



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

June 15, 2023

9:00 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

Linda Hanson, Chair
ADawn Nelson, Vice-Chair
Kevin Wilde, Secretary
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer
Ricky Peterson, PR (via Zoom)

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Logan Handyside, Engineer
Justin Muller, Engineering Technician
Nico Bennett, NRCS
Micah Ranum, Farm Bill Biologist

Guest:

Grant Nelson, Ag Services Coordinator
Matt Fischer, BWSR

Absent:

Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Erika Olson, Resource Technician

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Linda Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Linda completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and welcomed guests.

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

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ADawn made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the May 18, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Barb reviewed the final financial report for this year's banquet. Total expenses came to \$6,381.31.

Barb reviewed current interest rates for the CD that expires on 7/6/23 at Border Bank. After some discussion, **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to cash in the expiring CD #5636 at Border Bank and purchase a new 5.25% 12-month CD Special at Border Bank in the amount of \$50,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Marco Technologies	\$ 171.10
Becker SWCD	\$ 983.83
Verizon	\$ 95.68
Chase Card Services	\$ 1,626.04
Minnesota IT Services	\$ 61.87
Agassiz Seed	\$ 5,500.00
Dale Anderson	\$ 110.00
Lakes Country Service Co-op	\$ 890.95
Hubert's	\$ 920.72

All in favor, motion carried.

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

FY22-09 \$350.00

All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based Red Lake River Watershed Based Implementation Funding Cost-share contract for a streambank and shoreline protection project:

FY22_RLRWBIF_04_PSWCD \$12,474.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay a partial payment on the following percent-based Clean Water Fund contract for the CD96 Phase 2 Project:

FY21CWF-01 \$179,274.50

All in favor, motion carried.

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ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the Clean Water Grant Fund Work Order between the Pennington SWCD and the Conservation Corps for a crew to remove buckthorn from the Pennington County Sportmen's Club. All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the \$5,612.83 Lakes Country Service Cooperative Agreement starting July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the \$6,500.00 Local Partners Agreement between Pennington SWCD and Pheasants Forever, Inc., starting July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, splitting the local contribution cost equally between Pennington, West Polk, and Marshall SWCDs. All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the SWCD Authority to Incur Debt Resolution that allows districts to take out a loan for capital expenditures such as buildings. All in favor, motion carried. The resolution will now be submitted and voted on during the Area 1 SWCD meeting in Mahanomen.

Barb submitted a letter informing the Board of her anticipated retirement date of October 20, 2023. She told the Board she is willing to do a short-term Phased Retirement Option Agreement through PERA. This would allow her to work limited hours with her replacement during the transition. The Board tabled this item until the July 20th Board meeting.

Matt Fischer from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) joined the meeting via Zoom. He summarized some of the 2023 legislative session outcomes:

BWSR FY24-25

- One-time funding increase was made to the County Natural Resources Block Grant.
- New one-time general funding for soil health activities and climate initiatives.
- New legislation broadened the State Cost-share Program.
- Watershed-Based Implementation Funding almost doubled.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) state incentives were funded at \$3 million dollars.
- Over \$155 million in Clean Water Funds will be awarded to BWSR with nearly 90% going to local governments for conservation use.

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SWCD State Aid

- Starting this year, Soil and Water Conservation District State Aid will come directly from the Minnesota Department of Revenue to SWCD's through the 2023 Tax Omnibus Bill.
- State Aid funding levels are \$15 million for FY23 & FY24 and \$12 million per year in FY25 and after.
- Payments will be made in two installments – one in July and one in December.
- To account for the use of these funds, each SWCD Board will need to establish an annual resolution on how the funds are to be spent and post the resolution to their website. Workplans and E-Link reporting will no longer be required.

Donna gave an update about the plans for the 75th Anniversary Summer Project Tour. The tour is planned for Tuesday, July 25th, starting in Oakland Park at 4 p.m. and ending back at Oakland Park at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will follow. The tour invitations have been mailed out with an RSVP date of July 12th. The tour brochure is being worked on. Quotes have been received from Triangle Coach (bus - \$900.00), Smoke on Wheels (caterer - \$15.50/plate), and Cookies by Kat (dessert - \$12.00/dozen). Total estimated cost for the tour is \$2,079.00.

Larissa and Donna talked about plans for the fair booth and float. This year we have reserved two booth areas as we will be setting up a soil tunnel for kids and adults to walk through. We plan to give out soil profile bookmarks, stickers, and soil activity booklets to kids. Wildflower packets will also be given away. Donna asked about ordering pens. Details are still being worked out for the float. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg approving a \$5,000.00 budget for the summer tour, parade, and fair booth. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Well Water Testing Clinic is being scheduled for the last week of August. The cost is \$25 per sample, testing for Nitrates, E. coli, and Total Coliform Bacteria. The District has previously provided cost-share. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to charge \$10 per water sample with the District paying the remaining \$15 during the 2023 Well Water Testing Clinic. All in favor, motion carried.**

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to purchase 100 pocket calendars from Myron for 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

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.

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Three pictures were submitted for June's photo contest. The Board chose the lightening photo submitted by Shayla Langlie as the winner.

The next Board meeting will be held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room on July 20th at 9:00 a.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Kevin Wilde, Secretary