

Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

December Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Jerry Wyatt called the December meeting of the Peoria County SWCD to order at 8:35 a.m. on December 10, 2024. The meeting was held at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

Attendance (P=Present, A=Absent)

<u>STAFF</u>		<u>DIRECTORS</u>		<u>ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS</u>	
Jeremy Beck	P	Jerry Wyatt	P	Ron Gilles	A
Josh Joseph	P	Ted Gilles	P	Anita Lorange	A
Karla Smith	P	Chuck Schafer	P	Marty Behrends	P
Wilson Yingling	P	Troy Wagenbach	P	Charles Rice	P
Kane Caudle	P	Dave Wagner	P	Arlan Janssen	P
Vickie Morriscal	P			Betty Gorman	P
				Derek Menold	A
				Dennis Herrmann	P

Approval of Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda for the December meeting, Ted Gilles moved to approve the agenda, Troy Wagenbach seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November meeting. Troy Wagenbach moved to approve the minutes. Dave Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Report

The Board reviewed the financial reports for November. Dave Wagner made the motion to approve the financial reports from November. Chuck Schafer seconded. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

Karla reported that she takes care of the monthly bills, taxes, payroll, reconciling the bank statements. She provides admin assistance for NRCS Staff and turned in papers for Admin agreement. She aids with the IDOA by administering their funds for training and streambank funds when needed. The website is updated, she has been working on Recons. She has taken her annual FOIA Training. Attended meetings for the employee board, and our district group. Karla and Josh both attended Winter Training in Springfield. Both were also presenters. Karla also helped organize the registration table. Josh is working on checking out all of our CPP customers for FY '23 so we can get them paid by years end. He has reached out to Nick Vespa to work on the seeds for spring. We also are working on order forms for tree and fish for spring. He had a tire fixed for the trailer. Continued with the AITC. Visits. He met with the water filter guy to make sure our system is running well. Also ordered light bulbs for the building and will work on changed those early January. Jeremy has been focusing on CSP payments and renewals. There is a new Soil Conservationist starting in the Eureka office on December 30, Riley

Babcock. Wilson has been working on CSP payments and renewals, and NRI (Natural Resources Inventory). Kane has been working on Grass Waterway Training and NRI Training. Vickie reported about some of the projects that she has been working on, WASCOB, Urban Ag and Waterways.

Conservation Application

EQIP, CSP, CRP, CREP:

Update Watersheds Watershed Survey:

Partners for conservation

Project Update:

Payment Approval: Paperwork is being finished on the following projects and payment needs to be made before the end of the year: Jim Dixon; Jay Knobloch; Sam Martin; Dennis Rickey; Dave Menold; Scott Worms; Ted Gilles; Dave Wagner. Troy Wagenbach made the motion to approve payments for all projects listed above. Chuck Schafer seconded. Motion passed.

Cost Share Prioritization:

New Business

Annual Meeting:

Notice: The Petition to hold an Annual Meeting was sent for directors to sign. Needs to be sent in for approval from the BLWR.

Election of Directors: Chairman Wyatt signed. Ready to be sent into BLWR for approval.

Certification of Directors: Nominees for the Directors were sent for signatures.

Door prizes: List are in the packets of last year's prizes.

Tickets: Will be available. Issues with printing.

Conservation Winner: Continued to be paused.

Quad City Stormwater Conference Josh and Al: Dave Wagner made the motion for Josh and Al to attend the conference. Ted Gilles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brimfield Fire Department Donation: Dave Wagner made the motion to send a \$100 donation to the Brimfield Fire Department. Troy Wagenbach seconded. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous: Christmas Gifts; Dave Wagner made the motion to give Josh and Karla \$150 for Christmas. Ted Gilles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business.

Tax Levy: Tax Levy papers have been filed with the County Clerk. Josh talked about increasing the levy to include health insurance, which the district pays about \$10,000 a year. Discussion was held, no decision was made at this time.

Winter Training: Josh and Karla's presentations went well. Josh received his 25-year service award, Karla received her 10-year service award. Josh was also named Employee of the Year.

Miscellaneous:

Building

Miscellaneous:

Operations

Time sheets and mileage reports: signed by the Chairman.

Correspondence:

Legislative Updates

State and Federal:

Communications

AISWCD: Chuck Schafer attended the Quarterly Board Meeting in Springfield on December 4; he gave us an update on the Association as follows: SWCD's are still not fully funded. They are asking that we visit with our local legislative representatives, give them a tour of the district and show them what we do for conservation. The Welcome signs are moving forward with the state making them. Each District will have to pay for their signs. A new Executive Director has been named for AISWCD, Elliot Clay. He will start around the first of the year. There is a grant that will be paying for 600 memberships to the Illinois Soybean Association. More details to come.

NACD:

BLWR:

Strategic Planning

Client Service Plan update: none

Volunteer Hours:

Next Meeting –The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. by Ted Gilles. Seconded by Dave Wagner. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karla Smith

Approved By:

Chuck Schafer, Secretary PCSWCD