of the island. We are going to bring the deed and other paperwork that the SWCD has in their possession to the County Attorney to review. We want to make sure we have a clear deed to the island since there has been some debate on who really owns the island.

NRCS Unfunded Cooperative Agreement – Working on getting 3 computer seats. Dalton has completed his paperwork to get his Linkpass card. We need to accept and sign the agreement with NRCS.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve signing the NRCS Unfunded Cooperative Agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

New Business:

Ag Inspector Contract – The contract with Tom Orr to be the Ag Inspector for Swift County is up for renewal. It is the same contract as we have had in previous years. We will be contracting with Tom Orr for his work for \$1,125.00 per month as before. This money come to us from the County, and we pay him for the service.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the Ag Inspector Contract with Tom Orr.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Local Work Group – This needs to be done by July 23rd. We are planning to hold it after our July 14th meeting. We will be doing a breakfast again at Ambush Park.

Ag BMP Loan – A request for an Ag BMP loan came from Jim Jensen to purchase 2022 H&S hydra push spreader. The cost of the piece of equipment is \$49,500 and he is requesting \$33,250 from the funds.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the AgBMP Loan application from Jim Jensen for \$33,250.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Resolutions – This was to allow incentive payments to come out of cost share and local capacity funds. Currently they cannot come from those funds. Cost share would have to be a statute change by the Legislature to enable this. Local capacity would not need a statute change. We will make a decision at the June meeting with we want to proceed with the resolution. If local capacity goes away with the new SWCD Aid, we will not need the resolution since there are very few restrictions with these funds.

Area 2 Meeting – Will be held June 16th in Alexandria at the Public Works building.

NRCS – Brett Carlson:

- Finishing EQIP contracts.
- Only one CSP contract, but none were funded.

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Wells levels are coming up.
- Working on maintenance of the drills and fabric machine
- Did 2 tree plantings so far.
- Have 13 people signed up for drill usage so far.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- PdT Watershed Association still has project money is available. Revising WIF Grant to come in at \$717,00. Workplan to follow. Micayla will be attending the June Board meeting.
- Chippewa River TAC meeting today and JPB meet May 20.
- Upper MN steering meeting was held yesterday with discussion on issue statements and planning regions.
- Irrigation RCPP sign up is from May 5 through June 17. Letter will be mailed to 168 landowners.
- Cooperative Weed Grant was not selected this year. There were 21 applications requesting\$335,000. Only 13 were selected for \$200,00 in total.
- Swift County Pasture & Feedlot Workshop will be held July 12th in Benson from 10:30 – 12:00.

Commissioner – Ed Pederson:

- July will be an informational meeting on the ditch redetermination.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid. Also, Board members need to turn in their vouchers at the June meeting.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded Olson by to approve financial report.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **June 9, 2022** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED:

DATE

SECRETARY