



**Minutes of the March 13, 2024
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by Mark Wellner.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Rae Runck – PRI

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the February 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, the January and February 2024 Treasurer's Reports, the Bills Report dated February 10, 2024 to March 9, 2024, and the LHAA 2024 Membership Dues Invoice for \$30.00. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

SWCD STAFF REPORTS

- ◆ Reviewed the staff reports provided by Krueger, Larson, Botz, Olson and Spence.

PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT

- ◆ No report, position is currently vacant. Manager gave an update on the hiring process.

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Reviewed report provided by Kjorness.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- ◆ Commissioner Braun provided an update on recent activities at the County.

COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS

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

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Grant Updates:** Reviewed the information provided by manager regarding 2023 annual grant reports and final grant reports for the FY21 and FY22 State Cost Share grants.
- ◆ **15-Month CD Renewal:** Discussed renewal of the Certificate of Deposit funds. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to renew funds into an 8-month certificate of deposit with SouthPoint.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Phone System Upgrades:** Discussed the phone system upgrades through Nuvera to a Flex Voice VOIP system that were approved at last month's meeting. Final costs and equipment were reviewed and remain essentially the same as discussed and approved at last month's meeting. Therefore, no further approvals or changes to the prior motion are needed. District Manager will continue moving forward with the phone system changes as discussed today and approved at last month's meeting.
- ◆ **FY23 Soil Health Cost Share Grant Rates:** Discussed cost share rates for the FY23 Soil Health Cost Share grant. When the policy was approved for this grant, it only included cost share rates for years 2022 and 2023. Three options for rates to be used in 2024 and beyond were discussed. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to update cost share rates on the FY23 Soil Health Cost Share Grant to \$45.00 for single species mix and \$60.00 for multiple species mix for all contracts encumbered in 2024 and forward under this grant.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Wellner and Eckstein gave a report about the MASWCD Legislative webinar attended on March 4.
 - ◇ Eckstein attended the RCRCA meeting on March 7 and gave a report.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Friday, March 15 – GBERBA Policy Board Meeting, 1pm, Mankato or Webex (Augustin)
 - ◇ Tuesday, March 19 – SCTSA Board Meeting, 10am, Mankato (Augustin)
 - ◇ Wednesday, March 27 – Area VI Chairs Meeting, 10am, New Ulm (Fischer- main, Augustin- alternate)
 - ◇ Thursday, April 4 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9am, Redwood Falls (Eckstein)
 - ◇ Wednesday, April 10 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 4:15pm (All)
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 5:47pm

Secretary: _____



Date: _____

4-10-24