

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE November 10, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson Minnesota November 10 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Absent:

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner and Allen Golden.

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:

MASWCD/PF Wildlife Habitat Steward Award: Jack Byrne accept our award for Swift County. He did not win on the State level. We purchased a wooden sign with his name on it to present to him the next time he is in Minnesota.

Bank CD Renewal: The renewal date is October 14, 2022. Andy and Sheri went to Edward Jones to inquire about setting up a CD with them. They told us that it takes a lot of extra paperwork for a governmental agency to open an account with them. Co op Credit has a little bit lower rate but not as much work to have an account with them. We discussed the amount to put in a CD and decided on \$100,000.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve opening a CD at Co-op Credit for \$100,000.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

State Convention: Will be held December 12-14. Deadline to register is December 1. Sheri passed out material from the Stat on information about the convention. Let Andy know if you want to attend, and he can register you.

2023 Soil Health Cost Share: This grant so far is a one-time grant for \$14,000. This will be for soil health practices. We want to use it on windbreaks and tree plantings. Looking at doing 50% cost share, must be a minimum of \$1,000 planting with cost to landowner would be \$500. Deadline would be February 2nd. Eligible things are trees, fabric, planning, and tubes. It would have to be native trees following FOTG.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the signing the grant and the policy for the 2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant Agreement.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

New Business:

December meeting will be December 22, 2022

RIM Posts: We would be the central hub for post distributing for easements. We would get the signs and then the State would reimburse us for the cost. Other counties would be able to come here to pick up their signs as needed.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve Swift SWCD being the distribution point for easement signs.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Adopt a Highway Agreement: It is a two-year agreement to clean up the ditches on Hwy 9. We are currently doing a 2 ½ mile stretch from Benson to the beet site.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the signing the agreement to continue to clean the ditch on Hwy 9 for another two years.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

New Lease Standard: The State is requiring that all material easements must be disclosed on the balance sheet. The Board will need to set a threshold for capitalizing leases. We decided to set our threshold at \$5,000 effective January 1, 2022.

Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve setting our threshold at \$5,000.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Cost Share #EB03-2021 WSCBS Voucher: This project was in Camp Lake Section 4. Three basins were installed for \$31,785.60 with 75% cost share from the East Branch grant of \$23,839.20.

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the voucher and payment for the completed project at the cost of \$23,839.20 located in Camp Lake Section 4.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Cost Share Contract #2021-01: Asking for signing authority when we get the voucher back. The project is completed except they were waiting for a grate to be installed. When the voucher comes back, and the bills are paid we would like to have Andy sign and then we could issue the check. This would help clean up several grants and then we could close them out before the end of December. **Amounts from each grant are: 2020 Local Capacity \$20,000, 2020 State Cost Share \$8,488.10, 2021 State Cost Share \$8,550.19, 2021 Local Capacity \$8425.06, and 2022 State Cost Share \$90.15.**

Motion was made by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the voucher and payment for the completed project at the cost of \$45,553.50 located in Shible Sec 19.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

NRCS – Brett Carlson: None

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt:

- RIM easements sign up beginning of Oct. Have two interested in Shible township.
- CRP site visits about 200 on eligibility.

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Well readings are sporadic on up and down levels.
- PdT reimbursement sent in for cover crop planting.
- Handed out seed sales, tree sales and drill rental comparison sheet.
- Did a seeding with the ATV.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- PdT Watershed Association still has project money is available.
- Chippewa River TAC meeting today.
- Upper MN held citizen and advisory committee meeting in Clinton. Finalized planning areas and prioritized issues.
- BWSR Academy is October 25-27 at Craguns.
- Fall Newsletter – Trying for mid-December to have published. Will split the cost with Parks & Drainage.
- USDA building is working on getting doors with latches and new locks.
- Distribution hub for post for easement boundaries. We would put in the order and other counties could come here to pick them up.
- Ambush Park Butterfly Garden needs work and will be working on improving it or starting over. There are some funds remaining in that account that could be spent to make it better.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Joe Fox is retiring, and Larry Mahoney was elected to replace him.
- Looking for a County Engineer, Administrator and Auditor for the County.

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 **December 22, 2022** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED:

DATE

SECRETARY