

**PIATT COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2015

Chairman, John Beckhart called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on April 21th, 2015. The meeting was held at the USDA Building, Conference Room in Monticello, IL. Those present were:

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Chairman John Beckhart, Vice-Chairman: Loyd Wax, Secretary-Treasurer Eric Miller, Butch Fisher, and Wyatt Muse.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Jerry Edwards*

DIRECTORS& ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Dylan Gallagher, and Jeff Gregg*

NRCS PERSONNEL: *Jamie Jones, Soil Conservationist*

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator

MINUTES:

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve the March 2015 minutes. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Joe Mouser came to our meeting @ 8:30A.M. to review our Edwards Jones financial statement and answer questions about our CD's. Joe will come back to our September board meeting @ 8:30A.M. to further discuss other investing possibilities.

Butch Fisher made a motion to approve the March 2015 Treasurers Report. Wyatt Muse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

State Funding: A letter from the Department of Ag was sent to SWCD's letting us know that funding is being cut not only for operations but also there will be no funding for on the ground conservation practices for fiscal year 2015. We are running about \$18,600 short in our operations account that we were relying on from our original grant agreement.

Plat Book Photo Contest: The board members have voted and chose Thomas Apperson's elevator picture as the winner of the Plat Book Photo Contest.

Four Wheeler/Trailer: Eric Miller spoke with Illinois Trailer sales while getting their ad for the Plat Book. Gary Huisinga has offered to put the cost of an ad \$350 towards reduction on the price towards the purchase of a trailer. Due to funding reduction the board is unable to purchase a trailer at this time unless 80% would be funded by an outside source. Eric Miller has offered to pay for the trailer for PCSWCD. Loyd Wax suggested looking into leasing or renting a 3 wheeler instead of purchasing one for now.

Long Range Plan: The Long Range Plan was handed out to the board members to read over so it can be approved and signed at the next board meeting.

Loyd Wax made a motion to approve Old Business. Eric Miller seconded this motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tree & Fish Spring Sale: Our spring fish sale pick up day was March 27th. We had 16 orders and made a profit of \$389.56. Logan Hollow Fish Farm ran out of Large Mouth Bass and will be making another trip up to Piatt County SWCD to deliver those fish to the 3 customers that were shorted. The spring tree sale was April 16th and 17th, 2015. We had 24 orders and made a profit of \$314.46

Summer Conference: The Summer Conference is July 27th and July 28th. A board member needs to plan to attend the summer conference to be a voting delegate.

Contribution Agreement: We have 3 times the amount of CRP contracts renewing this year compared to last year. They are trying to set up a contract with NRCS to have our contribution agreement funds sent to the association and they will administer our funds. Nothing has been finalized yet.

Training Needs Inventory: Training needs Inventories have been submitted to NRCS for both Patty and Jonah.

Wyatt Muse made a motion to sign off on the Training Needs Inventory. Eric Miller seconded this motion. Motion carries.

Loyd Wax made a motion to approve New Business. Wyatt Muse seconded this motion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAID AND UNPAID:

Butch Fisher made a motion to table paying the fee for the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Wyatt Muse seconded this motion. Motion carries.

Wyatt Muse made a motion to approve bills paid and unpaid for April. Loyd Wax seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS:**Jamie Jones, NRCS Soil Conservationist. Entire Report attached.**

Rob Lawson is acting once again as the ASTC for Area 4. John Bell (DC in Dewitt County) will be Acting DC for Macon and Piatt Counties in Rob's absence. John has been a great asset to the Piatt County Field Office! John has spent a lot of time here, ensuring that the growing demands are met, and that Jamie is not left without assistance, all while managing 2 additional heavy workload counties.

Illinois NRCS's reorganization plan was approved by the Chief and has been sent on to the secretary for final approval. Now we must wait for the Secretary to notify Congress of the reorganization plan. Once Congress is notified, the reorganization will take place immediately. Illinois is still projecting this to take place by the end of April.

As of Monday, April 20th, our Acting Assistant State Conservationist (ASTC) is Dave Dornbusch. Dave will be acting until further notice. This is still no official word of how, or when, they will fill the vacant ASCT position.

CSP: Piatt County is currently scheduling and completing interviews for the 15 CSP applications. The number of CSP applications across the state is high, so we will see how many of Piatt County's applications are selected for funding.

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator. Entire report attached.

Plat Book Invoices: Invoices were sent out for the Plat Book ads.

Arbor Day/Earth Week: Patty called the schools in Piatt County to schedule times to come to the 3rd grade classrooms for tree presentations. On April 13th and 14th, 2015 Patty and Jonah went to Farmer City, Cerro Gordo, Monticello Christian Academy, and Bement Schools. Trees were delivered to Atwood-Hammond and White Heath schools as well.

Letters to Piatt County State Representatives: Patty wrote letters on behalf of PCSWCD to Chapin Rose, Rodney Davis, and Bill Mitchell about our state budget cuts. The letters were mailed out on Thursday April 9th, 2015.

E-Recycling: Our next E-Recycling day is scheduled May 27th, 2015 9A.M.-12P.M. Patty will be contacting the City of Monticello police department to see if we can use the circle drive at the end of Bear Lane.

Plat Books: 2-2012 and the first 2015 plat book has been sold

E-Z forms: 35 E-Z forms were filed away

Recons: 1 recon was done

Jonah Totten, Resource Conservationist.

CPP: We have \$6,094.63 left in FY14 account and have not yet received our FY15 Funds. Our cost share will be based off of first come first serve basis-and it looks like we have a lot of projects lined up this year and potentially not enough funding to cover everything.

SSRP- 3 complete site visits were completed and Jonah has just gotten back the reports from our stream bank specialist.

Envirothon: Monticello won the local Envirothon that was held the first week of April. They will now be going to the state envirothon at Allerton on the 29th & 30th.

Wyatt Muse made a motion to approve all staff reports. Loyd Wax seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Our Next Board Meeting is May 19th, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m.

Eric Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Loyd Wax seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: @ 9:35 A.M.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Patty Webb, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:

John Beckhart, Chairman

Signature

Date