



**Minutes of the June 20, 2023  
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

**Meeting was called to order at 5:01pm by Mark Wellner.**

**PRESENT**

1. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair
2. Brad Augustin – Secretary
3. Bill Eckstein – Treasurer
4. Rae Runck – PRI
5. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
6. Brian Braun – Brown County Commissioner Liaison

**ABSENT**

1. Craig Fischer – Chair

**AGENDA**

- ◆ Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the agenda.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the May 10, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, the May 2023 Treasurer's Report, and the Bills Report dated May 6, 2023 to June 13, 2023. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to approve the consent agenda items as presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**SWCD STAFF REPORTS**

- ◆ Reviewed the staff reports provided by Krueger, Larson, and Ostermann.

**PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT**

- ◆ Reviewed reports provided by Fore.

**NRCS REPORT**

- ◆ Reviewed report provided by Kjorness.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- ◆ Commissioner Braun gave an update about current activities at Brown County.

**COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS**

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share report. There were no contracts for approval this month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- ◆ **Tree Planter Sale Update:** Krueger advised the tree planter was sold through MinnBid for \$1,185.00 bid and the buyer was here on June 13 to make payment and pick it up.
- ◆ **2023 Legislative Outcomes:** Discussed the 2023 legislative outcomes report provided by MASWCD including the new SWCD Aid funding.
- ◆ **2024 County Budget Request:** Discussed the budget request documents prepared by Krueger. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the 2024 County Budget Request as presented.
  - Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
  - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **DNR Well Agreement:** Discussed information about the annual observation well readings agreement with the DNR. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to authorize District Manager to accept and sign the annual observation well agreement with the DNR.
  - Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
  - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **FY24 Local Partners Agreement:** Discussed the annual Local Partners Agreement request from Pheasants Forever to continue the partnership for a Farm Bill Biologist position in Brown County for fiscal year 2024 which includes the usual local match amount of \$3,250. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the FY24 Local Partners Agreement with Pheasants Forever as presented.
  - Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
  - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Resolution of Support – MN River Mankato:** Reviewed the resolution of support and discussed the option to 'opt out' of the planning participation at a later date. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to approve Resolution 23-02: Resolution To Support a Minnesota River – Mankato Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Project
  - Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
  - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Personnel Committee – District Staffing Vacancy:** Personnel Committee met in June to discuss the staffing vacancy and gave their recommendation to proceed with hiring a District Technician 1 or 2 for the vacancy at the district. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to authorize Personnel Committee to proceed with the hiring process to fill the vacant District Technician position with a level 1 or level 2 job description position and make a hiring recommendation to the Board for approval.
  - Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
  - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
  - ◇ Wellner, Eckstein and Krueger shared information about the Cottonwood-Middle MN Executive Meeting, Policy Committee meeting and Kickoff Events attended on May 12, May 17, and June 1.
  - ◇ Augustin gave a report about the GBERBA Policy meeting he attended on May 19.
  - ◇ Eckstein attended the RCRC meeting in Redwood on June 1 and gave a report.
  - ◇ Krueger gave an update about the Local Work Group meeting held on June 7.
  - ◇ Runck gave a report about the MN River Congress event attended on June 15.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the upcoming meetings/events:
  - ◇ Wednesday, June 21 – MASWCD Area VI Meeting, Gaylord (Eckstein, Runck, Staff)
  - ◇ Tuesday, June 27 – SCTSA Board Meeting, Mankato (Runck)

- ◇ Thursday, July 6 – RCRC Board Meeting, Marshall (Eckstein)
- ◇ Wednesday, July 12 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 4:15pm (All)
- ◇ Personnel Committee Meetings as needed (Eckstein, Wellner, Krueger)

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**Meeting Adjourned – 6:43pm**

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7-12-23  
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