



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

**July 20, 2023**

**9:00 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  
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist (via Zoom)  
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician  
Erika Olson, Resource 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

The meeting was held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Linda Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:22 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 Greg to approve the June 15, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

Barb stated the recently purchased CD #5945 had an option to change the interest rate one time during the term. Due to an increase in interest rates, that option was exercised raising the CD rate to 5.25%.

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

<b>Sjoberg's</b>	<b>\$ 66.95</b>
<b>Marco Technologies</b>	<b>\$ 79.81</b>
<b>RMB Labs</b>	<b>\$ 2,674.58</b>
<b>Ed Outreach Co.</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>Thief River Ford</b>	<b>\$ 69.72</b>
<b>Orrin Joppru</b>	<b>\$ 32.01</b>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>\$ 95.68</b>
<b>Chase Card Services</b>	<b>\$ 2,595.14</b>
<b>TRF Times</b>	<b>\$ 11.76</b>
<b>Minnesota IT Services</b>	<b>\$ 60.68</b>
<b>Lakes Country Service Co-op</b>	<b>\$ 467.74</b>
<b>Universal Screenprint</b>	<b>\$ 128.25</b>
<b>Marco Technologies</b>	<b>\$ 103.91</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

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

<b>April Ballard – trailer rent</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>Wade Joppru – tractor rent</b>	<b>\$ 700.00</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to cancel the following percent-based Soil Health Cost-Share contract as the landowner was accepted into the EQIP program:**

**SHCS\_23\_02 \$4,685.25**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to amend the following percent-based Soil Health Cost-Share contract due to a property ownership change:**

**SHCS\_23\_04 \$1,752.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based Soil Health Cost-Share contract:**

**SHCS\_23\_03 \$2,866.95**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

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**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based Soil Health Cost-Share contract:**

**SHCS\_23\_04      \$1,741.50**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based Soil Health Cost-Share contract:**

**SHCS\_23\_05      \$1,903.80**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the following percent-based Subsurface Sewage Treatment System contract for a mound system:**

**SSTS FY23-01    \$16,500.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the following percent-based Subsurface Sewage Treatment System contract for a mound system:**

**SSTS FY23-02    \$13,000.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky authorizing the District Manager to sign the Professional and Technical Services Contract with the State of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of Natural Resources, for the monitoring of seven wells for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at a rate of \$30.00 per well not to exceed \$1,680.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to accept Barb Molskness' retirement date of October 20, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Kevin approving the PERA Phased Retirement Option Agreement for Barb Molskness to work as needed through the job transition period, reducing her hours by at least 25%, not to exceed 1,044 hours per year. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to renew the lease with DNT Holdings LLC for the period August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, at \$735.38 per month for office space plus and additional \$150.00 per month for utilities and lot space associated with the garage. All in favor, motion carried.**

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Peter reported on the conservation accomplishments of four cooperators chosen as nominees for this year's Outstanding Conservationist Award. Townships include North, Silverton, Cloverleaf, Rocksbury, Smiley, Kratka, and Wyandotte. After some discussion, **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to contact Greg Homme to accept the 2023 Outstanding Conservationist Award. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2023 Guidelines on use of the SWCD Aid Payments Minn. Stat. §477A.23, subd. 4(b). All in favor motion carried.**

Donna gave an update 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. Reminder post card have been mailed out. The tour brochure is being developed. Triangle Coach, Smoke on Wheels, and Cookies by Kat have all been confirmed.

Donna reported there was a total of four nominees for the 2023 Rural Beautification Award from the townships of Numedal, Sanders, Bray, Black River, Polk Centre, River Falls, and Norden. Two of the nominees accepted the candidacy: Randall and Jodi Ayers and Gene and Susan Mosbeck. After viewing the properties, Gene and Susan Mosbeck were chosen as the 2023 Rural Beautification Award winners.

Four pictures were submitted for July's photo contest. The Board chose the wheat photo submitted by Cori Bregier 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.

The next Board meeting will be held at the USDA/SWCD Meeting Room on August 17th at 9:00 a.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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Kevin Wilde, Secretary