



**Minutes of the May 8, 2024
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 4:20pm 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 Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the agenda with the addition of 2023 Capacity Grant under new business items.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the April 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, the April 2024 Treasurer's Reports, and the Bills Report dated April 6, 2024 to May 3, 2024. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, 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, new staff started May 7, report will be provided next month.

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Reviewed report provided by Kjorness.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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

COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share report and then presented contracts for approval.
- ◆ CC2024-01, Kevin Braulick, Grade Stabilization and Diversion, North Home 29. Project cost estimate is \$14,250.00 with a 75% cost share amount of \$10,687.50. SCTSA will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY24 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$10,687.50. Motion by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to approve CC2024-01 cost share contract with Kevin Braulick as presented
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ CC2024-02, Charles Moldan, Grassed Waterway, Leavenworth 15. Project cost estimate is \$5,940.00 with a 75% cost share amount of \$4,455.00. SCTSA will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY23 State Cost Share Grant- \$1,582.43 & FY24 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$2,872.57. Motion by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve CC2024-02 cost share contract with Charles Moldan as presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ CC2024-03, Jason Windschitl, Grassed Waterway, Leavenworth 21. Project cost estimate is \$7,570.00 with a 75% cost share amount of \$5,677.50. SCTSA will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY24 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$3,985.93 & FY25 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$1,691.57. Motion by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve CC2024-03 cost share contract with Jason Windschitl as presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **2024 Supervisor Elections:** Three districts up for election this year are Supervisor Districts 1, 2 and 4 with filing period open from May 21 to June 4. A press release was completed today and will also be posted on the SWCD website.
- ◆ **Board Meeting Schedule:** Discussed possible change to the regular board meeting day and/or time. Agreed to a 10:30am start in June and then rediscuss at that meeting to make final determination of any adjustments going forward. Motion by Eckstein and second by Runck to change the June 12 board meeting to a 10:30am start.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **MASWCD Call for Resolutions:** Discussed the annual Call for Resolutions notice from MASWCD. The district does not have any resolutions to submit this year.
- ◆ **Hwy 14 CLASIC Contribution:** Discussed a request for contribution towards the Hwy 14 CLASIC Lambertson workshop event total costs. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to authorize \$1,0000.00 contribution towards the Hwy 14 CLASIC Lambertson workshop expenses.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Lake Hanska Carp Report:** Discussed a request from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to share data with them from the Lake Hanska carp survey work completed by Carp Solutions in 2022. It will be used for a carp management study they are conducting in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Motion was made by Augustin and

seconded by Eckstein to authorize sharing the Lake Hanska carp survey data and report to Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **MASWCD Trainings:** Discussed two upcoming trainings, Governance 101 and Leadership Institute, being offered by MASWCD. At this time none of the Supervisors plan to attend either training event. Manager plans to send some staff to the Governance 101 training in July.

- ◆ **IT Services:** Discussed the Network Risk Assessment results, recommendations and sales proposal from Nuvera to determine a path forward for IT services at the district. Agreed to move forward with the managed service and firewall at this time and consider the other items quoted for future purchase and implementation. Motion by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to authorize purchase of the Managed Service and MX67W firewall and one-time fees for those items as necessary, per the Nuvera sales proposal.

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **2023 Capacity Grant:** Discussed adjusting the 2023 Capacity Grant work plan by moving \$115,000 of the grant funds to cost share for ag bmp and cover crop projects. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to authorize moving up to \$115,000 of the 2023 Capacity Grant funds to Ag BMP projects and Cover Crop projects following the Brown SWCD 2023 Cost Share Policy with updated Cover Crop per acre rates of \$45 for single species mix and \$60 for multi species mix.

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**

- ◇ Wellner and Eckstein gave an update about the Cottonwood-Middle MN Policy meeting attended in Springfield on April 17.
- ◇ Fischer attended the Area 6 Chairs meeting in New Ulm on April 26 but was not present to give a report. Krueger advised some information from the meeting that was shared to her by Fischer or other managers that attended, and also advised that Brown SWCD is scheduled to host the June 2025 Area 6 meeting.
- ◇ Eckstein attended the RCRCA meeting on May 2 and gave a report and provided copies of the annual report discussed at that meeting.

- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the upcoming meetings/events:

- ◇ Wednesday, May 15 – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, 2pm, Springfield (Augustin, Eckstein)
- ◇ Friday, May 17 – GBERBA Policy Board Meeting, 1pm, Mankato (Augustin)
- ◇ Thursday, June 6 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9am, Redwood (Eckstein)
- ◇ Wednesday, June 12 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 6:13pm

Secretary: _____



Date: _____

6-21-24