

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES FROM THE **October 12, 2023** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on October 12, 2023.

Members Present:

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

Absent: Chairman – Dale Schlieman and Secretary – Scott Olson

Others Present: Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Sheri Gades SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner.

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Weimerskirch.

Agenda and Minutes:

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

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Old Business:

Nature Day: The day went well! One presenter backed out at the last minute, but we found someone to take that time slot. Kids had fun and there was not any problems.

Hart Lake CPL Grant Application: We should find out hopefully in December if we received the grant.

Swift SWCD Strategic Plan Implementation: Did a workload analysis. At a prior meeting we ranked programs and this one we entered the time spent for each program. Also, total time spend and total staff time. Gave an overview of the meeting to the rest of the Board.

Office Building/Lease: Discussed the possibility of purchasing the State Farm building. What are our options? What are our start-up costs? We have taken a tour of the building and discussed maybe having a wall moved. We are meeting with the County Attorney to make sure that we can purchase the building. Will continue to work on this. Also, we need to draw up a new lease with Nancy Johnson since the current lease expires November 30, 2023.

New Business:

Gronseth Bill: We had Gronseth explain why he wasn't paying for the tire repair. After some discussion, he decided to pay the bill for the tire.

Audit Letter: We received the draft of the audit and the letter of representation from Peterson Company. We need to accept them and sign the representation letter.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the draft audit and sign the letter of representation.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

2024-2025 Conservation Delivery and 2024-2025 Cost Share Grants: We will receive \$18,592 for Delivery and \$12,844 for Cost Share. Also, this is a DocuSign agreement, so have Andy sign for this.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to approve the grants and have Andy sign for them.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Work Order for RIM Easement: This is for easement work that we receive \$500 for a signed easement. We need to sign the work order. Also have Andy sign this agreement.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the work order for \$500 and have Andy sign.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Friends of MN Valley River Basin: This group would like to have some of their volunteers sit at our fair booth to discuss what they do and what their organization is about. We would pay the rent of our space, but they would help man the booth. We will try and set up a virtual meeting with them at our next Board meeting.

CRP Incentive Contract & Voucher: The incentive would be \$100 per acre with a \$30,000 cap on it. These funds would be from the Ponne de Terre River Association. This would be on continuous CRP contracts. Priority for 15 yr. contracts over 10 yr. contracts.

Contract for Services Pomme de Terre: This is for CRP contracts. We need to sign the agreement.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the agreement with PdT for CRP contracts.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Cover Crop Contract: SH-CWF22-ITV-01 and voucher 26.85 acres in CRP located in Torning 5. This is a one-time payment for \$300 per acre. The amount of the contract is \$8,055.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the cover crop contract SH-CWF22-ITV-01 and voucher for \$8,055.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

Cover Crop Contract 2023-LC-03: This is for 10 acres located in Clontarf 31. It is a 3 yr contract at \$32.87 per acre and a total of \$328.70 per year.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to approve the cover crop contract 2023-LC-03 for \$328.70 per year.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

State Convention: Registration is open now for the convention which is December 11 – 13 at the Double Tree in Bloomington. Cost is \$109 per night for rooms. Let Andy know if you want to attend, and he will make the reservations for rooms and convention.

Resolution Packets: Sheri has made copies to give to each Board member. They need to read these and vote on each resolution. There are 19 of them. Call her with your votes or drop off your votes. She will go online and enter them each. Have them back to her by October 31.

Reports:

District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:

- Wells monitoring shows some are going up.
- Started doing RIM and cost share inspections.
- Working on drills for fall seedings.
- Working on tree prices for 2024.

Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None

NRCS – Melanie Dickman:

- RCPP irrigation have some that are completed.
- EQIP sign up deadline is on Friday.
- Working on CSP payments.
- CSP Classic has a January 12 deadline.

District Manager – Andy Albertsen:

- Chippewa River TAC virtual meeting today.
- Upper MN - Public hearing October 30 in Ortonville.
- Regional Technician Meeting was hosted by Swift SWCD on September 21st. There was 15 participants. This focused on sales and service programs.
- SWCD Trailer was sold at Zielsdorf’s auction, and we will get the check from them. It sold for \$1300.
- MASWCD Human Resources Work is working on the needs of districts concerning HR.
- NRCS Job Approval for cover crops was given to Andy. The Board needs to sign saying he has their approval also.

Motion was made by Golden seconded by Gronseth to approve the Andy’s NRCS job approval for cover crops.

Affirmative: All Motion carried

- Well sealing was brought to our attention. Do we want to provide cost share on wells that are legally to be sealed? What about wells that are being sealed and replaced with a new one? We will discuss this at the next meeting when more members are present.
- Newsletter is being worked on and hope to have out in mid-December.

County Commissioner Ed Pederson:

- Working with MCIT on fire at the Recycling Plant.
- Staffing at Courthouse continues to be a problem.
- Passed preliminary budget.

Financial Reports:

Reviewed deposits, bills to be paid.

Motion was made by Gronseth seconded by Golden to approve the financial reports.

Affirmative: All Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for **November 9, 2023** at 8:00 am.

APPROVED: _____
DATE

SECRETARY