

LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT . . .



Helping Bring YOU Clean Water

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Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, Regular Meeting, Lincoln SWCD Office, Ivanhoe, MN, March 20, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

Board Members:

Josh Osland- PRI- Absent
Dale Fier, Chair- Absent
Ronald Bunjer, Vice Chair
Keith Olsen, Treasurer
Tony Dwire, Secretary

District/NRCS:

Dale Sterzinger
Austin DeVlaeminck
Noah Steffen
Joy Bruns
Danielle Evers- 10:00-10:30

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am March 20, 2024, by Vice Chairman Ronald Bunjer.

Approve Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 3-0

Minutes – February 21, 2024, Meeting

- Discussed minutes. No corrections or additions.
- Motion Made to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024, regular meeting.
 - Motion- Olsen
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 3-0

Bills/Treasurer's Report

- Motion made to approve the Bills and Treasurer's report.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 3-0

Employee Policy Review

- Discussion was held on the 2024 Employee Policy Review of the severance section. A motion was made to approve the sick leave severance section with a new percentage payout of earned unused sick leave based on years of service with a max payout of \$15,000.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 3-0

The mission of the Lincoln SWCD is to protect and improve the quality of our water, soil, and natural resources by providing programs and services to the citizens and owners of Lincoln County to implement conservation practices.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

District Supervisor Policy

- Discussion was held on the Chairmans request to have the Chairman serve on all committees. The board commented that committee assignments have been set. County Attorney, Glen Petersen, will be submitting a letter to the SWCD board in regards to open meeting law. A motion was made to not have any one board member serve on all committees of the district.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 3-0

Bank CD Renewal

- Discussion held on the CD's that came due in February. Manager contacted the local banks for 12-month CD rates. CD's were kept with First Security Bank of Hendricks for the next 12 months.

Flex Account Closure at BMO

- Manager informed the board that the flex account has been closed at BMO due to high fees being charged each month. Our flex spending will be managed from the main checking account with First Security Bank of Hendricks.

PF/Working Lands Grant

- Manager discussed the grant that he applied for in the amount of \$30,000 for technician hours when working with farm bill related programs, CREP, RIM and etc. Manager informed the board that the Lincoln SWCD was selected for the Conservation Cooperation for working lands grant in the amount of \$30,000. A motion was made to accept the grant.
 - Motion- Olsen
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 3-0

Environmental Fair Donation

- Discussion was held on the \$2,000 request from the Environmental Fair Committee. A motion was made to approve a \$2,000 donation.
 - Motion- Olsen
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 3-0

Soil Health Position Grant with SWPTSA

- Manager has received no word on the grant status. There was a large request for funds in phase 1 so phase 2 dollars will be reduced. This means less dollars per district for implementing soil health on the land.

Building Update

- Manager gave the update. Material list has been received and the manager met with Ground Works Construction for the building pad. A Building permit has been filled out and given to the city of Ivanhoe. Manager will be getting bids from local lumber yards and contractors.

Pickup update

- Manager will get bids from local dealers that handle the state fleet bid process. Manager explained the DOT part for one-ton trucks as told to him by two DOT inspectors. Manager explained the wishes of the staff to go with a half-ton pickup. Board recommendation was to trade the 2010 Ford F150 in for a new ½ pickup. Motion was made to get bids on half ton pickups and set the budget at

\$50,000 or less as the out of pocket expense. Manager was given the authority to make the purchase based on vehicle availability and price.

- Motion- Olsen
- Second- Dwire
- Passed- 3-0

Future Area 5 Meetings

- Discussion was held on future area 5 meetings to gain more attendance by board members. Manager is on a committee to come up with ideas to gain more interest in meeting attendance.

Highway 75 Tour

- Manager discussed the Hwy 75 tour that will be held in the Porter area July 12, 2024.

Technical Programs Update

- Technicians and Manager discussed the status of all technical programs.

Watershed Reports

- Yellow Medicine River 1W1P- Manager and Technical advisor explained the new ranking and discussed new projects. Water storage meeting. Discussed the structural and non-structural projects that have been submitted to the water shed office totaling over \$517,000.
- Lac Qui Parle River 1W1P- Meeting coming up to discuss ranking and setting limits on soil health practices. 5 new contracts to be submitted for non-structural practices totaling over \$120,000.
- Missouri 1W1P- Well head letters were sent to customers to strike up interest in cover crops so we can apply for a well head grant for soil health. People have been calling in with interest.
- Redwood- Waiting on next meeting. Doodle poll was just sent out.

Other Business

- Danielle Evers was present to give a report on the Ag Water Quality Certification Program.
- The conflict of interest statement was signed by present board members and staff for 2024.
- **Reports:**
 - County Commissioner Report- NO Report
 - District Manager's Report
 - WCA work
 - Grant work with PF
 - Working on cost share contracts
 - Conservation Technician Report- Reported on technical activities, trainings, seed, tree and walk in access programs.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- Technical Advisors Report- Reported on trainings and watershed meetings he has been attending with Manager.
 - Discussed the new ranking system for Yellow Med. 1W1P.
- NRCS Report- No report.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024 @ 8:00 AM Lincoln SWCD Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM. Motion made by Olsen, Seconded by Dwire, to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 3-0.

APPROVED:

5/17/24
DATE


SIGNATURE