##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE January 14, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held in the FSA Building Conference Room, Benson Minnesota January14, 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 Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve the Secretary Report and the Agenda with the addition of two grants to close out.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**Soil Health Field:** Still looking for the right field for our needs.

**New Business:**

**Capital Thresh Hold:** Under recommendation from the State, we were advised to raise our limit from $1,000. They recommend anything up to $5000.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve raising the thresh hold from $1,000 to $5,000.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Official Financial Institution:** We will be keeping our accounts at State Bank of Danvers in Benson, MN

**Motion was made** **by Ahrndt seconded by Weimerskirch to approve the State Bank of Danvers as our official financial institution.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Official Newspaper:** We put all notices and articles in all 3 newspapers in Swift County – Swift County Monitor, Appleton Press, and Kerkhoven Banner.

**Motion was made** **by Ahrndt seconded by Olson to use all 3 newspapers in the County as our official newspapers**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**CRWP:** We need do designate the representative to attend these meetings. It was decided that Weimerskirch will be the representative with Gronseth being the alternate representative.

**Motion was made** **by Ahrndt seconded by Olson to approve having Weimerskirch as representative and Gronseth as alternate.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**PdT:** We need do designate the representative to attend these meetings. It was decided that Schlieman will be the representative with Olson being the alternate representative.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Ahrndt to approve having Schlieman representative and Olson as alternate.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**WCTSA:** We need do designate the representative to attend these meetings. It was decided that Gronseth will be the representative withWeimerskirch being the alternate representative.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve having Gronseth representative and Weimerskirch as alternate.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

Board meetings will be held the second Thursday of the month beginning at 8:00 am.

**2021 Drill Rental Agreement Form & Rates:** We reviewed the rental agreement and rates they will be left as they were. After reviewing the agreement, it was a little to lengthy and are trying to make it fit on one sheet of paper to make it easier to get signed by each producer using the drill. Also, there was discussion about the rate charged for the cover crops. We will not charge the acreage charge for the first 30 acres and half the charge for anything over the 30 acres. This is only for cover crops being seeded with our drills. The mobilization rate will stay the same.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Weimerskirch to leave the rates the same, make agreement one page, and no acreage charge for first 30 acres and half rate for anything over 30 acres for cover crops only.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**2021 Cost Share Policy:** No changes were made to the policy.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to combine into one policy.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**2021 Annual Report:** Was passed out for all to look at. There was a lot of pictures include in this report. Looks very good.

**2020 Audit Letter:** We need to sign and return the bid letter to Peterson. The bid is for $2925 to do the 2020 audit as required by BWSR.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the bid for $2925 for the audit.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**MASWCD Dues**: Dues this year are $3091.25 for the State Association.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve paying the dues of $3091.25.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Personal Policy Handbook:** The changes were made in the handbook to add the cell phone stipend to the policy. The change in the sick leave after the 800 hours to be paid at the end of each month.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to approve the changes in the Personal Policy Handbook for the cell phone stipend and the payout of the hours over 800 in sick leave.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Pen Order:** We are almost out of the pens that we have with our name and logo. We have found a new style that we would like to try this time. At this time, we would order 250 pens.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Olson to order the new pens.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Conference Room TV:** Discussed purchasing a tv that would be mounted in the conference room for doing presentations to landowners and for trainings for staff in the building. We can not go to live trainings and this would make it easier for all to see instead of a small screen on a laptop. We talked to the property owner and she is ok with it since we will be paying for the entire thing. The cost of this would be paid by a grant.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by Gronseth to purchase a tv and mount it in the conference room for education of staff and landowners.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**2019 & 2019 Local Capacity Grants:** We have spent the grants and can now close them out with the signing of the final financial report. Funds were spent for staff time, equipment, and education.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve closing out the 2019 Buffer Grant & 2019 Local Capacity grant.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt: None**

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman:**

* CSP – 2 payments left to do.
* EQIP – 17 applications for 2021. They are going to take data from local work group for the questions used for ranking the applications.
* Covid – No changes will be made until mid-January. Hope to go to Phase 1 then.
* Terry Crosby is acting Chief and Tom Vilsack is new Secretary of Ag.

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Did a couple site visits to get engineering plans started.
* 17 Sales and one planting for the tree program

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

* PdT – WRAPS revising potential annual meeting.
* CRWA – TAC meeting today. MPCA Public Participation Plan has been submitted. Working on creating workplan. Discussed 1W1P next step.
* Soil Health Team is trying to do a case study booklet.
* Working with NRCS & FSA on saturated buffers. We are doing a mailing to 12 landowners and fact sheet to see if there is any interest in the practice. The whole program is in just the planning phase so we will look at it once some of the questions are answered.

**County Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

Feb 15th is the deadline to apply for funds for business from Covid money. A committee will be set up to look at the applications. There is a possible $2,00 - $7,000 per business.

**Financial Reports:**

Bill for TSA came in right before the meeting for $1177.98 for engineering of plans for several projects

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve paying this bill and have it on next month’s expenses.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**

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 February 11, 2020 at 8:00 am.

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