##

**SWIFT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# MINUTES FROM THE July 15, 2021 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Swift County SWCD was held at Ambush Park, Benson Minnesota July 15, 2021.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

 President – Dale Schlieman

Vice President – Mark Weimerskirch

Secretary – Carl Ahrndt

Treasurer – Orvin Gronseth

 P & I – Scott Olson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sheri Gades SWCD, Andy Albertsen SWCD, Dalton Herrboldt SWCD, Ed Pederson County Commissioner, Lynda Ponting BWSR, and Kelsey Baker Swift County Administrator.

 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.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Old Business:**

**WCA Discussion:** Lynda Ponting from BWSR was present to discuss the option of the Swift SWCD taking over WCA. This gave the Board the opportunity to ask questions about the position. It was decided by the Board not to pursue taking the position over.

**2021 Outstanding Conservationist:** After discussion of what candidates we could come up with, it was decided to ask Messenbrink Farms to be our Outstanding Conservationist for this year. They farm in Fairfield Township. The last year they have done a lot of improvements in their farming practices.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by** **Olson to approve having Messenbrink Farms as our Outstanding Conservationist for 2021.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Legislative Update:** Andy handed out a bulletin that BWSR released about what was happening.

**Area 2 Meeting:** Andy gave a report from the Area 2 meeting that was held in Willmar. Rick Reimer from the Kandiyohi SWCD is retiring on July 22. We had three people in attendance. TSA re-upped the JP agreements. There is now a person who is training to be able to sign off on projects. The next Area 2 meeting will be held at the Rosholt Farm by Westport and Swift County will be hosting.

**New Business:**

**Observation Well Contract:** The DNR has the agreement ready to be signed again this year. We have 28 wells that will need to be read each month. They will be paying us $5280 again this year.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve signing the agreement with the DNR to read 28 wells for $5280.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Swift County Fair**: The Swift County Fair will be held August 18 – 22. We have different options as to the size of booth we would like. In the past we have always had a 15ft booth. We put the Outstanding Conservationist information on display as well as information about practices and pictures of projects we have completed. This year we will give away three gift certificates for trees instead of a live tree. These certificates are good for one bundle of bare root trees next spring or 4 potted one-gallon trees.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by** **Ahrndt to approve having a 15ft booth at the fair and giving the gift certificates for trees.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Pheasants Forever Local Partners Agreement:** Gemma brought the local agreement to have the Board sign. The agreement states that we will pay the match of $3250 with PF.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by** **Ahrndt** **to approve signing the agreement with Pheasants Forever for the local match of $3250.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Juneteenth Holiday:** Currently we have 12 paid holidays. It was discussed that since now Juneteenth is a Federal holiday, do we add it to our policy handbook? We are tabling this until next month to see what other offices are doing.

**State & Local Funding Discussion:** We were asked our option about funding such as levy authority, or capacity money coming from general fund and not Clean Water Funding. There are several options, but we would like to see levy authority, but only use if County didn’t fund us or Local Capacity Grants were to go away.

**Proposed 2022 Budget:** The proposed 2022 budget was passed out and reviewed.

**Supervisor Per Diem:** Previously the per diem was $75 per day. It has been increased to up to $125 per day. We can leave it or raise it to someplace in the middle if we would like.

**Motion was made** **by Gronseth seconded by Weimerskirch** **to approve raising the per diem rate to $125 per day.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Gomer Cost Share Contract:**

This is for a rain garden has been completed and we are just waiting for the copies of the paid bills and for them to pay the SWCD for work done. The total cost of this project is $2,100 and we be cost sharing 75% of this cost which is $1,571.53 with funds coming from 2021 Local Capacity Grant. This is located at 404 Meadow Ln, Torning Sec. 6. We are asking for Andy to have the authority to sign off on the voucher and to pay them when they submit the paperwork. Otherwise they must wait another month for payment.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by Ahrndt to approve the Gomer Rain Garden Cost Share Contract #2021-02 payment for $1,571.53 and have Andy sign the voucher for payment.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Charter Communication Auto Pay:** This is another monthly bill that comes in and is due before our Board meetings. To avoid any late charges, we would like to set up this bill on auto pay.

**Motion was made** **by Olson seconded by** **Weimerskirch to approve setting up auto pay for Charter Communications.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**Rain Monitor:** Norma Wojtalewicz has stated that she is retiring from being a rain monitor for us. She has been one for many years for the District. We think we should send a thank you and a gift card as a thank you for many years of service for the District.

**Motion was made** **by Weimerskirch seconded by** **Olson to approve sending a thank you and gift card to Norma.**

**Affirmative: All Motion carried**.

**NRCS – Melanie Dickman &Thomas Tjepkes:**

* CSP renewals have four that made the cut
* RCPP applications – have 2 that ranking needs to be done by next week
* Farm Fest – Thomas and Rick will be working the booth

**District Technician – Dalton Herrboldt:**

* Doing observation wells. Most are down a foot or so, on is 27ft down and another is down 23ft.
* Drills are done for the CRP plantings, but couple are using for other planting. Have about 489 acres planted with the drills this spring.
* RIM and Cost Share checks are being done.

**Pheasants Forever – Gemma Kleinschmidt:**

* CRP deadline for general is done and continuous deadline is August 6. Working on contracts.
* WIA signup ended in May. We had one renewal and there are three WIA in the County.
* Emergency haying will have no reduction in payments if done after August 1.

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

* CRWA – JPB meeting tomorrow at City Hall. 1W1P was submitted and should know if accepted in August.
* Pomme de Terre – Soil Team Field Day in September. Received a one-year extension on grant. Annual meeting will be in November.
* Saturated buffer – Four site reviews performed.
* MAWQCP – Wentzel and Messenbrink are certified and waiting on Wilts.
* Upper MN – 1W1P was submitted and will find out in August if accepted.
* Drone fights for Sonteng, Messenbrink, and Lissick projects was done.
* Buffers – Started doing reviews of parcels, have 19 on site visits to do.
* Nature Day – Set for September 17th.

**County Commissioner – Ed Pederson:**

* County is working on the WCA position.
* Gave update on Courthouse remodel.

**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 August 12, 2021 at 8:00 am.

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