



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

Meeting was called to order at 10:31am by Craig Fischer.

PRESENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Brad Augustin – Secretary
3. Bill Eckstein - Treasurer
4. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
5. Brian Braun – Brown County Commissioner Liaison (exited at 11:12am)

ABSENT

1. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair
2. Rae Runck – PRI

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the September 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes and the Bills Report dated September 5, 2024 to October 2, 2024. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the consent agenda items presented.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
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 and an update on the Wood Lake Meeting information.
Commissioner Braun exited at 11:12am

COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share report and presented contracts for approval.
- ◆ CAP2024-01, Keith Lang, Grassed Waterway, Stately 5. Final project cost of \$18,005.00. Total cost share payment of \$13,500.00 (75% cost-share) from the FY2023 Capacity Grant Cost Share grant funds. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to approve CAP2024-01 cost share payment of \$13,500.00 to Keith Lang.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ SHCS2023-02, Mark Wellner, Cover Crop, Stately 30, 17 acres. Year one installed on 9/6/24 and spot checked on 9/6/24 and 9/25/24. Total cost share payment of \$3,060.00 from the FY23 Soil Health Cost Share Grant. Motion made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approved SHCS2023-02 cost share payment of \$3,060.00 to Mark Wellner.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Grant Updates:** Reviewed grant updates information provided by manager about the FY21 Buffer Grant final report, a new grant agreement for FY25 Buffer Grant, and the CWMA grant extension request.
- ◆ **SWCD Supervisors Ballot Error:** Provided information from the Auditor-Treasurer office about an issue with some ballots where the SWCD Supervisors race showed on their geographic areas only, not county wide. The ballots have been corrected.
- ◆ **Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP Resolution:** Reviewed the information and resolution presented for the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to approve Resolution #24-03: Resolution to Submit, Adopt and Implement Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **GBERBA Grant Disbursal Agreement:** Reviewed information about the grant disbursal agreement with GBERBA. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to approve the Grant Disbursal Agreement with GBERBA for the CWF Soil Health Implementation Grant.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Authorize Hiring Process for Staffing Vacancy:** Reviewed the hiring process information for the current staffing vacancy. If approved by the board to proceed, the plan is for the Personnel Committee to meet this month to setup a timeline for the hiring process with the intent to make a hiring recommendation to the board in January or February 2025. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to authorize Personnel Committee to proceed with the hiring process to fill one Conservation Technician position with a level 1 or level 2 job description and make a hiring recommendation to the Board for approval at a future board meeting.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Tree Program Prices:** Reviewed price evaluation information provided by manager for the 2025 program sales pricing and recommendation to hold prices as is and consider an increase in 2026. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Augustin to accept District Manager's recommendation to hold tree program sale prices as is through the 2025 tree sales program.
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Wood Lake Meeting Update:** Discussion held about the Wood Lake meeting attended by Krueger, Spence and Commissioner Braun on September 17 in New Ulm at the DNR offices. At this time, a task force is being formed who will begin meeting to evaluate the watershed issues for Wood Lake and the CD28 ditch system.
- ◆ **MASWCD Convention:** Reviewed information from MASWCD about the upcoming convention in December. If anyone chooses to attend, attendance will be approved at next month's board meeting.
- ◆ **MASWCD Resolutions:** Reviewed the 2024 MASWCD Resolutions. Each Supervisor present gave their votes and Krueger tallied the votes and will submit to MASWCD via online balloting system by the November 1 deadline.
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Eckstein and Krueger gave a report about the Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Public Hearing and Policy Committee meeting held in Springfield on September 18.
 - ◇ Krueger gave a report about the SCTSA meeting from September 19 in Mankato that Runck and Spence attended.
 - ◇ Augustin shared a report from the GBERBA Policy Meeting he attended via Webex on September 20.
 - ◇ Eckstein gave a report about the RCRCA meeting attended on October 3 in Redwood Falls and reminded everyone of the upcoming Legislative Gathering.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve the upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Tuesday, November 12 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)
 - ◇ Friday, October 11 – Governors Pheasant Opener Listening Session, 1:00pm, Sleepy Eye (Eckstein)
 - ◇ Personnel Committee meetings as needed (Wellner, Eckstein, Krueger)
 - Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 12:25pm

Secretary: _____

Date: _____

11-12-24