

Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

April Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Jerry Wyatt called the April meeting of the Peoria County SWCD to order at 8:30 a.m. on April 8, 2025. 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	Dave Wagner	P	Anita Lorange	A
Karla Smith	P	Chuck Schafer	P	Marty Behrends	P
Wilson Yingling	P	Troy Wagenbach	P	Charles Rice	P
Vicki Morrical	A	Derek Menold	P	Ted Gilles	A
				Betty Gorman	A
				Dennis Herrmann	P

Approval of Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda for the April meeting, Dave Wagner moved to approve the agenda, Derek Menold seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March meeting. Derek Menold moved to approve the minutes. Dave Wagner seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Report

The Board reviewed the financial reports for March. Dave Wagner made the motion to approve the financial reports from March. Derek Menold 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 finished taking fish and tree orders and got organized for pick-up days. She helped with the LUC 5 Envirothon in Pekin. She helped some Bradley students with emailing old soil maps. She attended meetings for Summer Conference, Local Workgroup Meeting, and the landscape company about removing some shrubs around the building. She is working on paperwork to turn in for the Local Work Group, Karla also finished reading the 2026 Grant Agreement. Josh has been visiting schools for the last Ag In the Classroom for the school year. He has been getting ready for the custom seeding program, the drill is ready, seed has been picked up, working on maps and contacting producers to figure out a start date. He made field visits to Randy Nau and Craig Caldwell. He attended meetings at the Farm Bureau about solar, and the Kickapoo Creek

Watershed meeting. He facilitated the Local Workgroup meeting. He also had Jury Duty this past month. Jeremy is working on EQIP applications, a deadline of April 25th is set for them. There is \$13 million available for 3600 applications. He attended the Local Workgroup in all 3 counties. They all went well. He has made some field visits and is preparing for compliance reviews. Staffing updates; Riley Babcock and Kane Caudle could have come back to their jobs; both have chosen to take the deferred resignation. Wilson has been helping with spring construction projects, working on EQIP applications. He too, had jury duty.

Conservation Application

EQIP, CSP, CRP, CREP:

Update Watersheds Watershed Survey: The Kickapoo Creek Plan is close to sending to the EPA for final review.

Partners for conservation

Project Update:

Payment Approval:

Cost Share Prioritization:

New Business

Green Trees/Green Communities: Planting on Saturday, April 12 at 10 am at Charter Oak Park

Summer Conference: Being held July 20 – 22, will have more information in May.

FY '25 Grant Agreement: Karla has read through the agreement, Jerry has signed it, Karla sent it to the Marty McManus, Regional Rep. Karla highlighted the new things in the agreement that we must do.

Tree Sale: Tree wrapping day is Thursday, April 10, Pick-up is the 11th and 12th. Josh will pick up the trees on Wednesday. They are getting ready for wrapping day.

Letter to Congressman about pause in funding and uncertainty from NACD: The NACD has requested that Districts write a letter in support of continued funding for conservation and its programs. The board agreed that we should support this and asked to send the letter to Congressmen LaHood and Sorensen from Illinois.

Miscellaneous: Our CD is up for renewal on April 11th. Karla is to find the best rate and talk with Jerry to decide what to do. Josh has a wish list: A new Air Hose for the compressor \$40 (dry rooted); Battery Booster \$100 for ranger; Bracket for the Ladder to hook to the building in order to clean the gutters on the shed \$30. Dave Wagner made the motion for Josh to buy these items. Derek Menold seconded. Motion passed. There will be a field day at Shirley Johnson farm on June 6. Cameron Road.

Old Business.

Fish Sale: Fish pick-up went well. 4 orders were delivered. Orders were picked up by 9 AM. Gross sale about \$10,000. Have not received the bill yet.

Local Work Group Meeting:

Miscellaneous: Troy needs to do his Statement of Economic Interest. Check his email as it has changed.

Building

Landscaping:
Miscellaneous:

Operations

Time sheets and mileage reports: signed by the Chairman.
Correspondence:

Legislative Updates

State and Federal:

Communications

AISWCD:

NACD:

BLWR:

Strategic Planning

Client Service Plan update: none

Volunteer Hours: Turned in

Next Meeting –The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 12, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Adjournment-. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 am motion by Dave Wagner, seconded by Derek Menold.
Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Karla Smith

Approved By:

Chuck Schafer, Secretary PCSWCD