

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Next meeting Wednesday, August 13, 2014 AT 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District held their regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. Chairman Carl Bergman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll call was as follows:

Present:

Directors: Ken Suslee, Carl Bergman, Dennis Hand, and Dave Schluckebier

Associate Directors: Dave Pastrovich and Brad Young

Staff: CJ Liddell, Dave Hobson, Kris Reynolds and Melissa Cauble

Absent:

Directors: Jason Anderson,

Associate Directors: Dick Lyons and Dan Eck

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. No corrections 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.

Ken Suslee made a motion to approve the minutes, financial reports and payment of bills which were presented.

2nd by: Dennis Hand

Carried: Yes

Staff Reports: Monthly reports were given by all employees. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to accept the reports as presented.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Natural Area Guardians Report: Kris reported that there was still no news on the Rt. 66 Prairie insurance claim from 2013. He stated that he had been in touch with the company again and it was still not resolved.

Kris then reported that Tommy Justison had been working on the steps leading from Bremer Sanctuary to the Arches Rail Trail. He stated that Tommy was able to get the supplies donated and that he was doing this as an Eagle Scout project.

Finally Kris reported that the NAGs were planning to host a prairie walk on the Glenn Savage property in Litchfield on July 17 at 5:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

C-2000 Programs: Kris began by reviewing the status of several current PFC projects. He stated that all FY 2013 funds had been allocated and requests for payments were being processed. He then

asked the board to amend and approve contracts on completed projects for Brown, Peifer, and Toberman. Amendments were necessary for an extension of time on Brown and to adjust number of units on Toberman and Peifer. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to amend the above listed projects.**

2nd by: Dennis Hand

Carried: Yes

Next Kris asked for approval of new projects for FY 2014 on Herpstreith/Suslee. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to approve those applications.**

2nd by: Dennis Hand

Carried: Yes

CRP, EQIP, CSP, Etc.: CJ began by saying that our office had received approximately 30 CRP re-enrollment applications from FSA since the program opened back up. He stated that checkout and planning could begin any time on those.

Under CSP CJ stated that he had six applications that were in pre-approval stage and producers with expiring CSP contracts could now make new applications.

CJ then reviewed the Regional Conservation Practices Program proposal dealing with sodic soils with the board. He stated we will know by the end of July if we will be included in the final proposal which is due in September. He explained that if approved, the district would receive \$0.50 per ton of applied gypsum on soils with high sodium content in the county.

CREP: CJ reported that Jake Vancil, CREP Specialist for our council, had been working closely with Courtney Warmouth to get this contract underway and that Courtney's survey had been received.

Contribution Agreement: Kris reported to the board that he had submitted a new agreement to NRCS for \$20,000 in payments.

Budget/Insurance News: Melissa reported that July insurance bills had been paid and that there was enough money in the account to carry us through September. She also stated that she had completed the FY 2015 budget and allocation request which would be presented to the Illinois Department of Agriculture during Summer Conference.

Melissa then reported that the governor had signed the budget with no cuts to our line item and that we were at level funding with last year.

District Outing: The board decided to attend the horse races again this year on August 8. Anyone wishing to car pool can meet at the office at 5 p.m.

Summer Conference: **Dennis Hand made a motion to have Melissa pay for registration and meals for her and Kris. No directors would be attending this year.**

2nd by: Dave Schluckebier

Carried: Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Ag Literacy Donations: **Dennis Hand made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the University of Illinois' Ag Literacy Program, contingent upon receipt of expected operations funds for FY 2015.**

2nd by: Dave Schluckebier

Carried: Yes

Land Use Council Meeting: Melissa would contact the other counties to confirm a meeting in July.

Employee Evaluations/Contracts: Melissa reminded the board that these were to be done at the August meeting.

FOIA Request: Melissa explained the board that she had received a Freedom of Information request from Openthebooks.com. She stated that they wanted to see a record of all vendor payments made out of district accounts back to 2008. She stated that she was able to complete the request within two days.

Audit: Melissa asked the board for approval to proceed with the annual audit of district books, done by Adam Mathias, for a fee of \$2,600.00. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to proceed with the audit for FY2014 at a fee of \$2,600.00.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Employee Time Sheets: Dennis Hand made a motion to approve the time sheets.

2nd by: Dave Schluckebier

Carried: Yes

Next Meeting: To be held Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn: At 5:12 p.m. Dennis Hand made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Signed:

Dave Schluckebier, Sec/Treas

Date