

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES FROM THE **September 14, 2023** BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Swift USDA Building, Benson, Minnesota on September 14, 2023.

**Members Present:**

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

Absent: Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

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

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

**Agenda and Minutes:**

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

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**Nature Day:** Will be held Friday at Ambush Park with both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Benson and KMS schools.

**Swift SWCD Strategic Plan Implementation:** We need to decide on several things.

1. SWCD Vision Statement which was included in packet.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the SWCD Vision Statement.**

**Affirmative: All    Motion carried.**

2. Fund Balance Policy which is to approve 18 months of funds on hand.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve the SWCD Fund balance of 18 months.**

**Affirmative: All    Motion carried.**

Program evaluation review committee met and went through each program and rated their value to the SWCD. We handed out results to all board members prior to meeting. Discussed any questions that anyone had.

**Motion was made by Golden seconded by Olson to approve the Program Evaluation Review as presented.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**Hart Lake CPL Grant Application:** Reviewed preliminary design and TSA cost estimate. This will have to go out on bids since DNR is booked up and can not do the project. Andy will proceed with the DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Golden to approve Andy moving ahead with the CPL grant application as presented.**

**Affirmative: All            Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

**Gronseth Bill:** Charged tire repair to SWCD and we have a policy that if equipment breaks while being used by a producer, then they are responsible for the repair. The Board stated that if we have a policy then he needs to pay the repair bill. Andy will reach out to him.

**Upper MN Plan Overview:** Andy gave a presentation on the area, high priorities, medium priorities, goals, and practices.

**Project Signage:** Some SWCDs have signs put p by projects to let people know who did the project. We could get reimbursed for the cost of the signs. We can get two sets of signs for \$320. These would have our name on them and what type of project was constructed.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve the purchase of project signs for the cost of \$320.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**PdT/ Chippewa Coordinator Discussion:** There was discussion on the pros and cons of having one person fill the position for both the PdT and the Chippewa Watersheds. This will be an ongoing conversation.

**Sam Jensen Streambank:** This project was in Benson Section 4. The estimate cost was \$11,308 from TSA and the bid is \$10,585.00 with 75% cost share being \$7,938.75. Project has been completed as planned.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the close out of the cost share contract 2023-SCS-02 for Sam Jensen. The amount will be \$7,938.75.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant Closeout:** All funds have been spent on 12 tree plantings this last summer.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve the close out of this grant.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**2022 Local Capacity Grant Close Out:** All funds have been spent for this grant on projects, staff time, and equipment for the District.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve the close out of this grant.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**2024 Buffer Law Grant:** This grant is for \$25,000 and needs to be spent by December 31, 2026. We have used this for the drone and staff time in the past. We need to sign this and return to BWSR.

**Motion was made by Olson seconded by Golden to approve signing the 2024 Buffer Law Grant.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**SWCD Trailer:** We have the utility trailer back and it is in need of work. We really don't have a need for the trailer, so are looking to sell it. It was decided to list it on the Zielsdorf fall auction.

**Motion was made by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the sale of the utility trailer on the Zielsdorf auction.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried.**

**BWSR Academy:** Is being held October 24-26 at Craguns again this year. SWCD staff will be attending.

Area 2 Meeting September 19<sup>th</sup> in Sauk Centre. Let Sheri know if you will be attending.

### **Reports:**

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

- Wells monitoring shows some are going up.
- Attended a couple field day demonstrations on strip till.
- Attended UM Soil Health field day.
- Met with Case IH about planting native grasses around their test runway.
- Started doing RIM and cost share inspections.
- Working on drills for fall seedings.

**Pheasants Forever Biologist – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None**

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman: None**

**District Manager – Andy Albertsen:**

- Chippewa River TAC virtual meeting today.
- Upper MN - Public review July – Sept. Public hearing in mid-October.
- Regional Technician Meeting to be hosted by Swift SWCD and held September 21st.
- MASWCD resolutions committee met last week. Reviewed 19 proposed resolutions.
- AgBMP Load Update – Tollfesrud applications was proceeded for \$109,000.
- Cooperative Weed Management Area met and are apply for a \$15,000 grant from MDA. Will focus on contracting out for township wild parsnip spraying.
- Drone- Due to law changes requiring drones to display remote identification, we will not be able to fly drone after Sept 16<sup>th</sup> until manufacturer comes out with firmware update, hopefully by end of the month.
- New Pickup -Working on getting prices and looking at options.

**County Commissioner Ed Pederson:**

They are working on the preliminary levy by end of September. The ditch reassessment has been done.

**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 **October 12, 2023** at 8:00 am.

**APPROVED:**

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DATE

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SECRETARY