

**PIATT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2009

Chairman, Bruce Stoddard called the monthly Board Meeting, of the Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District, to order at 7:00 p. m. on April 20, 2009. The meeting was held at the USDA Building, Conference Room in Monticello, IL. Those present were:

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Chairman, Bruce Stoddard; Vice Chair, John Beckhart; Sec-Trea, Derrick Bruhn and Bill Meyer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Loyd Wax and Dylan Gallagher

DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ARRIVING LATE:

John Beckhart arrived at 7:08

DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Allen Williams Director and Associate Directors Kurt Robson

NRCS PERSONNEL:

District Conservationist, Michelle Lewis
Technician, Richard Parks

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

Terre Zeigler, CREP Assistant
Jonathon Manuel, Resource Conservationist
Phyllis Muse, Adm. Coordinator

GUEST:

Joe Bybee, IDOA Regional Representative
Ron Helm, Macon County SWCD Board Chairman

MINUTES:

Chairman, Bruce Stoddard asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 17, 2009 Board meeting minutes. There being no further additions or corrections to the minutes, The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Derrick Bruhn motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Meyer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phyllis Muse, A.C. presented the Treasurer's Report and Bank Statements for March, 2009.

Derrick Bruhn motioned to approve the Treasurer's report and Bank Statements for March. Bill Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

March bank statements were signed by Derrick Bruhn.

OLD BUSINESS:

District Sales Update:

The District had a Fish, Tree and Rain Barrel sale this spring.

The profit from the fish sale was \$173.00, tree sale was \$1,140.22 and rain barrels \$672.00.

The District has sold 59 of the 2009 plat books for a total of \$2065.00.

E-Waste Recycling Update:

The District has an E-Waste recycling trailer from Lincoln Heritage RC & D and has filled it once with electronic waste and the 2nd trailer is almost full. The first trailer was filled with 1200 pounds of electronic waste with just twelve customers. The District collects electronic waste every Wednesday from 8:00 to 4:00. So far the District has collected \$370.00 from the items that cost to dispose of them. The District gets to keep \$70.00 and \$300.00 goes to Lincoln Heritage RC & D.

Envirothon:

Piatt County had three teams to participate in the LUC 6 Envirothon. Monticello had two teams and one of their teams placed first and the other tied for 7th & 8th place with Leroy's team # 1. Cerro Gordo had one team and they placed 2nd.

Web Page:

The District's web page is up and running. Ellis Zeigler did a great job. There are still a few changes to be made but all in all it looks good. Web site address is: www.piattcountyswcd.com.

Tillage Day Update:

George Riley is still willing to let the District use his wheat field for the Tillage Day. It will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant Agreement Amendment # 3:

The Board approved for the Chair to sign off on the Grant Agreement Amendment #3.

The District will be receiving \$17,813.58 for the 3rd installment for operation funds and \$ 31,080.00 for program funds for PFC (Partners for Conservation).

Derrick Bruhn motioned to approve for the Chair to sign the Agreement. John Beckhart seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

CPP:

Jonathon reported that Steve Koss is well under way on his first water-way. He hopes to get the second water-way design out to the engineer yet this month.

Mr. Robrock's water-way is under construction.

Tim Menacher's water-way is surveyed and he hopes to complete it tomorrow.

Special Project:

Jonathon would like approval to turn in a Grant to Mike Rahe, IDOA, for a special project for Allerton Park. The pond at Allerton Park has an erosion problem. The Grant would be for \$10,000.00.

John Beckhart motioned to approve sending in a Grant for the special project. Derrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Legislator Tour:

Jonathon will be participating in a Legislator tour for Farm Bureau. The Legislator's name is Karen May. Karen is from Chicago. Jonathon will be showing her around at some of the construction sites and practices that are completed.

NACD Phone Call:

Jonathon received a phone call from NACD asking what the District thought of NACD. He let them know that the District was not happy with NACD. The District felt that NACD should have lobbied more for the Districts last year than what they did. They could have written more letters to the Governor, Legislators and etc.

Legislative Letter:

Jonathon sent a letter to the Legislators along with a spreadsheet showing the accomplishments of the District. The spreadsheet also showed the amount of Federal money that District brought into the County.

Conservation Day:

Jonathon is working with Robbie Berg from Earth Partners on a Third Grade Conservation Day. The Conservation Day will be held at the White Heath School on April 24. Trees will be handed out to all 3rd graders. Earth Partners are paying for the lunches.

FY '10 Insurance Benefit Choice Seminar:

Phyllis is on the Employee Health Insurance Committee and would like approval to attend the FY'10 Benefit Choice Seminar to be held in Springfield on April 24, 2009.

John Beckhart motioned to approve Phyllis attending the Benefit Choice Seminar in Springfield. Derrick Bruhn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

USDA Privacy Act:

In the near future the Board may be asked to sign off on a USDA Privacy Act. This Act is for the privacy of the producers in how we reveal farm and tract numbers with names in minutes and such.

Transect Survey:

Jonathon will be doing the transect survey this year and wanted the Board to know that he may have a lot of mileage on his expense sheet. The BLWR has encouraged SWCDs to digitize their transect points this year and send a copy of the ARC GIS shape file to their Regional Representative. Tentative plans are to run the Transect Survey again next year to accurately capture the 2 year rotations and residue levels currently used by producers.

Chairman, Bruce Stoddard entertained a motion to approve all the Old & New Business.

John Beckhart motioned to approve all the Old & New Business. Bill Meyer seconded the Motion. Motion carried

BILLS: Paid and unpaid:

Derrick Bruhn motioned to approve all bills paid and unpaid. John Beckhart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT:

Michelle Lewis, District Conservationist submitted her written report as attached.

GUEST: Richard Parks, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, reported that he is available to help Michelle and Jonathon with water-ways and also volunteered to help with the transect survey if needed.

Richard is also available to help in the Vermilion and Champaign Counties.

SWCD STAFF REPORTS:

CREP Assistant's Report:

Terre Zeigler, CREP Assistant gave an oral report.

Terre is working on a Grant with a company in Chicago to get funds for the District to hold Easements for the Land Conservation Foundation Group.

Terre has volunteered to help with the 3rd grade trees.

Terre has completed the CREP paperwork for McCartney and Dalton's easements and the State has held the Capital Bond sale so the District should receive the funding for these projects with in the near future.

Resource Conservationist's Report:

Jonathon Manuel, Resource Conservationist, submitted his report as attached.

Administrative Coordinator's Report:

Phyllis Muse, Administrative Coordinator, submitted her report as attached.

Derrick Bruhn motioned to approve the staff reports. Bill Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GUEST: Ron Helm, Macon County SWCD Chairman, attended the Board meeting and asked the Directors how they do their employee evaluations. He was concerned doing the evaluations since he is not around the employees during the day. The Directors explained how they evaluate their employees. He also asked questions about doing the budget and etc.

GUEST: Joe Bybee, Regional Representative, set in on the Board meeting.

GUEST: Kevin Dalton was unable to attend the Board meeting.

TIME SHEETS & EXPENSE REPORTS:

John Beckhart motioned to approve the staffs' time sheets and expense reports. Derrick Bruhn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman, Bruce Stoddard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

John Beckhart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bill Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:
Phyllis Muse, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:
Bruce Stoddard, Chairman

Signature

Date

H/my doc/minutes
April 20, 2009 mins.doc.