

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Next meeting Wednesday, October 9, 2013 11 AT 8:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. Chairman Carl Bergman called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Roll call was as follows:

Present:

Directors: Dave Pastrovich, Ken Suslee, Carl Bergman, Jason Anderson, and Dave Schluckebier

Associate Directors: Dennis Hand

Staff: Kris Reynolds and Melissa Cauble

Absent:

Associate Directors: Brad Young, Dick Lyons and Dan Eck

Employees: CJ Liddell and Dave Hobson

Special Guest: Randy Grove stopped by to meet with the board and update them on the following items:

- Waiting on the Grant Agreements to go out to all districts
- Reviewed the CPP spending deadlines
- National No-Till Conference is coming up January 15-18 at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield
- Planning 3 regional seminars on conservation cropping systems
- Cover Crops Initiative plots were underway in 14 places around Illinois. The closes to Montgomery County are in Washington County near Okawville and along 1-72 west of Springfield
- TranSect Survey results would be released soon

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. No changes or additions were noted.

Financial Statements and Approval of Bills: The board reviewed the financial statements. A copy of those statements is on file with these minutes in the SWCD office. No changes or corrections were noted. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to approve the minutes, financial reports and payment of bills which were presented.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Staff Reports: All employees presented written reports which are filed as part of these minutes. **Jason Anderson made a motion to accept the reports as presented.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Natural Area Guardians Report: Kris reported that the cookout was a successful fundraiser for the group again this year. It was held on September 6. Kris also reported that the group had been paid for the collection of forbs seed which they did for the Chicago Botanic Garden. Lastly Kris reported that the group had planned a meeting for September 16 at 4:00 at the USDA Service Center.

OLD BUSINESS

C-2000 Programs: Kris reported that there had still been no news on the FY 2014 allocation. He then asked the board to approve the Average Cost List for 2014. He stated the board had the option of using their own list or using the one sent out by the Bureau of Land and Water Resources (BLWR). He stated he felt it was accurate enough to use and similar to our previous list. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to approve use of the BLWR Average Cost List for 2014.**

2nd by: Dave Pastrovich

Carried: Yes

Next, Kris discussed the request for cost share funding for 2014. The board recommended that Kris ask for \$120,000 again this year. Kris was to complete the request and send it to the BLWR.

Then Kris discussed the FY 2012 and FY 2013 ledgers with the board. He stated the work had been completed and money spent on the FY 2012 list and he reviewed the status of work approved on the FY 2013 list.

Next, Kris reviewed the completed project on the Dennis Hoehn farm. He asked the board for approval of the project and also of the amendments to it. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to approve the completion of the project on Dennis Hoehn using up the end of the FY 2012 money (691.62) and the first of the FY 2013 money (6927.40).**

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

Next, Jason Anderson made a motion to amend the Hoehn project due to a variation in the materials used.

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Finally, Kris reported that he is still taking applications for FY 2014.

CRP, EQIP, CSP, Etc.: Kris reported that he had been working on CRP work items for the Contribution Agreement with NRCS. He stated he had spent about \$19,000 of the \$22,000 requested. He then stated he needed to do two more dry dams/structures in order to fulfill the work products requested. Kris then had the board members review and sign several CRP plans.

Next Kris stated that he and Carl Bergman, Ken Schaal, and Dan Puccetti had met with Joyce Matthews to explain their concerns with the CP-33/CP-42 program. She took their statements into consideration and consulted with the FSA State Office and reported back that the ruling had not changed.

Then Kris reviewed the recent drainage district meeting held at Dick Lyons' home. Kris said he first attended a meeting with the county clerk's office and he discussed the CRP Filter Strip program there. Then he stated he met with Lyons to look at some drainage issues before finally meeting with local landowners in Dick's area to discuss the program further. He felt the meetings went well and that some interest had been generated.

CREP: Melissa reported that our CREP Specialist, Ray Geroff, had taken a position with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to do CREP there. Therefore, we would be getting a new CREP Resource Specialist.

Contribution Agreement: Kris reported he was nearly ready to ask for the first reimbursement from NRCS on the FY 2013 agreement.

Budget/Insurance News: Melissa reported that the September billings had been paid including to CMS and Standard

Melissa then reported that the district had not yet received word about the FY 2014 allocation or deposit of funds.

American Farmland Trust: Kris stated that the newsletter going out had an article and a reminder about cover crops and a tour coming up later in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Envirothon Donation: Melissa reviewed a letter from the AISWCD asking each district to donate \$10.00 toward a fund to help “bridge” the gap when Canon pulls its sponsorship from the National Envirothon. After some discussion, the board decided that they could give more than \$10.00 and they wanted to issue the challenge to all districts to match that donation. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to donate \$50.00 to the “bridge” fund for the national envirothon, with the check being issued to the AISWCD.**

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

Shirt Purchase: The board and staff discussed purchasing new polo shirts with the SWCD logo embroidered on them. They agreed on a dark gray colored shirt. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to spend up to \$25.00 per person for embroidered polo shirts to be prepared by Twila Rose Creations.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Employee Time Sheets: Jason Anderson made a motion to approve the time sheets.

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Next Meeting: To be held Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.

Adjourn: At 12:03 p.m. Dave Pastrovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

Signed:

Dave Schluckebier, Sec/Treas

Date