

## **March 2025 SWCD Board Minutes**

**March 20, 2025 @ 8AM Marshall SWCD Conference Room**

### **Marshall County SWCD Board Members Present**

Randy Larson, Chairman

Joey Peterson, Vice Chairman

Brent Miller, Secretary

Barry Walton, Treasurer

Dale Price, Public Relations

### **Marshall County SWCD Staff Members Present**

Darren Carlson, District Manager

Administrative Assistant, Jill Larson

### **Others Present**

Matt Waterworth, NRCS District Conservationist

Taylor Leback, Farm Bill Biologist for Marshall/Polk/West Polk Counties

Meeting called to order by Chairman Randy Larson at 8:02AM

- Motion to approve minutes from January (missed at February meeting) by Joey, Barry 2<sup>nd</sup>. None opposed
- Motion to approve February minutes by Dale, Joey 2<sup>nd</sup>. None opposed.

## **NRCS Report**

- Funding is up in the air due to current government cuts
- No more Inflation Reduction Act
  - Still 6 approved through different funding sources
- CSP deadline March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- Matt will be taking Acting Team Lead position for NRCS in Crookston starting April 4<sup>th</sup>. Unsure duration could be a couple of years. His replacement at the Marshall County office is unknown at this time.

## **Pheasants Forever Report**

- Thief River Watershed Outreach
  - 105 letters sent, 30 can still go out
    - So far have received 10 letters back from people interested in CRP. 1 of those in Marshall County.
  - WRE, WRP letters also sent out
- Potential for CRP to landowners along the Mud River

## **Walk In Access Program (DNR)**

- Individuals with a Walk-In Access validation can hunt from September 1 to May 31 during legal hunting hours and open seasons from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset with no landowner contact necessary. Minimum of 40 acres.
- Marshall County SWCD not currently participating. Darren contacted DNR and can start the process in September.
- \$300 kickback from DNR for paperwork

## **Tree Program**

- This year 15,000 trees have been ordered. Another order just placed for 1500
  - 87 people have placed orders
    - 11 of those want SWCD to plant the trees for them.
- Some varieties are out of stock. Nurseries are running out of stock faster than in the past. Will get a better idea of what we need for 2026 earlier.

- Trees will likely be in the first week of May
- Plantings are about the same from last year. The number of tree orders has increased.

### **Drill/Tree Program**

- Will pick up once the weather starts getting warmer.
- CRP can start in May
  - 400 acres ready. Trying to stay closer to the Warren area.

### **Cost Share Contracts**

- **Conservation Contract Program (CCP)**
  - CCP 24-08 & CCP 25-07 for Veldt Township Section 29
    - Tree Planting (612) for 1.8 Acres (3,900 ft)
    - Cost Estimate= \$4,515.00
    - 75% Cost Share Assistance = \$3,386.25
      - CCP 24-08=\$43.88
      - CCP 25-07=\$3,342.37
  - CCP 25-08 & State Aid 25-01 For Excel Strip Township Section 12
    - Well Decommission (351)
    - Cost estimate to seal: \$975.00
    - 90% Total Cost Share Assistance=\$877.50
      - 75% SWCD Cost Share Funds
        - CCP 25-08= \$246.32
        - State Aid 25-01= \$484.93
      - 15% Marshall County Funds
        - 146.25
    - Motion by Randy and seconded by Joey to approve Contract CCP 24-08, CCP 25-07, CCP 25-08 & State Aid 25-01 as they were presented. None opposed. Motion Carried.
  - **Middle/Snake/Tamarac 1W1P/2023 WBIF**
    - **23-M STR-ENG-04** for Wright Township Section 21

- Grassed Waterway (412) for 1.2 Acres (1,327 Ft.) with Rock Crossing
- Cost Estimate= \$46,473.90
- 90% Cost Share Assistance=\$28,205.11
  - Landowner is working also with the CCRP/FSA
  - Landowner is eligible for up to 90% Cost Share Assistance, whatever CCRP does not cover the Middle/Snake/Tamarac 1W1P/WBIF will cover. In the folder is a breakdown of these funds.
- **23-MSTR-ENG-05 for Viking Township Section 28**
  - Grade Stabilization/Basin with tile
  - Cost Estimate=\$112,439.69
  - 90% Cost Share Assistance=\$101,195.72
- **23-MSTR-ENG-04 for Comstock Township Section 12**
  - Grade Stabilization/Basin with Tile
  - Cost Estimate= \$16,058.13
  - 90% Cost Share Assistance=\$14,452.32
- **23-MSTR-WS-17 for Viking Township Section 28**
  - Well Decommission (351)
  - Cost Estimate to Seal= \$1,100
  - 90% Total Cost Share Assistance Up to \$900/Well=\$900
  - Motion by Randy seconded by Joey to approve Contracts 23-MSTR-ENG-04, 23-MSTR-ENG-05, 23-MSTR-ENG-17 as they were presented. None opposed. Motion Carried.
- **Thief River 1W1P/2024 WBIF:**
  - **MSWCD\_TRWBIF\_05 for Agder Township Section 32**
    - 3-Grade Stabilization/Side Water Inlets (SWIs)
    - Cost Estimate-\$22,513.70
    - 75% Cost Share Assistance-\$16,885.28

- Motion by Randy and seconded by Joey to approve Contracts MSWCD\_TRWBIF\_05 as it was presented. None opposed. Motion carried.

- **Cover Crops Discussion:**

- \$150,000 from State (2025 Soil Health)
  - \$20,000 set aside for Spring Cover Crop
  - \$130,000 for Technical Assistance
- **Cover Crops Contracts for Spring 2025:**
  - Soil Health 25-01 for New Solum Township Section 9
    - 136.7 acres of Single Species Cover Crop @ \$25/Acre=\$3,417.50
  - Soil Health 25-02 for Bloomer Township Section 36
    - 160 acres of Single Species Spring Cover Crop @ \$25/Acre =\$4,000
  - Soil Health 25-03 for McCrea Township Section 3
    - 157.8 acres of Single Species Cover Crop
    - \$25/Acre=\$3,945
  - Soil Health 25-04 for Newfolden Township Section 10
    - 40 acres of Multiple Species Summer Cover Crop @\$50/Acre=\$2,000
  - Motion by Randy and seconded by Barry to approve Contracts Soil Health 25-01, Soil Health 25-02, Soil Health 25-03 and Soil Health 25-04 as they were presented. Joe abstain. None of the other SWCD members opposed. Motion carried.

- **2025 State Aide Discussion:**

- Cost Share Assistance of \$25,000 for tree planting and other AgBMP projects that cannot be used/are not eligible for other cost share projects. Funds will come out of the Marshall SWCD State Aide Funds. Cost Share funds will follow the already approved Marshall SWCD Conservation Contracts Program (CCP) docket.

- **State Aide Contracts for 2025**

- State Aid 25-02 for Espelle Township Section 23
  - Well Decommission (351)
  - Cost Estimate to seal=\$875
  - 90% Total Cost Share Assistance=\$787.50
    - 75% SWCD Cost Share Funds
      - State Aid 25-02=\$656.25
    - 15% Marshall County Funds
      - \$131.25
- State Aid 25-03 for Alma Township Section 9
  - Tree Planting (612) for 1.9 acres (3,600 ft)
  - Cost Estimate=\$4,710.00
  - 75% Cost Share Assistance=\$3,532.50
- State Aid 25-04 for Lincoln Township Section 15
  - Tree Planting (612) for 1.5 acres (2,690 ft.)
  - Cost Estimate=\$2,588.00
  - 75% Cost Share Assistance=\$1,941.00
- State Aid 25-05 for Alma Township Section 14
  - Tree Planting (612) for 2.6 acres (3,800 ft)
  - Cost Estimate=\$2,745.00
  - 75% Cost Share Assistance-\$2,058.75
- Motion of Approval by Randy, seconded by Joey to approve contracts State Aid 25-02, State Aid 25-03, State Aid 25-04 & State Aid 25-05 as they were presented. None opposed.  
Motion carried.

### **M/S/T Meeting**

- M/S/T meeting Stephen Legion @2pm today (March 20)
  - County Ditch 45 feasibility study
    - Get input from landowners
- Motion of approval Brent, Joey

### **TR 1W1P Meeting**

- JD 21/Moose River
- Motion of approval Brent, Joey

### **Ag BMP Loan Updates**

- \$100,000 available
- 20 people on the ledger
- Removed quick til/pro till
- If interested a year from now get on the ledger now. Will need an approved lender.

### **WCA Performance Review (BWSR)**

- Will get letter on what needs to be improved

### **RCCP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)**

- \$180,000 on hold because of current funding issues with Federal Government
- Need to edit docket
- Can request more money after funds have been encumbered

### **SWCD Program Technician Job Opening**

- Review description and salary range
- Send to Brady (potentially interested in applying) for interview
  - Start seasonal if hired
- Have to show BWSR the position is advertised first
- Motion of approval Barry, Joey 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Marshall County Fair Booth for 2025**

- \$150 to rent a booth at Fair
- Motion of approval Joey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale

### **Update Employee handbook**

- Randy will help
- Set up individual goal for employees to work towards
- Discuss getting assistance/better training for employees

**Next meeting Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 8am**

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:15am**

Signature:



Date: 4-17-25