



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

**November 16, 2023**

**9:00 A.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  
Justin Muller, Engineering Technician  
Nico Bennett, NRCS  
Micah Ranum, Farm Bill Biologist  
Kyle Dahlquist, Conservation Corps Apprentice

**Absent:**

ADawn Nelson, Vice Chair  
Logan Handyside, Engineer  
Grant Nelson, Ag Services Coordinator

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Linda Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Linda completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and welcomed guests.

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

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the October 19, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

Donna reviewed the October 2023 Financial Report. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the October 2023 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

<b>Sjoberg's</b>	<b>\$ 66.95</b>
<b>TRF Times</b>	<b>\$ 76.50</b>
<b>Area 1 MASWCD</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>
<b>Lakes Country Service Coop</b>	<b>\$ 467.74</b>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>\$ 95.68</b>
<b>Peterson Company LTD</b>	<b>\$ 3,675.00</b>
<b>Chase Card Services</b>	<b>\$ 2,410.14</b>
<b>TRF Times</b>	<b>\$ 374.50</b>
<b>Minnesota IT Services</b>	<b>\$ 59.82</b>
<b>Frontier Precision</b>	<b>\$ 16,040.00</b>
<b>Thoele Photography</b>	<b>\$ 487.69</b>
<b>Hensch's Septic Service</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the MN Department of Ag's 2024 Nursery Stock Dealer Certificate Renewal invoice in the amount of \$350.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

The payment on State Cost-share contract FY22-08 was tabled.

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based State Cost-share contract for a well sealing:**

**FY22-11 \$375.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Kevin made a motion, seconded by Greg to pay the following percent-based State Cost-share contract for a well sealing:**

**FY23\_03 \$275.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to pay the following percent-based Riparian Aid contract for a side water inlet:**

**RA23\_01 \$2,625.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

The amendment on State Cost-share contract FY22-08 was tabled.

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to promote Donna from Assistant District Coordinator to District Coordinator and increase her wage by \$2.00 per hour effective pay period 23. All in favor, motion carried.**

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**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin approving Peter or Larissa to attend the upcoming SSTS soils training in Bemidji at a cost of \$305.00 and for both Peter and Larissa to attend the on-line LGU focused 4-hour continuing education SSTS training course at a cost of \$145.00 each. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to purchase a 2023 aluminum trailer with a ramp at a cost of \$2,849.00 and a 2023 Polaris ATV Sportsman 4-wheeler at a cost of \$7,899.00 for the North Pod engineering staff. All in favor, motion carried.**

Peter explained there was an opportunity to extend Kyle's Conservation Corps position for another 3, 6, or 11 months. Kyle is open to extending his position. The Board asked Peter to apply to have Kyle's internship extended.

The MASWCD Convention will be held on December 11-13. Peter, Erika, Larissa, and possibly Bryanna will be attending. Greg Homme our Outstanding Conservationist will also be attending.

The 2024 Planning Meeting was discussed. The meeting was scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. – noon with lunch after. Peter will check on the availability of the Joint Operation meeting room. Some ideas for the meeting included:

1. Soil Health Funds
  - a. How these funds could best suit our part of the state
  - b. Nico, Luther, ARC talking about NRCS Federal RCPP dollars
  - c. Discussion regarding ways these dollars could complement one another
  - d. Hire 1-2 shared soil health staff to cover multiple districts
  - e. Unanswered question – amount of dollars each District will receive
2. North Pod Staffing
  - a. Hiring of another technician
  - b. Contractor availability issues
3. Space Needs
  - a. Building
  - b. Funding

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to purchase \$50.00 Hugo's gift cards for the rainfall monitors. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Personnel Committee will meet at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

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Four pictures were submitted for November's photo contest. The Board chose the photo "A Frosty Day At Elk's Park" submitted by Debra Hoversten as the winner.

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.

Correspondence:

- Thank you note from Barb Molskness
- Email from ADawn about changing the time of the Board meetings to 1 p.m. starting in January and running through April of 2024. The Board was open to this.

The next Board meeting will be held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room on December 21st, at 9:00 a.m. Legislators will be invited to attend.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

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Kevin Wilde, Secretary