##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE February 11, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held in the LEC Conference Room, Benson Minnesota February 11, 2021.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President – Dale Schlieman

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

P & I – Scott Olson

**Abse**nt: None

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

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 with the addition of two grants to close out.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**Television:** New tv is mounted in the conference room. Has been used for a training webinar and works very well.

**COVID Restrictions:** We are still at phase 0 at the USDA building. This means no one other than staff is allowed in the building.

**New Business:**

**Photo Contest:** Andy handed out a flyer that describes a contest that we are looking at trying to do to engage the public more. It would run 17 weeks with a $20 gift card to business in Swift County and a grand prize at the end of the 17 weeks. The total cost would be around $750. Sheri has compiled a list of possible merchants to get gift cards from.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve moving ahead with the photo contest.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Legislative Days:** This will be an online briefing on March 18th. It will be a 2hr briefing. Andy has signed up for the Tim Miller meeting.

**Drone License:** Dalton discussed the procedure to get himself and Andy licensed to use a drone for the SWCD. The cost is $150 per person for the training and then $160 for the exam per person. The drones cost between $600 - $2,000. If we use a drone commercially, the users need to be licensed with the FAA. We would use it for RIM inspections, buffer inspections, and projects before and after pictures. The certifications are good for 2 years.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch to purchase a drone for $1700 - $2000 and to have Dalton and Andy get licensed.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Lissick Cost Share Project:** The contract 2021-01 was signed by both Greg and Dorothy Lissick. The project is a grade stabilization structure and pond. Two bids were received, and they are going with Don Lawson bid for $51,000. The project is located in Shible township, Section 19. Total cost of the project is $55,811.80 and we will cost share 75% of the costs which is $41,858.85

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Gronseth to Lissick Cost Share Contract #2021-01 for the 75% cost of the project amounting to $41,858.85**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**NACD Online Convention:** Gronseth gave a report on the different seminars he listened to on partnerships, cover crop promotion, promotion storm water, and minority farm programs.

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

* CRP signup extended deadline until further notice. We have about 40 offers this year, with a mix of acres. The continuous signup is still available if eligible.
* CREP batching period is April 12-30th with a minimum of 8 acres
* WIA sign up begins March 15th to the end of May. Landowners can get $18 per acre with a minimum of 40 acres. Currently have 3 contracts in Swift County.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman: None**

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Have 6 plantings so far.
* Tree sales have picked up the last month

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

* PdT – WRAPS still have money and are asking for a 1yr extension. They are looking to hold an annual meeting with a keynote speaker, four field days, and lake reports.
* CRWA – Talking about applying for 1W1P and looking to upgrade the website.
* Soil Health Team is meeting March 9th at Morris with a speaker.
* Working with NRCS & FSA on saturated buffers. We did a mailing and sent 11 letters and have 5 responded with interest in how it works and to see if they are eligible. FSA will cost share 50% of the installation cost not to exceed $3 per foot. The Soil & Water can then cost share the remaining 50% so that 100% would be cost shared.
* Water Planning on sealing wells is 50% not to exceed $300.
* AgBMP Loans request for funds. We have $82,612 available but may get additional funds in March.
* 1W1P Update: Chippewa and Upper Minnesota may both be applying. We only have 5% in the Upper Minnesota and may want to opt out of the planning. We are going to invite Jason Beckler from BWSR to call in during the next meeting to answer so of the questions we have about this.

**County Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

County will be beginning the renovation of the basement of the Courthouse. There will be new offices constructed in the large meeting room in the basement. Also, there is an 80-acre parcel of land that is for rent. They have received 5 bids and these contracts are for 3 years.

**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 March 11, 2020 at 8:00 am.

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