



**PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING  
(Held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room and  
Via Zoom Video Conferencing)**

**May 18, 2023**

**Called to Order at 10:34 A.M.**

**Supervisors Present:**

Linda Hanson, Chair

Kevin Wilde, Secretary

Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer

**Staff Present:**

Peter Nelson, District Manager

Barb Molskness, District Coordinator

Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist

Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician

Erika Olson, Resource Technician

Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator

Justin Muller, Engineering Technician

Micah Ranum, Farm Bill Biologist

**Guest:**

Grant Nelson, Ag Services Coordinator

**Absent:**

ADawn Nelson, Vice-Chair

Ricky Peterson, PR

Logan Handyside, Engineer

Nico Bennett, NRCS

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Linda Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Linda completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and welcomed guests.

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

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the April 20, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

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Barb reviewed the April 2023 Financial Report. **Kevin made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the April 2023 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

Barb reviewed current interest rates for the CD that expired on 5/12/23 at Northern Bank. After some discussion, **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to cash in expired CD #5743 at Northern Bank and purchase a new 4.60% 12-month CD Special at Border Bank in the amount of \$50,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

<b>Sjoberg's</b>	<b>\$ 66.95</b>
<b>Marco Technologies</b>	<b>\$ 126.05</b>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>\$ 168.48</b>
<b>Universal Screenprint</b>	<b>\$ 1,012.50</b>
<b>The Times</b>	<b>\$ 1,348.55</b>
<b>Chase Card Services</b>	<b>\$ 2,591.53</b>
<b>MN IT Services</b>	<b>\$ 59.34</b>
<b>Schumacher's</b>	<b>\$ 16,791.25</b>
<b>Roseau SWCD</b>	<b>\$ 1,115.10</b>
<b>Lakes Country Service Co-op</b>	<b>\$ 445.46</b>
<b>E Polk SWCD</b>	<b>\$ 42.25</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Kevin made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the following percent-based State Cost-Share contract for two SWI's:**

**FY22-08 \$5,250.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the following percent-based Soil Health Cost-share contract for the installation of a windbreak/shelterbelt that includes mulching/weed barrier fabric and tree protection tubes:**

**SHCS\_23\_05 \$1,924.80**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Kevin made a motion, seconded by Greg to amend Pennington CWMA Weed Management Cost-share contract WMFY22\_01 from \$400.00 to \$500.00 due to increased cost of clearing additional buckthorn. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based Pennington CWMA Weed Management Cost-share contract for buckthorn removal:**

**WMFY22\_01 \$500.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

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There had been some discussion about changing the wording in the Amended Joint Powers Agreement for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area from unanimous to majority. Instead of changing the wording, bylaws were developed that would allow changes to be made by a simple majority vote. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin approving the amended JPA for the RRVCSA. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Board was asked for resolution ideas for this year. If the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) State Aid is approved by the legislature, the Board discussed a resolution that allows districts to take out a loan for major capital/purchases/improvements. This topic and any other resolution ideas will be discussed again at the June Board meeting.

Donna gave a short report about the plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Project Tour. The tour is planned for Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, starting in Oakland Park at 4 p.m. and ending back at Oakland Park at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will follow. The tour will encompass streambank stabilization projects, tree plantings, the CD 96 Outlet Project, side water inlet and buffer installations, and an EQIP prescribed grazing plan implemented by one of our Outstanding Conservationists. Triangle Coach (bus) and Smoke on Wheels (caterer) have been contacted and will be sending quotes for the services shortly. A “Save the Date” invitation, attendee list, and brochures are being worked on.

Larissa talked about plans to have a float in the fair parade this year. The theme will be, “Breaking Wind Since 1948.”

Employee reports were available for review.

The NRCS report was available for review.

The Farm Bill Biologist report was available for review.

Grant Nelson’s report was available for review.

One picture was submitted for May’s photo contest. The Board chose the foggy sunrise photo submitted by Kendra Jo Hunt as the winner.

Correspondence – A letter from MASWCD regarding the Arbor Day tree annuity payment.

The next Board meeting will be held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

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

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The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

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Kevin Wilde, Secretary