

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**Next meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2015 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, February 18, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. Chairman Carl Bergman called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Roll call was as follows:

### **Present:**

**Directors:** Ken Suslee, Carl Bergman, Dennis Hand, and Jason Anderson

**Associate Directors:** Dave Pastrovich

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

### **Absent:**

**Directors:** Dave Schluckebier

**Associate Directors:** Brad Young, Dan Eck and Dick Lyons

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Minutes of the January meeting were read and no corrections were noted. **Ken Suslee made a motion to approve the minutes from January 2015.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dennis Hand**

**Carried: Yes**

**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 financial reports and payment of bills which were presented.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jason Anderson**

**Carried: Yes**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Ken Suslee**

**Carried: Yes**

**Natural Area Guardians Report:** Kris reported that the group had been submitting articles to Melissa for a newsletter that they hoped to send out in late February or early March.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**C-2000 Programs:** Kris informed the board that he learned he may be able to utilize some funds for practices which Christian County SWCD was unable to spend. He said it could amount to about \$2,800.00 and must be spent by June 30, 2015. He stated he would

remain in contact with Regional Representative Elliott Lagacy as we approach construction season.

Kris then stated he had a few FY 2014 projects in progress.

He also shared a draft copy of the FY 2015 prioritization list with the board. He said we were slated to receive \$26,000 in funds for the year. He and the board agreed at this time to leave the cost-share funding at 40%.

Finally Kris informed the board that a regular Transect Survey would be conducted this year to identify farming and tillage practices and the need for conservation practices on the soil.

**CRP, EQIP, CSP, Etc.:** Kris reported that he had received a list from Farm Service Agency that showed the expiring CRP contracts for 2015. He stated he would use these numbers when applying for a contribution agreement, if one becomes available

**CREP:** Melissa reported to the board that a deposit of CREP funds had been made accidentally into the Illinois Funds Operations Account. She stated that the money (\$597.50) was meant for SWCD use as part of a prior administration fee and that it was not earmarked for anything else. She asked the board if they would rather she move it over into the CREP fund or just leave it in Operations. The board advised her to just leave it in the operating funds account for purpose of paying operating expenses and salaries.

**Contribution Agreement:** No news

**Budget/Insurance News:** Melissa reported that all bills for February had been paid and that she had enough money left in the account to pay March bills. .

**Annual Meeting:** The board and staff reviewed the recent 2015 annual meeting and elections and began planning for the 2016 meeting which would be the SWCD's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They discussed table sponsorships, entertainment and venue options. They agreed that early planning on this meeting would be very important.

**Long Range Plan:** Kris and the board and staff reviewed a second section of the plan which Kris had been working on. Some corrections were made and the office staff will provide an updated draft at the March meeting. Kris stated he was hoping to still be able to complete the plan and have it ready to sign and approve in April.

**Contractor's Breakfast:** Kris reminded the board that the meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 26 at 8:00 a.m. at the U of I Extension in Hillsboro. Kris encouraged directors to attend.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Fish/Tree Sale:** The board and staff had a discussion about how best to advertise the upcoming spring sales. They weighed the costs of ad inserts, newsletters, and a regular newspaper ad. **Jason Anderson made a motion to purchase a nice newspaper ad for both the tree and fish sales, as well as running several free news releases mentioning the sale and where to obtain order forms.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by: Ken Suslee**

**Carried: Yes**

Melissa also mentioned that the order form had been placed on the district's website.

**Employee Time Sheets: Dennis Hand made a motion to approve the time sheets.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jason Anderson Carried: Yes**

**Next Meeting: To be held Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Adjourn: At 12:09 p.m. Dennis Hand made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Ken Suslee Carried: Yes**

**Signed:**

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Dave Schluckebier, Sec/Treas

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Date