



**Minutes of the September 10, 2024  
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:29am 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 Runck and seconded by Eckstein to approve the agenda as presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the August 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, the August 2024 Treasurer's Report, and the Bills Report dated August 8, 2024 to September 4, 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 reports provided by Botz, Giefer, Krueger, 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 and presented contracts for approval.
- ◆ \$100.00 MAWQCP Assessment Incentive payment, Russell Anderson. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to approve the \$100.00 MAWQCP incentive payment to Russell Anderson.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ Discussion was held on cover crop project contracts approved since last month's meeting and continuing to authorize manager to approve/sign them before next month's meeting. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to authorize Melanie Krueger, District Manager, to authorize cover crop contracts as needed prior to the October board meeting.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

## NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Grant Updates:** Reviewed grant updates information provided by manager about the new FY25 Soil Health Delivery Grant awarded to the SWCD and the FY21 Buffer Law Grant final grant report details.
- ◆ **MCIT Notices:** Reviewed information notices from MCIT about an Inland Marine deductible change for 2025, a 2024 dividend payment notice, and the 2025 estimated contribution costs for property/casualty and workers' compensation.
- ◆ **2023 Audit Items:** Reviewed the audit items provided by Peterson Company for the 2023 audit services. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the Management Representation Letter and the 2023 Draft Audit from Peterson Company as presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **District Manager Paid Leave Accrual Cap:** Krueger advised that her paid vacation leave hours are currently under 200 hours but may go slightly above that between now and her planned vacation time off in November. Discussion was held on options and whether to continue waiving the accrual cap. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to temporarily waive the vacation leave accrual cap for District Manager through December 31, 2024.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **BCCWMA Grant Discussion:** Discussion was continued on the FY22/23 Brown-Cottonwood Cooperative Weed Management area grant that is set to expire 12/31/2024. Some additional information on research done after last month's meeting was provided to the Board and discussion was held. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to authorize manager to submit a one-year grant extension request to BWSR for Grant C22-6969 Brown-Cottonwood Cooperative Weed Management Area.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **AIS Program – Sleepy Eye Lake Weed Station:** Reviewed information provided for installing an aquatic vegetation removal station and coordinating sign at Sleepy Eye Lake for a cost estimate of \$1,875 plus shipping. This was not in the annual AIS work plan for the year which is why authorization is requested from the board today. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Runck to authorize purchasing the Aquatic Vegetation Removal Station and Signs for Sleepy Eye Lake.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Newspaper Ad Governor's Pheasant Opener:** Reviewed the request from Sleepy Eye Herald to place an SWCD ad in the Governor's Pheasant Opener newspaper insert scheduled to distribute on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Eckstein to place a ¼ page size ad in color for Brown SWCD advertisement in the Governor's Pheasant Opener newspaper insert.

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Brown SWCD Highway Signs:** Manager was notified by MnDOT that a Brown SWCD highway sign located on Highway 14 on the west edge of the county was removed because it was considered non-compliant. Discussed whether to replace the sign and other signs in the county and whether to pick up the sign or have them recycle it. Direction given was to allow MnDOT to recycle the sign and leave other signs as is.

- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**

- ◇ Eckstein, Wellner and Krueger gave updates about the Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Policy Committee meeting from August 21 and the upcoming public hearing next week on September 18.
- ◇ Krueger and Eckstein gave a report about the 2025 budget request meeting with Brown County Commissioner's on August 26.
- ◇ Wellner gave a report about the RCRCA meeting attended on September 5.

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

- ◇ Wednesday, September 18 – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Public Hearing & Policy Committee Meeting, 10am, Springfield (Wellner, Eckstein)
- ◇ Friday, September 20 – GBERBA Policy Meeting, 1pm, Mankato (Augustin)
- ◇ Thursday, September 19 – SCTSA Board Meeting, 10am, Mankato (Runck)
- ◇ Thursday, October 3 – RCRCA Board Meeting, 9am, Redwood Falls (Eckstein)
- ◇ Tuesday, October 8 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)

Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 12:22pm

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



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

10/8/24