

**PIATT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 15th, 2016

Vice Chairman, Jerry Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M. on March 15th, 2016. The meeting was held at the USDA office located at 1209 Bear Lane in Monticello, Illinois.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman: Jerry Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer: Eric Miller, Butch Fisher, and Wyatt Muse

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: *none present*

DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: *John Beckhart, Brian McDowell, Andy Lawhead, and Dylan Gallagher*

NRCS PERSONNEL: *Kent Bohnhoff*

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

MINUTES:

Wyatt Muse made a motion to approve the February 2016 minutes. Butch Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The board approved of the new Treasurers report from Kelly. We have had a CD come due and we purchased two \$2,000 dollar CD's. The board would like for Joe Mouser to come to our April board meeting.

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve the February 2016 Treasurers Report. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Wyatt Muse made a motion for Eric Miller to sign the bank statements. Butch Fisher seconded this motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Farm Bureau- We are right on time with the Farm Bureau Grant. Construction is planned for March thru June. Jonah is working to lay out the three projects with Wayne Kinney the streambank specialist. Two of the projects are with Farm Bureau and 319 and the other one is funded with CPP funds. Thursday they will meet with the land owners and contractors for the preconstruction meetings. Good weather permitting they will then be installed. We are looking at July 15th for educational field day.

3rd Grade Trees- The 3rd grade trees were ordered from the Fourth Grade Foresters for a total of \$662. We will be going around to 6 schools in Piatt County April 20th and 21st to give presentations and pass out the trees.

Wyatt Muse made a motion to approve Old Business. Butch Fisher seconded this motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

501C3- Jonah is working on the 501C3 documents and have received the determination letter from the IRS and we are officially a nonprofit organization.

Wyatt Muse made a motion to approve all New Business. Butch Fisher 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-Still accepting new applications with the 1st application cutoff is March 31st and evaluation deadline is April 29th. There are 15 applications to date.

EQIP- 5 applications made the first application cutoff of November 20th in Piatt County. The second application cutoff was January 15th. The first funding cutoff was Friday January 22nd with the staff working diligently to get those applications ready for funding consideration. This resulted in 5 applications meeting eligibility requirements for \$168,000. And 3 of those being preapproved for \$161,000. All 3 counties pre approval came in at over \$766,000.

Wetland determinations continue to have a long wait time to be completed, Jamie is assisting in completing these throughout the area.

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

CRP-CREP enrollment is stopped because of the no state budget, new enrollments are continuing. Jonah has received a list of expiring CRP contracts from FSA and we will be working on those for renewals.

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator. Entire report attached.

Fish Sale- We had a huge fish order from Allerton Park to restock the 4H pond. Logan Hallow Fish Farm was able to make Allerton's delivery on Monday March 7th. We have 9 fish orders for our sale on March 25th.

PCSWCD Website- All minutes are up to date. 2016 Fish and Tree sale forms have been added to the site. I am also working on updating pictures as well.

Drill Rental Agreement- A new 2016 rental agreement has been typed up. 2 Pheasants Forever drill bills have been typed and sent out.
E-Recycling- We have received donations in the amount of \$450 from the letter that was sent out to the Villages and Townships asking to help fund our E-Recycling day. Our E-Recycling day was rescheduled from February 24th to March 2nd due to the weather. Our community showed us that the E-Recycling day is needed in Piatt County the trailer was filled in 50 minutes.
Plat Books-11 plat books were sold this month.

Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist. Entire report attached.

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 had selected a contractor and the approval stamp has been awarded by Chris Haring. Streambank Specialist Wayne Kinney and I will be laying out the project the Wednesday and will be having a pre-construction meeting on Thursday with the landowner and contractors.

CRP-Jonah has begun working on the 2016 CRP reenrolls along with the CRP status reviews. We had 19 reenrolls this year that she has already made site visits. 13 out of the 19 reenrolls have already been completed that includes notes in the folder, detailed map of the property, conservation plan, contract with dollar figures, seeding sheets/instructions, and a standardized CP52 form for each one.

Lake Decatur Watershed: We have 9 applications submitted for the March 2016 ranking. There is discussion about completing another 319 with Lake Decatur watershed and that would provide Piatt Co. an opportunity to complete some of the projects that are on the back log.

Pheasants Forever Seed Program- Jonah has submitted 4 seed orders for CRP participants in which the district will receive \$325.50. This is part of our new signed agreement with PF allowing the districts to collect 10% on seed orders.

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

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING: **Our Next Board Meeting is April 19th, 2016 at 8:00 A.M.**

Butch Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: @ 09:23 A.M.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Patricia Webb, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:

John Beckhart, Chairman

Signature

Date