

**PIATT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 19th, 2015

Chairman, John Beckhart called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM on January 19th, 2016. The meeting was held at the USDA Building, Conference Room in Monticello, IL. Those present were:

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Chairman: John Beckhart, Butch Fisher, and Jerry Edwards.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Brian McDowell

DIRECTORS& ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: Wyatt Muse, Loyd Wax, Andy Lawhead, and Dylan Gallagher.

NRCS PERSONNEL: Absent

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator

MINUTES:

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve the December 2015 minutes. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

John Beckhart made a comment to thank the anonymous donor for buying Christmas lunch back in December at Judy's Kitchen.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Eric Miller our Treasurer is absent from this meeting so he will sign the December Bank Statements next month. John Beckhart is going to go meet with Kelly because of a few discrepancies in the treasurer's reports that need to be resolved and talk with her to see if she can take out any more pages in the reports.

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve the December 2015 Treasurers Report. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bank Account adjustments/EPAY: We will be needing to order new checks for our on the ground conservation account at First Mid. We only write a few checks a year so we won't have to order many. Jonah Totten will order these checks to make sure the cost stays down. We will be doing away with our EPAY account because we are not using the account enough to justify the cost.

Farm Bureau Grant: The Farm Bureau Grant will announce the winner at the end of January. There were 44 other applicants.

Election: February 2, 2016 will be the general election to vote for our directors. John Beckhart, Eric Miller, and Jerry Edwards are the three candidates.

Newsletter: The newsletter has went out to 1700 residents. We have not received the invoice yet but are estimating it to be around \$1600.

Electronic Recycling: Patty Webb has set up the 2016 E-Recycling Days. They are February 24th, May 25th, August 31st, and November 23rd. Patty also made a new E-Recycling flyer for 2016. Patty has contacted the Road Commissioners by phone, email, and US mail to ask if they would be interested in helping to fund our E-Recycling days. So far she has only heard back from 3 of the 8 Road Commissioners.

The board has given Patty permission to contact the Villages of Piatt County as well and ask if they would be interested in helping fund the E-Recycling Days.

Jerry Edwards made a motion to approve Old Business. Butch Fisher seconded this motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUISNESS:

Board Member Mileage: Last month it was agreed by the board to give back their monthly mileage checks. There is a board member here that attended two LUC meetings and we had previously reimbursed Loyd Wax earlier this year for attending similar meetings. John Beckhart agreed to pay the amount of attending the two LUC meetings.

Lieutenant Governor Report/ SWCD Plan: The Lieutenant Governor's Report came out. There are five areas that Soil and Water Conservation Districts are mentioned but not in a good way. Eric Miller ran into Myron Kirby at the Indiana Soil and Water Meeting and asked him about funding. SWCD usually gets 7 ½ million to cover operations funding and insurance. Right now 5 million is on the table but insurance will not be continued to be paid for by the state at this time.

The board feels it needs to start looking at possible cuts the office can start making. The SWCD's came up with a plan to give to the governor. They came up with two bullet points 1. Base funding will be established and that is for administrative assistant work. On top of the base funding would pay the RC position for technical assistance. 2. It was also mentioned that before funding was distributed the same across the state districts but now it will be decided among by evaluating the amount of workload.

New Portion of Contribution Agreement: The Association had asked the SWCD to come up with a number for new conservation plans that are going to be during open enrollment times. Jonah turned in \$8700 and the Association came back and said they are only going to give 16% of the total of what was turned in by the SWCD's. Which is about \$1400 for Piatt County.

LaPlace Illinois complaint: Jonah was called down to LaPlace Illinois twice. There are two land owners on a small stream that runs straight through LaPlace that are having issues. One of the land owners cleaned out his part of the stream and was flowing well but when it went under the culvert it took a strange turn and the water started backing up there which is caused by a downstream owner not the road commissioner. The stream has a lot of log jams and areas that need to be cleaned out and widened. There is not enough depth in the stream to control all the flow with the new tiling that has been put into this creek. Jonah has found 5 land owners by the stream that she is wanting to send a letter to suggest ideas that can be done to clean up the debris, the settlement build up, or the log jams within the stream to help the community and SWCD could provide ways to assistants the land owners with ideas. The board approved for Jonah to send the letter to the five land owners.

Jerry Edwards made a motion to approve New Business. Butch Fisher seconded this motion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAID AND UNPAID:

Jonah Totten went over the bills paid and unpaid. There was a workman's comp and general liability invoice that is due on top of our insurance. The equipment liability cost of \$72.50 is coming from our scraper. We have only rented the scraper out 2 times in over 2 years. The board has asked Jonah to look for the contract and look for stipulations with Capital Development if the board would sell the scraper.

John Beckhart stated to keep the association insurance coverage as is. Butch Fisher and Jerry Edwards agreed as well.

Jerry Edwards made a motion to donate \$50 to the Illinois Envirothon. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jerry Edwards made a motion to approve Bills paid and to pay Bills for January. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS:

Kent Bohnhoff, District Conservationist, Macon/Dewitt/ and Piatt County. Entire Report attached.

CSP- The payment process has started for this year and we have all of the payments processed. Still accepting new applications, no word on the FY 16 application cutoff.

EQIP-13 applications made the first application cutoff of November 20th in Piatt County. The second application cutoff was January 15th. The first funding cutoff is Friday January 22nd with the staff working diligently to get those applications ready for funding consideration. The Clinton Lake MRBI is coming this spring with further details

Construction- NRCS will continue to work on layout and design of projects with applications.

CRP-CREP enrollment is stopped and is a mess because of the no state budget, new enrollments are continuing.

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator. Entire report attached.

Contribution Agreements: Patty Webb has been working on making copies of FSA's CRP re-enroll folders. (15hrs) Patty has been helping Jonah enter 1245 signature dates and payment information for NRCS contracts.

E-Recycling: Patty has set up the 2016 dates of our E-Recycling Days. They are February 24th, May 25th, August 31st, and November 23rd. Patty has contacted the Road Commissioners by phone, email, and US mail to ask if they would be interested in helping to fund our E-Recycling days. So she has only heard back from 3 of the 8 Road Commissioners. The Board agreed to let Patty start contacting the Villages of Piatt County to see if they would want to help fund the E-Recycling days.

Plat Books: 3 2015 plat books were sold this month.

Recons: 16 recons were done this month.

Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist. Entire report attached.

CPP/SSRP- The funds that have been moved from our partners for conservation funds to our streambank funds are going to be spent soon. We have \$5850.00 that will cover cost share 75% of a streambank Project. The producer is in the bid process now with contractors and as soon as he has selected a bid, we will move forward with construction of the project.

Taxes: Jonah worked with Mary at Kelly's Accounting to get the 1099's sent out to producers for projects completed in 2015.

Lake Decatur Watershed: We have 8 applications submitted for the March 2016 ranking. Also, we were asked if we could spend \$5,000 of 319 money in Piatt County for cost share on conservation practices. Jonah has been working on a large rock chute project that would eat up all those funds and some additional funds.

CPESC: The renewal for CPESC-IT is due and annual fee is \$70.00. We went ahead and renewed the certification. There is a CPESC exam coming up in August 21, 2016 in which Jonah would test to become completely certified instead of having the in training attached to her name. There is a \$150 exam fee at that time. Recently, Jonah has looked at some construction sites with Megan and got a feel for some of the work that needs to be done. Megan said there is an overload in Macon County that needs to be completed along with Champaign County. Jonah is looking to see if other counties could hire her to do their construction site inspections as a way to make extra income.

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve all staff reports. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion.

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve time sheets and expense reports and ask that the chairman signs off on them. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: **Our Next Board Meeting is February 16th, 2015 @ 8 a.m.**

Jerry Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNAMENT: @ 8:50 A.M.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:

John Beckhart, Chairman

Signature

Date