



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

March 16, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

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

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Erika Olson, Resource Technician (via Zoom)
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Nico Bennett, NRCS

Guest:

Grant Nelson, Ag Services Coordinator
Seth Nelson, Pennington County Commissioner

Absent:

Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Logan Handyside, Engineer
Justin Muller, Engineering Technician
Micah Ranum, Farm Bill Biologist

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Linda Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Linda completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and welcomed guests.

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

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the February 16, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

March 16, 2023, Minutes

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

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

Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Marco Technologies	\$ 98.98
Verizon	\$ 75.52
The Times	\$ 4,746.64
Chase Card Services	\$ 2,958.65
School Specialty	\$ 297.11
Lakes Country Service Coop	\$ 445.46
Lakes Country Service Coop	\$ 106.00
Office of MN IT Services	\$ 61.40

All in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed a comparison of interest rates financial institutions are currently paying. After some discussion **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to purchase a \$100,000.00 CD at Border Bank at a rate of 4.05% for 7 months; purchase a \$200,000.00 CD at Northern State Bank at a rate of 4.35% for 14 months; let the CD ending in #5617 at Border Bank expire on 4/9/23; and deposit the funds from the expired CD into the investor savings account at Northern State Bank. All in favor, motion carried.**

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Ricky 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_01 \$ 4,607.40

All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg 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_02 \$ 4,685.25

All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn 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_03 \$ 2,866.95

All in favor, motion carried.

March 16, 2023, Minutes

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg 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_04 \$ 1,752.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Bryanna joined the meeting by phone to talk about four items she would like to purchase for public awareness of AIS. **Ricky made a motion, seconded by ADawn to purchase the following AIS items:**

Linder Angling Buzz \$ 400.00

Curt Quesnell (NCOR) \$ 3,000.00

Sign Posts \$ 400.00

License Holders \$2,189.00

All in favor, motion carried.

The Annual Plan for 2023 was reviewed. The Board requested one change to #7 on page 14 of the plan. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the 2023 Annual Plan with the requested amendment. All in favor, motion carried.**

The 2023 Revised Budget was reviewed. A typing error on the CWF 2021 CD96 Outlet Phase 2 line on the expenditures side of the budget needs to be corrected to \$446,837. This update also changes the Total Project Expense – State line to \$616,797 and the Capital Outlay line to \$199,505. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the 2023 Revised Budget with the corrections. All in favor, motion carried.**

Seth Nelson, Pennington County Commissioner, joined the meeting to discuss the District's space needs. Peter informed him of the unprecedented growth the District has seen recently. Commissioner Nelson stated there aren't a lot of building options currently available but that the meeting today was a great way to get the conversation started. The Commissioner was given a tour of the District's current office area to get a better idea of the space required. Commissioner Nelson will discuss the District's office space needs with the County Building Committee.

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn authorizing the District Manger to sign the Clean Water Grant Fund Work Order Between the Pennington SWCD and the Conservation Corps for a summer intern. All in favor, motion carried.

Peter informed the Board he wanted to have a conversation with the North Pod Districts before getting authorization to post a job opening for an Engineering Technician/Engineer in Training position.

March 16, 2023, Minutes

Barb reviewed the preliminary expenses for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Banquet. Invitations will be mailed out to approximately 70 guests that includes two complementary dinner tickets. The banquet will also be advertised in the Northern Watch. The Board wished to keep the cost of tickets for paying customers at \$15. Three different meal options were presented to the Board. After some discussion, they decided on beef. A smaller kid's portion will also be available. The estimated cost for the banquet is \$6,563. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Ricky approving the expenses for the 75th Anniversary Banquet. All in favor, motion carried.**

Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin approving up to \$100 to purchase rain gauges to be given away as drawing prizes for the Home, Sport & Family Show. All in favor, motion carried.

Donna requested authorization from the Board to reserve two fair booth spaces this year as the staff would like to erect a soil tunnel for kids to walk through. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin authorizing staff to reserve two fair booth spaces. All in favor, motion carried.**

Six pictures were submitted for March's photo contest. The Board chose the photo of the northern lights submitted by Corie Bregier as the winner.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to purchase a Meeting Owl. All in favor, motion carried.

Employee reports were available for review.

NRCS report was available for review.

Farm Bill Biologist report was available for review.

Grant Nelson's report was available for review.

Correspondence - A picture of Bryanna with Senator Mark Johnson during her leadership visit to Minnesota's State Capital.

The next Board meeting will be held on April 20th at 9:00 a.m. Venue to be determined.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Kevin Wilde, Secretary