

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, November 15, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Dale Fier, Chair
Keith Olsen, Treasurer
Tony Dwire, Secretary-
Ronald Bunjer, Vice Chair-Left at 10:50 am
Josh Osland, PRI- Left at 11:00 am

District Staff Present:

Dale Sterzinger, Manager/WCA Admin.
Austin DeVlaeminck, Con. Tech.
Noah Steffen- Technical Advisor
Joy Bruns-Book Keeper

Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m. November 15, 2023 by Chairperson Dale Fier.

Approve Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda with the change of adding contract numbers WP-WS-20-2022 and WP-WS-21-2022 to the manager approved well sealing contracts and payments.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second- Bunjer
 - Passed- 5-0

Minutes – September 20, 2023 Meeting

- Discussed minutes. No corrections or additions.
- Motion Made to approve the minutes of September 20, 2023 regular meeting
 - Motion- Bunjer
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 5-0

Treasurer's Report

- Motion made to approve Treasurer's report
 - Motion- Bunjer
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 5-0

Bills

- Motion made to approve bills
 - Motion- Osland
 - Second- Olsen
 - Passed- 5-0

New Hire Introduction

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

- Manager introduced the new employee who's start date was November 13, 2023.

Health Insurance stipend and family plan discussion

- Motion was made to add a \$600 monthly stipend for health insurance to each employee who does not take health insurance with the SWCD. Insurance will be adjusted as needed in the future as discussed by the board.
 - Motion- Dwire
 - Second-Osland
 - Passed-5-0

Audit Report

- A motion was made to approve the 2022 audit report.
 - Motion- Bunjer
 - Second- Dwire
 - Passed- 5-0

2024 Budget

- A motion was made to move the conservation technician to \$30 per hour plus a \$500 bonus, give the other employees a 4% cost of living. This is to start January 1, 2024. Discussion followed including in the budget, new computers and an upgrade of the 2016 grass seeder.

Manager Approved Well Sealing payment and contract

- Contract WP-WS-20-2022 Jessie Weber two wells \$1000
- Contract WP-WS-21-2022 Barak B Jorge one well \$500
- Contract payment WP-BI-01-2022 Kelly Sik 3 intakes \$1500
- Discussion was held on the contracts and payments. No motion needed.

State Convention Roll Call

- Discussion was held on who would be attending the state convention

Area 2 MN River Basin Legislative gathering report- Ron Bunjer

- Discussion was held on water retention and the use of concrete culverts in the projects for longevity of the pipes.

Conservation Agronomist

- Discussion was held on the new agronomist, Justin Decker, hired by New Vision COOP to work in the Missouri River Watershed

Soil Health Position Funding (Shared Position)

- Discussion was held on the potential new position that could be shared between Counties or Watershed areas.

MN River Valley Conservation Drainage Turn Key Project

- Discussion was held on the eligible counties of Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Renville and Yellow Medicine for drainage water management and saturated buffers.

Resolution Discussion

- Board discussed resolutions for the state convention

Agency Staff Changes

- Discussion was held on the changes in staffing for FSA and NRCS

Seed Program/Cover Crop Update

- Technician Austin gave an update on the seed program.

Ag BMP funding update

- Manager discussed remaining funds and repayments.

Watershed Reports

- Manager gave a brief report for each watershed.
 - **Yellow Medicine River One Watershed One Plan**
 - Manager worked with Michelle on projects that need funding for cover crops. Manager advised the watershed that we could utilize \$500,000 for people waiting to sign up. Suggested that we sign up for extra dollars from the \$7.7 million left over state wide.
 - CRP incentive grant. Sent Michelle an email suggesting what our landowners suggested to Austin in regards to incentives in the flood plain area. Get the CRP payment up to \$300/acre.
 - Policy meeting I was unable to attend.
 - **Lac Qui Parle River Watershed One Watershed One Plan**
 - Submitted a cover crop contract. Our first contract with the 1W1P
 - **Missouri River One Watershed One Plan**
 - Conservation Agronomist Position Justin Decker spoke to the group. He used to work for the Rock SWCD 13 years ago. He comes with a lot of knowledge in the field and is very personable.
 - 2024/2025 grant will be for \$2,096,184
 - Increasing the incentive amounts for soil health practices. Total not to exceed \$100,000 for tillage and cover crops combined.
 - **Redwood Watershed- Local plan basin project**
 - Planning Kick off Meeting December 8th. Ron Bunjer is assigned to the Redwood.

Other Business

- Bunjer and Osland left the meeting due to time constraints. 11:10 am.
- Items discussion took place on change in work schedule for employees and the start of a conversation about hiring a part-time administrative assistant.
 - County Commissioner Report- No Report
 - District Manager's Report
 - Manager had a discussion with the board in regards to concerns with future work loads, staffing and how we want to proceed moving forward.
 - Conservation Technicians Report- Gave a tree report, Hwy 14 tour report and BWSR academy report.
 - Technical Advisor Report- Gave a history of himself and talked about what we have doing the past 3 days.

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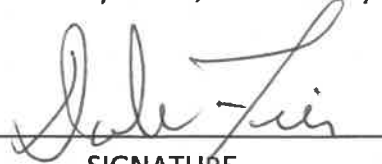
- NRCS Report- DC reported that he will be leaving his position and will be with FSA.
- Joy Bruns was present to answer any questions that the board may have for her.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M. at the Lincoln SWCD Office. Meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M. Motion made by Dwire, Seconded by Olsen to adjourn. Passed 3-0.

APPROVED:

12/20/23

DATE



SIGNATURE