



**Minutes of the July 9, 2024
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

Meeting was called to order at 10:33am by Craig Fischer.

PRESENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair
3. Brad Augustin – Secretary
4. Bill Eckstein - Treasurer
5. Rae Runck – PRI
6. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
7. Jennifer Norton – Brown County FSA (exited 10:49am)
8. Ashley Fischer – Brown County FSA (exited 10:49am)

ABSENT

1. None

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the June 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes and the Bills Report dated June 8, 2024 to July 5, 2024. Motion was made by Wellner and seconded by Eckstein to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

GUEST – JENNIFER NORTON, FSA

- ◆ Jennifer Norton and Ashley Fischer from the Brown County FSA office discussed the upcoming County Committee election process and information.

*Norton and Fischer exited at 10:49am

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 was not able to attend the meeting today.

COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share report and presented contracts for approval.
- ◆ CC2024-04, William Vogel, Grassed Waterway, Bashaw 31. Project cost estimate is \$30,404.00. EQIP is providing funds of \$18,100.00 towards the project and the Brown SWCD contract would provide cost share of \$12,304.00. NRCS will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY25 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$12,304.00. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Wellner to approval CC2024-04 cost share contract with Wiliam Vogel as presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ CAP2024-01 , Keith Lang, Grassed Waterway, Stately 5. Project cost estimate is \$15,144.00 with a requested 75% cost share amount of \$11,358.00. Brian Pfarr, Redwood SWCD Technician will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY23 Capacity Grant Cost Share- \$11,358.00. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve CAP2024-01 cost share contract with Keith Lang as presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ CAP2024-02, Steve Gode, Grassed Waterway, Stately 32. Project cost estimate is \$13,530.00 with a requested 75% cost share amount of \$10,147.50. SCTSA will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY23 Capacity Grant Cost Share- \$10,147.50. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve CAP2024-02 cost share contract with Steve Gode upon landowner and technical provider signatures and authorize District Manager to sign the contract for approval.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Quarter 2 Budget Report:** Reviewed the quarter two budget report.
- ◆ **Grant Updates:** Krueger provided an update about Soil Health Grants and the final grant report that was submitted to BWSR for the FY22 SWCD Capacity Grant.
- ◆ **2024 Tree Program Report:** Discussed the 2024 tree sales program report.
- ◆ **Authorize 2025 Tree Program:** Requested authorization for the 2025 tree sales program so inventory can be pre-ordered with the supplier as soon as possible. Discussion held on prices which will be determined later this year after supplier prices are known. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to authorize the 2025 tree sales program.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Outstanding Conservationist:** Discussed the annual MASWCD awards program for outstanding conservationist. It was decided not to submit a nomination this year.
- ◆ **Staffing Vacancy:** Discussed how to proceed with a staffing vacancy due to recent employee's resignation. It was agreed to not post the opening immediately and rediscuss in October with the plan to post the job opening later this year and plan for a February to March 2025 start date for a new hire.

◆ **Meeting Reports:**

- ◇ Runck shared an update about the SCTSA board meeting attended on June 24.
- ◇ Eckstein, Wellner and Krueger gave an update about the Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Policy meeting attended in Springfield on June 24.
- ◇ Eckstein attended the MASWCD Area 6 Meeting in Hutchinson on June 27 and gave a report.

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

- ◇ Friday, July 12 – GBERBA Policy/Technical Meeting, 9am, St. James, (Augustin)
- ◇ Thursday, August 1 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9am, Redwood (Eckstein)
- ◇ Tuesday, August 13 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 12:18pm

Secretary: _____



Date: _____

8-13-24