##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE December 17, 2020 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at the USDA Service Center, Benson Minnesota December 17, 2020.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

P & I – Scott Olson

Absent: President – Dale Schlieman

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

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**ATV Replacement:** We will be getting new one from Motor Sports of Willmar. The earliest they would possible have one in stock is January.

**New Business:**

**Lease:** We need to sign the new 3-year lease with Nancy Johnson on our space in the building. The rent will remain at $672.93 and we will have the same footage.

**Motion was made** **by Ahrndt seconded by Olson to approve signing the 3-year lease with Nancy Johnson for the rent of our space.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Soil Health Field:** There is a field that is owned by County that is for rent. Would it be a good area to possibly rent as a demonstration field for different types of tillage, cover crops? There was discussion about if this property would be a good fit. After looking at the drainage and soil types it was decided to keep looking for a better site. We would partner with a local producer that would like to rent the acres and try different tillage practices and cover crops.

**Cell Phone Stipend:** All the employees have their own cell phones that get used for business. Andy handed out 3 different options to help off set the costs to employees. It was decided that option 3 would be a good incentive for employees. This would be $30 per month for Andy and Dalton and $15 per month for Sheri.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve the cell phone stipend for the employees as stated.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Verizon Auto Pay:** The bill has been coming from Verizon and paid that day or the next and still isn’t getting there in time. We have had several late charges that should not have been. So, we discussed having the bill set up on auto pay so that this doesn’t happen again.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve setting up the Verizon account on auto payment.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Cost Share Close Outs:** Wolf Tiling did all the alternative outlets for all of the projects and the contracts are ready to be closed out.

 Lance Mumm Contracts #2020-02 State Cost Share total of $1000 with 75% cost shared $500 and #76-01-19CWF total cost $5750 cost shared 75% $4312.50. These were in Tara Section 17.

 Allen Mumm Contracts #2020-03 State Cost Share total of $500 with 75% cost shared $350 and #76-0219CWF total cost $14400 with 75% cost share $ 10800. These are in Tara Section 14.

 Kenneth Rohloff Contact #76-03-19CWF cost share for total of $4500 with 75% cost share $3375. These are in Tara Section 19.

 Wilbur Hamann Contract #2020-01 cost share total or $7500 wit 75% cost share $5625. These were in Tara 30.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Gronseth to approve the close out and payment for these cost share projects.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**State Convention:** This was a Zoom meeting. The speakers were very good. There was discussion on legislative updates also.

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Drills had 10 different landowners used this fall for a total of 212 acres. He is doing maintenance on them for the winter.
* GPS all the new French drains that were installed – 64 total.
* Built another work bench at the building.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman: None**

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

* PdT – 1W1P budget request is completed. Work plan development to follow.
* Ag BMP loan has approximately $82,000 available
* Chippewa River Association – TAC recommended MPCA Public Participation Plan for approval by JPB. There was discussion on internal controls and the fiscal host.
* MN Ag Water Quality Certification –Jim Forsell will be installing French drains using MAWQCP funds
* Newsletter – Should be out in week or so.
* East Branch – Recommended for funding ($300,000 for practices and $45,000 for staff time). CWF projects and practices have 48 applications with 32 chosen for funding.

**County Commissioner – Ed Pederson**

Discussed the stimulus checks and levy increase of 1% for 2021 budget for Swift 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**.

Employee reviews were held, and we reviewed the pay grade that Andy printed out. The Board decided to approve the pay for the 2021 year as stated on the hand out.

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

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021.

**APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE SECRETARY**