

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES Thursday, April 9, 2015

Next meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2015 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 Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. Chairman Carl Bergman called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Roll call was as follows:

Present:

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

Associate Directors: Dave Pastrovich, Brad Young, and Dick Lyons

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

Absent:

Director: Jason Anderson

Associate Directors: Dan Eck

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the March, 2015 meeting were read and no corrections 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.

A discussion was held to purchase a larger safe deposit box at Carlinville National Bank at a rate of \$40.00 per year. **Dennis Hand made a motion to purchase the new safe deposit box at CNB Hillsboro and to move the contents from the current box at First Financial to the new box.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

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

2nd by: Dennis Hand

Carried: Yes

Staff Reports: Monthly reports were given by all employees and are included with these minutes. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to accept the reports as presented.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Natural Area Guardians Report: Kris reported that the group held an emergency meeting on April 8 to discuss the Rt. 66 Prairie spray drift issue. He stated the group had contacted an attorney and were hoping to meet with the State's Attorney soon. A lawsuit against the spray company was being discussed.

Next, Kris stated that the group had spoken with IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal about transferring ownership of the Rt. 66 property from IDOT to IDNR. He recommended they send a letter to Representative Bourne that would be channeled up to IDNR for them to make the transfer.

Finally Kris stated that the group had been doing seeding and planting of wetland plugs at the site.

OLD BUSINESS

C-2000 Programs: Kris presented a completed prioritization list for FY 2015 to the board. He informed them that it was possible we would not receive any money for 2015, but that if we did, he would send approval letters to applicants at that time.

Kris then asked the board to rule on the percentage of average cost they would like to pay per project for FY 2015. **Dave Schluckebier made a motion to leave the cost share percentage at 40% for the year.**

2nd by: Dennis Hand

Carried: Yes

CRP, EQIP, CSP, Etc.: CJ began by stating that there were no more CP-33 Habitat buffer acres left in Illinois and that CP-38 SAFE acres were also expended. He continued by saying that CP-42 Pollinator acres were still available under the continuous CRP program.

Next CJ stated that he was working on getting the most recent pre-approvals for EQIP contracts ready for final approval.

Finally, CJ noted that several CSP applications were going into the ranking stage.

CREP: CJ reported that he was working with CREP Specialist Catherine Dunn to inform landowners of the state CREP benefits. He stated he had given Catherine the names of several possible landowners and that she had begun contacting them by mail. Her letters included scenarios for 15 year, 35 year and permanent easements.

Contribution Agreement: No news

Budget/Insurance News: Melissa reported that she had received the second half of the health insurance money from the state of Illinois and that all districts had received a partial payment of their final operations allocation. That amount was \$8,419.00. She noted that the state still owed the district approximately \$18,000 which was swept when the governor swept many other grants in order to pay bills that were left unpaid by Governor Quinn. She stated that the districts were asked to contact legislators about the sweep and to ask that the funds be replaced and paid out to districts as planned.

Long Range Plan: Staff members presented the board with the completed version of the 2015 Long Range Plan. Melissa stated she was ready to submit it to the IDOA. **Dennis Hand made a motion to approve the Long Range Plan as presented.**

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Lake Lou Yaeger Resource Planning Committee: CJ reported on the initial meeting of the group which was held earlier that month. He stated that Dave Pastrovich would serve as the chairman and the next meeting would be held on the third Tuesday in June.

NEW BUSINESS

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

2nd by: Ken Suslee

Carried: Yes

Next Meeting: **To be held Wednesday, May 13, 2015 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**Adjourn: At 6:16 p.m. Dave Schluckebier made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
2nd by: Dennis Hand Carried: Yes**

Signed:

Dave Schluckebier, Sec/Treas

Date