



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(USDA/SWCD Conference Room)
April 18, 2024
1:00 P.M.

Supervisors Present:

Linda Hanson, Chair
Kevin Wilde, Secretary
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer
Ricky Peterson, PR

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Donna Christianson, District Coordinator
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Erika Olson, Resource Technician
Logan Handyside, Engineer
Justin Muller, Engineering Technician
Kyle Dahlquist, Conservation Corps Apprentice
Nico Bennett, NRCS

Absent:

ADawn Nelson, Vice Chair

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Conference Room. Linda Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Linda completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff.

Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the revised agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Kevin made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the March 21, 2024, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Donna reviewed the March 2024 Financial Report. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the March 2024 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

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Kevin made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve payment of the following bills:

Area 1 MASWCD	\$ 200.00
Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Tim Eggebraaten	\$ 600.00
Prairie Farms	\$ 41.77
Cater Ostby	\$ 50.00
Lenore Vogel	\$ 50.00
Chase Card Service (old card)	\$ 3,388.65
Chase Card Service (new card)	\$ 2,611.20
Lakes Country Service Coop	\$ 467.74
Marco	\$ 91.88
Minnesota IT Services	\$ 52.39
Verizon	\$ 95.68
The Times	\$ 129.25
NACD	\$ 775.00
Pennington County Auditor	\$ 448.65
Legacy Event Center	\$ 991.22
Evergreen Catering	\$ 2,882.67

All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to purchase a 5.05% 7-month CD at Border Bank in the amount of \$100,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.

An amendment to the current Non-structural Land Management Policy was discussed. Peter reviewed changes and some main points of the document with the Board:

- Cover crops reduced-kill/no-kill
 - Changing 80 acres/year – 160 acres/year
 - Changing 240 acres/3 years – 480 acres/3 years
- Prioritization of practices - longer duration practices would receive higher priority
- Payment rates follow NRCS EQIP rates
- Trees are at 75% cost-share rate and follow NRCS practice standards
- Maximum of \$50,000 per contract
- Practices will be ranked and scored according to priority area and practice points
- Batching period will be established in the future

Donna stated two students submitted paragraphs to attend Long Lake Conservation Camp. The Board read the paragraphs and agreed both students should attend the camp this summer.

Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to purchase a Trimble R12i unit and survey equipment for the North Pod at a cost of \$41,630.49. All in favor, motion carried.

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Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to hold two well clinics each year (one in March and one in August) with the District paying for part of the cost. All in favor, motion carried. The first clinic for 2024 will be held May 20th – 23rd, at a cost of \$30 per test. The District will pay for half of the cost of the test (\$15).

NRCS asked District staff to write 15 CRP plans and help with 50 status reviews for CRP. The staff will receive training and NRCS will pay the District \$150/status review and \$450/plan. Usually, a contribution agreement is signed for work the District performs for NRCS, but for this request only an invoice is needed for payment. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky approving staff to write CRP plans and perform status reviews for NRCS. All in favor, motion carried.**

Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the following percent-based Thief River Watershed Based Implementation Clean Water Fund Grade Stabilization Cost-share contract for five SWI's:

PSWCD_TRWBIF_01 \$13,125.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to hire Marisa Newton as the new Outreach Coordinator starting May 6, 2024, at a regular full-time status rate pay of \$20.00 per hour. All in favor, motion carried.

Employee reports were available for review.

The NRCS report was available for review.

Grant Nelson's report was available for review.

The Board chose the sun peeking through the clouds as April's photo contest winner. The picture was taken by Jim Hustad.

Correspondence/Other:

- Supervisor election information was reviewed.
- Greg stated the banquet was a great success. He enjoyed this year's entertainer as he was so interactive with the audience. He also enjoyed seeing the poster contest teachers attending the event.

The next Board meeting will be held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room on May 16th at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be subject to call.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Kevin Wilde, Secretary