



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

**July 21, 2022
9:00 A.M.**

Supervisors Present:

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

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Nico Bennett, NRCS
Zoey Magner, Conservation Corps Apprentice

Guest:

Grant Nelson, Ag Services Coordinator
Logan Handyside, TSA Engineer
Pat Gerszewski, Western Professional Building

Absent:

ADawn Nelson, Secretary

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Conference Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Ricky Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ricky completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and welcomed guests.

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

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the June 16, 2022, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Pat Gerszewski, owner of the Western Professional Building, informed the Board he was interested in adding space to the west side of his current building for SWCD rental. He presented four different architectural drawings with space from 2,900 – 3,300 square feet. He estimated the rental cost would be \$20 - \$25 per square foot and would like to have a 10-15-year lease. He stated an offsite garage could be built for vehicles and the tree cooler. There was the possibility of building a new building, but the rental cost would be significantly higher. The preferred option is to add on to the Western Professional Building. The Board reviewed the drawings and discussion took place. Two of the four options shown would work well for office needs. Peter will work with Pat more extensively on cost and design. Pat will have more in-depth details for the next Board meeting in August.

Barb reviewed the June 2022 Financial Report. She also reported the IRS standard mileage rate was increased to \$0.625 per mile for reimbursement. **Kevin made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the June 2022 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Marco Technologies	\$ 54.65
Evergreen Catering	\$ 13.84
Agassiz Seed	\$ 5,500.00
Tree Pro	\$ 2,680.00
Office of MN IT Services	\$ 63.29
Houston Engineering	\$ 3,752.75
Conservation Corps MN & IA	\$ 1,250.00
Chase Card Services	\$ 1,183.07
Verizon	\$ 75.52
RMB Lab	\$ 1,453.00
Houston Engineering	\$ 4,025.35
Hensch's Septic Services	\$ 650.00
Marco Technologies	\$ 52.75
Conservation Corps MN & IA	\$ 2,500.00
Wade Joppru	\$ 729.00
Times	\$ 678.23
Braun Intertec	\$ 5,021.25
Office of MN IT Services	\$ 62.48

All in favor, motion carried.

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

FY22-02 \$250.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the following percent-based SSTS Upgrade Grant contract for a mound system:

SSTS FY20-03 \$11,340.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to renew the \$6,500.00 Local Partners Agreement with Pheasants Forever starting July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, splitting the cost between Pennington, West Polk, and Marshall SWCDs. All in favor, motion carried.

Kevin made a motion, seconded by Linda to renew the lease with DNT Holdings, LLC for the period August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, at \$685.29 per month for office space plus and additional \$150.00 per month for utilities and lot rent associated with the garage. All in favor, motion carried.

Peter reported on the conservation accomplishments of two cooperators chosen as nominees for this year's Outstanding Conservationist Award. Townships include Numedal, Norden, Bray, Sanders, Polk Centre, Black River, and River Falls. After some discussion, **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to contact Terry Hunt to accept the 2022 Outstanding Conservationist Award. All in favor, motion carried.**

Donna reported there was a total of 10 nominees for the 2022 Rural Beautification Award from the townships of Cloverleaf, Highland, Kratka, Smiley, Wyandotte, Goodridge, Reiner, Star, Hickory, Deer Park, and Mayfield. Three of the nominees accepted the candidacy: Ardis Race, Wade and Marissa Benson & Faye Auchenpaugh, and Dennis and Cathy Kainz. Judging will take place on July 28th.

Two photos were submitted for the July photo contest. The first photo was submitted by Gregg Knutsen of a trumpeter swan family. The second photo was submitted by Nicole Hilgeman of an ominous looking cloud. Greg Hilgeman stated he would abstain from voting as Nicole was related to him. After some discussion, the Board voted for Gregg Knutsen's photo as the winner. Greg will receive a gift card and his photo will be entered in a grand prize drawing held in October.

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Donna presented a few different options for 75th anniversary travel tumblers. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to order 250 of the Sherpa Vacuum Travel Tumblers and 100 of the Sherpa Slim Vacuum Tumblers with our anniversary logo from 4imprint. All in favor, motion carried.**

TSA Update:

- The TSA Board met on June 28th and agreed to have the northern pod Engineer and two Engineering Technicians hired as TSA employees until the end of the year. The position announcement for the second Engineering Technician was just advertised.
- On January 1, 2023, the Pennington SWCD will hire the northern pod TSA engineering staff as SWCD employees.
- There was discussion about transferring Jeff Haverlund's employment and how he should charge his time. Jeff currently starts and ends his time at Perham. Since Perham is outside of the northern pod area, some SWCDs believe he shouldn't charge time outside the northern work area.
- The TSA is looking to change their fiscal year to match the SWCD's year.
- Administration dollars will go directly to Pennington and billing rates will be charged for engineering time.
- Equipment needs will come out of the TSA fund balance.

Agreements and details need to be worked out yet, but things are progressing.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Kevin to purchase a TV screen for office use of up to \$1,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

No correspondence.

Other:

- Two interviews for the Resource Technician position are being scheduled for the week of July 25th.
- The new pickup is here! The dealer will call when it is ready to be picked up.

The next Board meeting will be held on August 18th, at 9:00 a.m., in the USDA/SWCD Conference Room.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

A Dawn Nelson, Secretary