

Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

March Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Jerry Wyatt called the March meeting of the Peoria County SWCD to order at 8:30 a.m. on March 11, 2025. The meeting was held at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

Attendance (P=Present, A=Absent)

STAFF		DIRECTORS		ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS	
Jeremy Beck	P	Jerry Wyatt	P	Ron Gilles	P
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	P	Derek Menold	P	Ted Gilles	P
				Betty Gorman	A
				Dennis Herrmann	P

Jeremy introduced Tammy Willis, State Conservationist, and Annette Holmes, Area 2 Assistant State Conservationist. Tammy took this time to address the board. She told us about her history with NRCS. She talked about the Continuing Resolution, hoping that Congress would sign something on Friday, March 14. There is a Hiring Freeze for NRCS, IRA agreements are currently paused, Payments due to producers through the IRA Contracts will be paid. There is a 4.9 million IRA agreement with SWCD's that is paused. Employees that were let go are being offered to come back. So far there is no guidance on this. Tammy feels that there is a really good relationship with the SWCD's and thanked the board for the opportunity to come to our meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda for the March meeting, Dave Wagner moved to approve the agenda, Troy Wagenbach seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the February 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 February. Derek Menold made the motion to approve the financial reports from February. Dave Wagner 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 got the door prizes together for the Annual Meeting and paperwork. She has the paperwork ready to turn into the state as soon as she gets signatures. She has been taking tree and fish orders. Cleaned some drawers to make room for more papers. Karla received the FY '25 Grant Agreement which she is currently going over. Josh hosted with Jodi a mid-contract Management Workshop for CRP, he has been working on finalizing the seed mixes with Nick. He helped get things ready for the Annual Meeting, attended with Al the QC Stormwater Conference, in which he received all his hours for CPESC certification. He continues to work with Quality Water and the water filters. Jeremy talked about EQIP and CSP in Peoria County and our district group. He gave an update on CRP. He thanked the 3 SWCD boards for help organizing Local Work Group meetings. Jeremy informed the board of staffing updates, Kane Caudle and Riley have been let go. The future is uncertain pertaining to staff. Wilson has been working on CRP, doing burn plans, surveys and helping Vicki with Conservation Desktop.

Conservation Application

EQIP, CSP, CRP, CREP:

Update Watersheds Watershed Survey: There is a meeting at the PC Farm Bureau on March 19 from 5 – 7 pm.

Partners for conservation

Project Update:

Payment Approval:

Cost Share Prioritization:

New Business

Local Work Group Meeting: Local Work Group Meeting on March 29, 2025, from 10 – noon. All are welcome to attend.

Sales: Slow start for both trees and fish, hopefully will pick up before the deadlines.

Acceptance of Office of Director: Derek Menold and Chuck Schafer were asked to sign the acceptance of Office of Director for Peoria County SWCD.

Organization of Board: Troy Wagenbach moved that the slate of officers be as follows: Chairman – Jerry Wyatt; Vice-Chair – Dave Wagner; Secretary – Chuck Schafer; Treasurer – Troy Wagenbach; Director – Derek Menold. Motion was seconded by Derek Menold. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Envirothon Donation: Dave Wagner made the motion to donate \$50 to the State Envirothon. Troy Wagenbach seconded. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous:

Old Business.

Annual Meeting: Well attended. 82 people were present. We had reservations for 95. With donations and ticket sales we lost a total of \$427.79. 58 Door Prizes were given.

CRP Meeting: Well attended. Good information.

Miscellaneous:

Building

Miscellaneous:

Operations

Time sheets and mileage reports: signed by the Chairman.

Correspondence:

Legislative Updates

State and Federal: Senator Dave Koehler has presented two bills to the state senate to help fund SWCD's. One has made it out of committee.

Communications

AISWCD:

NACD:

BLWR: Update in board packet.

Strategic Planning

Client Service Plan update: none

Volunteer Hours:

Next Meeting—The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Adjournment-. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am motion by Dave Wagner, seconded by Derek Menold. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karla Smith

Approved By:

Chuck Schafer, Secretary PCSWCD