



**Minutes of the March 17, 2025  
Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:30am 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. Brian Braun – Brown County Commissioner Liaison
8. Jarin Spence – Conservation Technician
9. Reva Ecker – Farm Bill Biologist
10. Mary Beth Botz – Conservation Technician
11. Hailey Olson – Conservation Technician
12. Isabella Portner – Conservation Technician
13. Teddy Giefer – Conservation Technician

**ABSENT**

1. None

**AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the February 11, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, the January and February 2025 Treasurer's Reports, the Bills Report dated February 6, 2025 to March 12, 2025, the Hwy 14 Lambertson Event Invoice for \$969.78, and the Trimble Maintenance Renewals Quote for \$917.00. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Wellner to approve the consent agenda items as presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**SWCD STAFF REPORTS**

- ◆ Discussed staff reports provided by Botz, Giefer, Krueger, Olson, Portner and Spence.

**PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT**

- ◆ Discussed staff 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 approved two new contracts.
- ◆ CC2025-01, John Braun, Grassed Waterway, Linden 5. Project cost estimate is \$9,176.75. EQIP is providing funds towards the project and the Brown SWCD contract would provide cost share of \$4,511.30. NRCS will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY24 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$4,511.30. Motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve CC2025-01 cost share contract with John Braun as presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ CC2025-02, Scott Peterson, WASCOB, Home 6. Project cost estimate is \$24,496.00 with a 75% cost share amount of \$18,372.00. SCTSA will be technical provider for the project. Cost share funds to encumber for the project are: FY24 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$4,808.85 and FY25 Conservation Contracts Grant- \$13,563.15. Motion was made by Wellner and seconded by Runck to approve CC2025-02 cost share contract with Scott Peterson as presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

## NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Brown SWCD Annual Program Updates:** Reviewed and discussed the annual SWCD program updates with staff.
  - ◆ **Brown SWCD Personnel Policy Updates:** Reviewed the updates to the Brown SWCD Personnel Policy completed by Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney in the ESST, sick leave, parental leave and school leave sections. Motion was made by Eckstein and seconded by Wellner to approve the updated Brown SWCD Personnel Policy Handbook presented.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- \*Recessed meeting for a group lunch at 12:41pm  
\*Resumed meeting at 1:17pm
- ◆ **Letter To Legislators:** Reviewed the letter drafted to send to legislators regarding SWCD Aid funding. One change was requested. Motion was made by Wellner and seconded by Runck to approve and mail the letters to legislators with the edit discussed.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
  - ◆ **RCRCA Amended Joint Powers Agreement:** Reviewed the changes to the RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement. Motion was made by Runck and seconded by Augustin to approve the Amended RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement as presented and authorize RCRCA delegates, Bill Eckstein or Mark Wellner, to sign the agreement for Brown SWCD.  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
  - ◆ **BWSR Pollinator Education Pilot Project:** Discussed the pollinator education pilot project partnership that staff has been discussing with BWSR. Motion was made by

Augustin and seconded by Eckstein to approve entering into a Joint Powers Agreement with BWSR for the Pollinator Education Pilot Project.

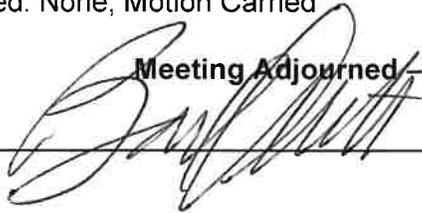
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Soil Health Practices Grant Update:** Reviewed the soil health grant update information provided. Policy items will be presented at next month's meeting for board approval.
- ◆ **Area 6 Meeting Hosting:** Discussed the date and venue for the Area 6 meeting in June that Brown SWCD is scheduled to host. Agreed to set the meeting date for Tuesday, June 24 at the South Central Service Cooperative in North Mankato. Further planning discussions will be held during future meetings.
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
  - ◇ Augustin gave a report about the GBERBA Policy and Executive meetings attended virtually on February 14 and March 14.
  - ◇ Wellner and Eckstein shared an update about the Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Policy Committee meeting attended on February 19 in Springfield.
  - ◇ Augustin, Eckstein, Runck and staff gave a report about the Hwy 14 CLASIC workshop event on February 19 in Lamberton.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Augustin and seconded by Runck to approve the upcoming meetings/events:
  - ◇ Thursday, March 20 – SCTSA Board Meeting, 10:00am, Mankato (Runck)
  - ◇ Thursday, April 3 – RCRC Board Meeting, 9:00am, Redwood Falls (Eckstein)
  - ◇ Tuesday, April 8 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 10:30am (All)  
Affirmative: Augustin, Eckstein, Fischer, Runck, Wellner  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 2:24pm

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



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

4-8-25