

PIATT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 16th, 2017

Chairman, John Beckhart called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M. on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The meeting was held at the USDA office located at 1209 Bear Lane in Monticello, Illinois.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

*Chairman: John Beckhart, Vice-Chairman: Jerry Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer: Eric Miller, and Butch Fisher*

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:** *Brian McDowell*

**DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT:** *Wyatt Muse, Loyd Wax, and Joan Lawson*

**NRCS PERSONNEL:** *Jamie Jones Soil Conservationist/Area 5*

**DISTRICT PERSONNEL:** *Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist and Patricia Webb, Administrative Coordinator*

**MINUTES:**

*Jerry Edwards made a motion to approve the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 minutes. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Eric Miller presented the board with a spreadsheet he had prepared for our Edwards Jones funds. Half of the investments have been transferred over to CD's with the rest being tiered into CD's a quarter at a time every 3 months.

*Butch Fisher made a motion to approve the March and April Treasurers Report and sign bank statements. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

*Butch Fisher made a motion for Eric Miller to sign Bank Statements. Jerry Edwards seconded this motion. Motion carried.*

**FOUNDATION UPDATE-**

There is a total of \$12,760.85 in liquid funds in the foundation account.

The Piatt County Soil and Water Foundation seed packets have been ordered. They will be here before our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in the fall. It cost around \$300 to order the seed packets with 20 different pollinator species being offered.

Jonah Totten has been in contact with RR Services for our Tire Recycling day. They charge \$2 per tire and are only wanting the small tires. We can do the larger tires at a higher cost like tractor tires could be up to \$100 per tire. The board suggested setting the donation box out. Jonah is to schedule the tire recycling day in late August and check the exact price they would charge for agriculture tires.

Jonah came up with an announcement and application for the Conservation Foundation Award. She has asked the board to take the application home and provide comments and suggestions for any changes.

*Jerry Edwards made a motion to approve the foundation update. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**75 year anniversary-** The date for Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District's 75<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary celebration has been set for September 15<sup>th</sup> at the 4H memorial camp. The 4H memorial camp is trying to raise money for a post hole 3 point hitch auger for their utility tractor. Jonah is also going to contact The Birds of Prey for entertainment.

*John Beckhart made a motion to donate \$150 for the use of the 4H camp pavilion. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**Headwaters Invasive Plant Partnership-** Eric Miller is to contact Jonathan Manuel and table this until next month's board meeting

**Farm Bureau Grant Available Nitrate Testing-** We are 2/3 done with the grant. Jonah Totten was able to purchase the 3 extra sensors at \$450. She can just call Hettinger's and ask for the sensors. There has been 18 customers with 32 water samples and 3 customers with 8 soil samples. We have had a total of 21 customers and 40 samples with 2 more event days left.

*Butch Fisher made a motion to approve all Old Business. Eric Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Association list of services-** AISWCD sent out a list of services that they provide for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

**Clean Sweep Program-** Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District has agreed to be a sponsor of the Clean Sweep Program. We will hand out the forms to producers in Piatt County that they can fill out and get rid of agriculture pesticides.

**Strategic Plan document-** This plan was developed by the association from the information from the surveys that our board members and employees filled out. It outlines our priorities and struggles we have to reach our priorities. The idea is to be able to take this document and seek other funding for soil and water districts.

*John Beckhart made a motion to pay any cost for Jonah Totten to go the Prairie Rivers Association event at Allerton Park. Jerry Edwards seconded this motion. Motion passed.*

**Reoccurring cost of business-**

*Eric Miller made of motion to approve a budget of up to \$300 office expense before having to go before the board for approval. Jerry Edwards seconded this motion. Motion passed.*

**E-Recycling Day-** Patty Webb mailed out donation letters in February to Piatt County townships and villages. The Piatt County SWCD foundation has received a total of \$900 from the Townships of Goose Creek, Monticello, Sangamon, Willow Branch, Unity, and Cerro Gordo and \$300 from the Villages of Bement, Cisco, and Hammond. On April 18<sup>th</sup> Patty met with Emily and Trish at Farm Bureau to discuss their ideas for E-Recycling day. They are concerned with the trailers always filling up so fast and people being turned away. They are considering possibly getting a semi when they host the E-Recycling day in August.

*Butch Fisher made a motion to approve all New Business. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed*

**BILLS PAID AND UNPAID:**

*Jerry Edwards made a motion to pay Bills paid and unpaid. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**NRCS REPORT**

There was no new report for NRCS for May.

**Patricia Webb, Administrative Coordinator. Entire report attached.**

**NRCS administrative assistance:** Piatt County SWCD invoiced out 22 hrs. of work for NRCS for the month of February.

**AISWCD Insurance:** Jonah's April insurance was filled out and sent to be paid march 23rd, 2017.

**Spring 2017 Fish and Tree Sale:** The Spring Fish Sale pick up date was March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. We made \$378.40 for our fish sale. The Spring Tree sale pick up was April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and made a total of \$507.56.

**E-Recycling-** In February I mailed out donation letters to Piatt County townships and villages. The Piatt County SWCD foundation has received a total of \$900 from the Townships of Goose Creek, Monticello, Sangamon, Willow Branch, Unity and Cerro Gordo and \$300 from the Village of Bement, Cisco, and Hammond.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> I met with Emily and Trish at Farm Bureau to discuss their ideas for E-Recycling day. They are concerned with the e-recycling trailers always filling up so fast and people being upset for having to be turned away. They are wanting Farm Bureau to host the E-Recycling day in August possibly have it at the forest reserve park and get a semi.

**PCSWCD Website/Facebook page:** All Minutes are up to date on our Web page.

**Board Packets:** I typed up the March board minutes. I completed the AC board report for March. I sent the Bank Statements to Kelly, went to Kelly's to pick up the treasurer's reports. I typed the Agenda & made copies of board packet. Emailed packets to board members and put the board books together.

**Plat Books:** 3

**FLAGS:** 1

**Recons:** 4 recons were done this month.

**Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist.**

**CRP-** Jonah has been working with FSA to complete all of the CRP contracts due to a deadline they were given last week. We have a couple more waterways that are in the process of getting surveyed and those will be designed and surveyed in the next few weeks.

**Lake Decatur Watershed-** The ranking is going to happen on Thursday. However, we were notified that two of our smaller projects were probably going to receive funding. Once small waterway and some streambank work on a small project in an Urban Setting.

**319 Grants-** Jonah has been working on gathering information, requesting letters of recommendation, meeting with landowners, and putting together an extensive application for a 319 grant. At this time we have about 8 projects that would request close to \$120,000 for the EPA. Applications are due in August however, Jonah is working to get hers in sooner because the EPA does review them if they are turned in before the deadline.

**Transect Survey-** will be taken place within the month. This is a 3 day survey across Piatt County (stopping every 50') that will measure residue and tillage.

*Butch Fisher made a motion to approve all staff reports. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.  
John Beckhart made a motion to approve time sheets and expense reports. Butch Fisher seconded the motion.  
Motion passed.*

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

**Our Next Board Meeting is June 20th, 2017 at 8:00 A.M**

*Wyatt Muse made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** @ 9:20 A.M.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Patricia Webb, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:

John Beckhart, Chairman

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Signature

Date