



**Minutes of the June 21, 2024
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 9:31am by Craig Fischer.

PRESENT

1. Craig Fischer – 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. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair

AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the agenda with the addition of SWCD Shirts for Staff under new business items.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the May 8, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, the May 2024 Treasurer's Reports, and the Bills Report dated May 4, 2024 to June 7, 2024. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

SWCD STAFF REPORTS

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

PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT

- ◆ Reviewed report provided by Ecker.

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. There were no contracts for approval this month.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Board Meeting Schedule:** Discussed resetting the regular board meeting schedule. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to reset the regular board meeting schedule to 10:30am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month going forward.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Supervisor Elections Update:** Krueger advised that all three Supervisor incumbents in Districts 1, 2 and 4 filed for election this year and no other persons filed. A press release about the Supervisor election will be sent in October.
- ◆ **2024 Legislative Outcomes:** Discussed the annual legislative outcomes information from MASWCD.
- ◆ **FY25 Local Partners Agreement:** Reviewed the annual agreement with Pheasants Forever for supporting the Farm Bill Biologist position in the county which includes an annual match of \$3,250.00 from Brown SWCD. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the FY25 Local Partners Agreement with Pheasants Forever.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **DNR Observation Well Agreement:** Discussed the annual observation well reading agreement to be received from the DNR this month. Payment rate will be increasing from \$30 per reading to \$60 per reading. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to authorize District Manager to accept and sign the annual observation well agreement with the DNR.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Discuss JPA Format for Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P:** Discussed the Joint Powers Agreement options for the Cottonwood-Middle MN watershed implementation grant work. The preference of Brown SWCD is to utilize the existing RCRA Joint Powers Agreement to administer the implementation work for the watershed plan.
- ◆ **2025 County Budget Request:** Reviewed the annual county budget request prepared by District Manager. Discussion was held and some edits requested and noted. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the 2025 County Budget Request with the edits discussed and noted.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **District Manager Paid Leave Accruals:** Krueger advised that she will be unable to get her paid vacation leave hours to 200 or less by June 30 and requested authorization of the board to continue waiving the accrual cap of 200 hours through the end of the year or September. Discussion was held. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to temporarily waive the vacation leave accrual cap for District Manager through September 30, 2024.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **SWCD Shirts For Staff:** District Manager requested authorization to purchase SWCD logo shirts for staff consisting of three safety color t-shirts, one polo, and one long sleeve per staff member. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to authorize purchasing t-shirts, a polo and a long sleeve SWCD clothing for staff.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

◆ **Meeting Reports:**

- ◇ Eckstein and Krueger gave an update about the Cottonwood-Middle MN Policy meeting attended in Springfield on May 15.
- ◇ Augustin shared a report about the GBERBA Policy Meeting attended in Mankato on May 17.
- ◇ Eckstein attended the RCRCA meeting on June 6 and gave a report.
- ◇ Runck gave a report about the MN River Congress attended in Mankato on June 13.

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

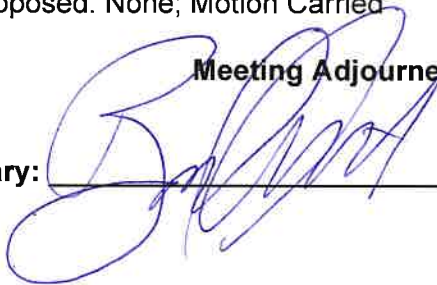
- ◇ Thursday, June 13 – MN River Congress, 6pm, Mankato (Runck)
- ◇ Monday, June 24 – SCTSA Board Meeting, 10am, Mankato (Runck)
- ◇ Monday, June 24 – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, 1pm, Springfield (Wellner, Eckstein)
- ◇ Wednesday, June 26 – Groundwater Atlas Workshop, 1pm, Springfield (Augustin)
- ◇ Thursday, June 27 – MASWCD Area 6 Meeting, Hutchinson (Fischer, Eckstein)
- ◇ Tuesday, July 9 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 2pm, Marshall (Eckstein)
- ◇ Tuesday, July 9 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 11:50am

Secretary: _____



Date: _____

7-9-24