



**REDWOOD
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

Chair

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District V
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Secretary

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STAFF

Nick Brozek,
District Administrator

Jeanne Prescott,
Office Manager

Kurt Mathiowetz,
Water Quality Technician

Brian Pfarr,
Resource Specialist

Ben Bauer,
Conservation Specialist

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 14, 2024 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order February 14, 2024 at 8.05 a.m. by Chair Jeff Potter.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Potter - Chair
Ed Carter - Vice Chair
Joe Plaetz - Secretary
Rick Maurer- Treasurer

STAFF: Nick Brozek-District Administrator, Jeanne Prescott-Office Manager, Kurt Mathiowetz-Water Quality Specialist, Ben Bauer-Conservation Specialist, Brian Pfarr-Resource Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Salfer-County Commissioner, Danielle Evers, Area 5 MAWQCP Certification Specialist

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion by Maurer, seconded by Carter to accept the Agenda. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

January 10, 2024 minutes; Plaetz commented the word compliant misspelled. Motion by Plaetz, seconded by Carter to approve minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

FINANCE REPORTS: Motion by Carter, seconded by Plaetz to approve Finance Report. Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Plaetz, seconded by Carter to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried.

GRANT TRACKER: Brozek mentioned the 2024 and 2025 new Grants and commented that they will be added to the grant tracker report by next month's meeting. *Informational.*

PETERSON COMPANY, LTD: Brozek reported on the Peterson Contract with audit fee. Maurer questioned if they are good and if we are happy with what they do or should we get quotes. Carter commented they are the best around. Brozek said they have been very helpful with answering questions and do a good job. Motion by Carter to continue with Peterson Company, LTD., seconded by Maurer. Motion carried.

BRYMA DESIGNS: Brozek went over Bryma Design's results of ADA compliant reporting and the extra cost she would add onto her already contracted amount to cover the cost of the ADA App. Redwood SWCD Board wants to leave Bryma Design's contract with SWCD the way it is. *Informational*

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (Redwood River 1W1P): Motion by Maurer to accept memorandum as it reads, seconded by Carter. Motion carried. Motion by Plaetz to keep the same delegate Carter and alternate Maurer, seconded by Carter. Motion passed.

DISTRICT COST SHARE 2024/2025: Pfarr discussed how District Cost Share money helps with the ability to leverage other funding sources. Pfarr requested an additional \$100,000 for the 24/25 years. Brozek explained that Peterson Company Ltd. explained how much expenditures we should have on hand. Board had some additional questions and Brozek and Pfarr explained the benefits. Carter made a motion to add \$100,000 for 24/25 year, seconded by Plaetz. Motion passed.

WATER PLAN/LWG: Pfarr talked about the upcoming meeting and who is all involved. Thursday, March 20, 2024 was the unanimous date for the meeting to be held at the government center. Brozek will line up a room that will work and inform everyone. The SWCD Board meeting will start at 8:00a.m. with Water Plan/LWG meeting to follow at 9:30a.m.

PHEASANTS FOREVER POSITION: Pfarr explained the work load and hiring. The deadline is today if we are going to go in partnership. Maurer commented the agreement was already reviewed. Motion by Plaetz to approve the Pheasants Forever agreement, seconded by Carter. Motion carried. Brozek brought up who will be on the hiring committee for Pheasants Forever. The board was in agreement that it should be a SWCD staff personnel to be in on the interview Process for the PF position. Maurer made motion to allow SWCD staff to be on the interviewing process, seconded by Carter. Motion carried.

2024 SWCD ADVOCACY EFFORTS: Brozek explained dates for 2024 SWCD Advocacy Effort and expressed the importance of having someone go. Potter is unable to go this year and shared what he experienced with going in the past years. Set up time to speak with the legislators and the senator and make your voice heard with what we need and let them know what we do. Potter reiterated how important it is to bring up our concerns so they can be our advocate. Potter listed a few people he visited with in the past. Maurer took information home and said he will consider going. *Informational*

PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE: Brozek talked to Vicki Kletscher, County Administrator about the SWCD Board selecting a new Planning Commission Representative, she approved. Maurer suggested rotating, Carter thought you'd lose information from meeting to meeting. Commissioner Salfer mentioned reports and when they are viewed it should be one person with an alternate. Brozek mentioned there are 11 meetings and the meetings depend on attendance. Board tabled this topic until the March meeting. Salfer will check into more details.

MAWQCP UPDATES AND 2024 PLANS: Danielle Evers, Area 5 MAWQCP Certification Specialist reported to the board on Year-end report for 2023, partnership and ranking points, 2023 projects and program highlights, 2024 plans and goals. There was good discussion.

REPORTS:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Commissioner Salfer; mention concerns on the Carbon Capture pipeline, 1.) Water usage by Ethanol plant 2.) Safety 3.) Soil compaction to name a few. Talked about support on pipeline. Mentioned other projects being worked on.

RCRCA: Carter reported on projects being worked on.

TSA: Maurer had nothing to report at this time.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST: Board viewed Attachment 4 District Conservationist report.

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST: Bauer reported on CREP applications and RIM rates going up by March. Finalizing contact list for RIM and CREP owners. Once completed he will be able to do mass mailings for general reminders and upcoming programs. Soil probe data still being gathered. Mentioned he is going to a Cover Crop Training and continuing with other trainings.

WATER QUALITY TECHNICIAN: Mathiowetz reported; AgBMP year-end reporting, mentioned the funding and possible ways to get more money. Mathiowetz is receiving lots of calls and questions on use of funds. Mentioned a couple possible equipment requests to fund. The board recommended no refinancing, only new projects and asked that new projects be brought to the board monthly. Water Quality was also talked about.


RESOURCE SPECIALIST: Pfarr reported; Clean Water Fund Grant due April 11th mentioned 29 out of 32 projects are completed, met with Meadowland with Brozek, Brozek shared how this partnership will work. Pfarr brought up SWCD shirts with logos. Mentioned participating at the Tribal State Relationship training very good attendance. Pfarr would like to line up a meeting with the Lower Sioux Tribal Council and selected members along with FSA, NRCS, SWCD Staff and SWCD Board members to tour the hemp housing.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR: Brozek mentioned the upcoming Hwy 14 Tour on February 21st at the SW Research Center in Lamberton and presented the flyer and invited the board members to come. Brought up his mileage for the Meadowland meeting in Lamberton and the signing of his own Claim form, Potter stated to put on Bills Payable they will approve. Mentioned his conversation with the County Administrator about the SWCD Board will not bring contracts to the County Attorney.

OTHER BUSINESS: Maurer stated he gets questions on drainage. He mentioned he wants to get more educated on how it all works with the scientific answers. Pfarr recommended talking to Jeff Strock; Professor, Department of Soil, Water and Climate from the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton or go online. Brozek suggested that Strock should possibly be invited to come talk to the board on this subject.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting is planned for ~~Thursday, March 20,~~ ^{Wed April 10} 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Redwood County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Potter adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.



SUPERVISOR