

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, January 15, 2025 @ 8:00 a.m.

Board Members:

Josh Osland- Secretary- Absent
Ronald Bunjer, Chair
Tony Dwire, Vice Chair
Keith Olsen, Treasurer-
Jeff Paluch, PR&I

District/NRCS:

Dale Sterzinger
Noah Steffen
Joy Bruns

County Commissioner

Joe Drietz

Meeting called to order at 8:02am January 15, 2024, by Chairperson Ron Bunjer.

Approve Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

- **Elections of Officers and Board Officer Appointments (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations)**

Motion Made for board appointments as follows: -Chair Ronald Bunjer, -Vice Chair Tony Dwire, - Secretary-Josh Osland, -Treasurer-Keith Olsen and -PRI Jeff Paluch.

 - Motion- Paluch
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 4-0

- **Committee Assignments (1 Primary and 1 Alternate for each)**
 - RCRC/ Area 2 Redwood River 1W1P -Bunjer- Osland
 - SWPTSA- Dwire – Bunjer
 - Yellow Medicine River Watershed Advisory- Paluch-Dwire
 - Lac Qui Parle Watershed Advisory- Olsen- Paluch
 - Missouri 1 Watershed 1 Plan Policy Committee- Osland- Olsen
 - Personnel Committee- Dwire- Olsen
 - Motion Made to approve committee assignments
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

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

- **Set Mileage Rate** at the new IRS rate of .70 cents per mile.
 - Motion- Olsen
 - Second- Paluch
 - Passed- 4-0

- **Designate Official Depositories**
 Motion to designate – Hendricks First Security Bank as the official depository.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

- **Designate Official Newspaper-**
 - Motion was made to designate the Ivanhoe Times Newspaper as the official newspaper
 - Motion- Paluch
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

- **Designate Check Signing Authority** – Motion to have all Board Members and staff be able to sign. 2 signatures are required for all checks. Technicians are not to sign the same checks. All checks require a manager or board member signature.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Paluch
 - Passed- 4-0

- **Determine Monthly Meeting Date and Time-**
- A motion was made to keep meetings at 8:00 am all year round on the third Wednesday of each month
 - Motion- Paluch
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

Minutes – December 18, 2024, Meeting

- Discussed minutes. No corrections or additions.
- Motion Made to approve the minutes of December 18, 2024, regular meeting
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Paluch
 - Passed- 4-0

Treasurer's Report/Bills

- Motion made to approve Treasurer's report
 - Motion- Paluch
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

New Employee Job Announcement

- Motion was made to approve the job announcement
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

Seed Bids for 2025

- Discussion was held on the two bids received. A motion was made to continue using Millborn Seed as the Lincoln SWCD vendor for 2025.
 - Motion- Olsen
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 4-0

Soil Health Staffing Grant Report

- Discussion was held on the progress being made with OCF as the SWCD partner for soil health projects. Discussed how OCF and the Lincoln SWCD will be doing coffee shop type meetings and other outreach strategies to reach the public in regard to soil health practices.
- A motion was made to utilize up to **\$500** of district funds for outreach meeting expenses.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

Minnesota Campaign Finance Board information

- Discussion was held in regard to board member action needed for the Finance Board by January 27, 2025.

Employee Policy Review

- Discussion was held on the changes to the policy entering the year 2025. A motion was made to approve the changes to the policy.
 - Motion- Paluch
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

Verdi Well Head Protection Grant

- The manager explained that the Lincoln SWCD was awarded the grant in the amount of \$282,835. The SWCD will be partnering with Lincoln County and Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water for the matching funds needed for the grant. A motion was made to accept the grant.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Paluch
 - Passed- 4-0

Ag BMP

- Discussion was held prioritizing the Ag BMP funding. A motion was made to keep prioritization the same as in the past. Projects related to animal or human waste including manure handling equipment, soil health related practices/equipment and conservation practices are high priority. Chemical applications, chopper heads, planters for row crops and tillage type equipment will be lower priority and funded based on available funding at the time of application. If any high priority applications are not moving forward in a timely manner, the manager is to switch the funding to the next applications even if they are lower priority.
 - Motion- Paluch
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0

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State Reporting

- Discussion held on the reporting completed that is due by February 1, 2025

Technical Programs Update

- Discussion was held on the technical programs by the Manager and Technical Advisor

Watershed Reports

- Yellow Medicine River 1W1P- We finished all the projects by the deadline. Working on Cost Share on other projects that were completed in the watershed. New projects are coming in and being looked at by SWPTSA.
- Lac Qui Parle River 1W1P- Policy meeting held. Approved the new CRP incentive program and two projects in Lac qui Parle County. Officers were kept the same for the policy committee.
- Missouri 1W1P- Submitted reduction numbers for a project we did outside of the priority area. Will be looking at utilizing 1W1P non-structural funds in 2025/2026.
- Redwood- Priority issues and Measurable goals were commented on by the Manager. The priority issues section was approved by the policy committee.

Other Business

- **Technical Signoff on projects by manager**
 - A motion was made to give the manager signoff authority on all projects for cost share projects as needed until JAA is given to the technical staff.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 4-0
- **Reports:**
 - County Commissioner Report- Budget finalized for County.
 - District Manager's Report
 - WCA work
 - Doing Reporting
 - Working on cost share contracts
 - Technical Advisors Report
 - Gave report on training and other technical
 - NRCS Report- No report

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2025, 8:00 AM Lincoln SWCD Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 AM. Motion made by Dwire, seconded by Olsen, to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 4-0.

APPROVED: _____

2-19-25

DATE

Ronald D. Bunge

SIGNATURE