

**PIATT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 17th, 2017

Chairman, John Beckhart called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M. on January 17th, 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, Butch Fisher, and Wyatt Muse

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:

DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: Loyd Wax, and Brian McDowell

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 December 20th, 2016 minutes. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Wyatt Muse made a motion to approve the December Treasurers Report and sign bank statements. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Foundation update- After the foundation paid Piatt County SWCD back we have \$8200 in liquid funds. The question was brought up to possibly give a discounted rate on rental fees for our drill and scraper and a free Plat Book to anyone donating over \$500.

Piatt County SWCD 2017 Newsletter – The Piatt County SWCD 2017 Newsletter will be going out in the next couple of weeks. We were able to keep the cost for the newsletter to be around \$1500.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

New Board Associate- John Beckhart has spoken to Joan Lawson to come to our next meeting and become an associate on our board.

LUC funding update- The first proposal on how to split the \$104,000 between our 7 districts for the LUC funding has been denied. We have 30 days to come up with another proposal. Jonah is working on a proposal on total acres.

Farm Bureau Grant- The first available Nitrate workshop will be February 1 8:30-3:30. Magnets with the information for all the workshops have been sent out. Jonah is working on getting a PH Meter for our 360 soil machine.

Election Acceptance of Nominations- Elections will be held February 7th 2017 7 a.m – 5:30 p.m. Butch Fisher and Wyatt Muse are both up for re-election.

Envirothon Donation-

John Beckhart made a motion to donate \$50 to the Envirothon Donation. Jerry Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Office Supplies: Jonah Totten asked if the board would purchase two rolling carts to help hold file folders.

Wyatt Muse made a motion to purchase two organizing filing systems. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jerry Edwards made a motion to approve all New Business. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed

BILLS PAID AND UNPAID:

Butch Fisher made a motion to pay Bills paid and unpaid. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS:

NRCS REPORT

CSP- There is a new process for evaluating applicants for CSP. December payments were all approved and just handful left to review documentation for January payments.

EQIP- There are 4 active EQIP contracts in the county. The RCCP cutoff dates are different that the regular EQIP dates.

Wetland Determinations-Wetland determinations continue to have a long wait time to be completed, the state and the area is trying to get the wait time down to near 60 days. Jamie is part of the wetland team doing 6 determinations per month and focusing on doing those on the 1st Wednesday each month and the preceding Tuesday.

Construction- We will continue to work on layout and design of projects with applications and move ahead with funded construction projects on contracts.

CRP- New enrollments have a different process and have to be approved before the contract can be executed. FSA is starting to work on contracts expiring September 30, 2017 CRP. New enrollments are not automatic anymore.

Patricia Webb, Administrative Coordinator. Entire report attached.

NRCS administrative assistance: The NRCS Administrative Assistance report was sent in January for the work done in December. We invoiced for 3 hrs. of work done this month.

AISWCD Insurance: Jonah's January insurance was filled out and sent to be paid December 29, 2016.

501©3 Donation letters: Donations are starting to slow down. Jonah is starting to work with me on getting familiar with quick books for the foundation.

E-Recycling- Patty has been working on a new flier for 2017 E-Recycling days. Our next E-Recycling day will be February 22, 2017.

Board Packets: I typed up the December board minutes. I completed the AC board report for December. 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: I have sold 1 plat books

Recons: 2 recons were done this month.

Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist.

CRP- Jonah has completed 30 site visits and 25 conservation Plans for the 2017 reenrolls. We did also receive our 2016 reenroll check for \$7,716. We do have 69 total contracts for 2017.

Deland Blacktop Complaint-

Jonah has been working with two landowners on a drainage dispute at a property line. She familiarized both of them with the Illinois Drainage law and asked that the upstream landowner restore the area to the slope minimizing the newly constructed channel and reseed the area. Also, informed the upstream landowner that maybe inserting a tile near the newly constructed building and rerouting the drainage from the shed to either the adjacent neighbor's tile if allowed or to the ravine off the east of the shed. The downstream landowner would then be responsible for removing the installed berm which is blocking the natural drainage of surface waters.

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve all staff reports. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jerry Edwards 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 February 21th, 2016 at 8:00 A.M

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

ADJOURNMENT: @ 8:45 A.M.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:
Patricia Webb, Administrative Coordinator
Approved by:
John Beckhart, Chairman

Signature

Date