

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Next meeting Wednesday, January 8, 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, December 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. Chairman Carl Bergman called the meeting to order at 9:14. Roll call was as follows:

Present:

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

Associate Directors: Dennis Hand and Dick Lyons

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

Absent:

Associate Directors: Brad Young 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. **Dave Pastrovich made a motion to approve the minutes, financial reports and payment of bills which were presented.**

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

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

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

Natural Area Guardians Report: Kris discussed the recent meeting held by the group and updated the board on their activities, which continue to be maintenance of the Arches Rail Trail, the Rt. 66 Prairie Restoration and seed collection/sale to the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

OLD BUSINESS

C-2000 Programs: Kris reported that he had no news on the program other than to say that three projects were still in the process of being completed.

CRP, EQIP, CSP, Etc.: CJ reported that there were still no new CRP program applications being accepted, but that interested landowners were encouraged to leave contact information in case the program is reinstated.

CJ then reported he had been busy accepting EQIP applications and trying to get those processed for the next batching period. He had also been busy making contact with applicants who were unfunded from the previous year to see if they would like to re-submit their applications for 2014.

Under the CSP program CJ stated there was a January 17 deadline coming up and that he was encouraging eligible participants to make application for the program. He also stated there was employee training planned for the CSP program.

CREP: CJ reported that Jake Vancil, CREP Specialist for Land Use Council 9, had made contact with Courtney Warmouth, Ron Lawler, and Larry Miller about moving forward with making application for permanent easements and/or extensions.

Melissa reported that the Getz easement was moving toward completion and a closing date would be set soon.

Contribution Agreement: Melissa reported that the district had received its final installment of the 2013 agreement in the amount of \$4,947.00. She also stated that she had learned from Ivan Dozier that NRCS plans to continue to write agreements with districts in the future.

Budget/Insurance News: Melissa stated that the district had received approximately ½ of its 2014 operations allocation. She also stated that she had received and deposited ½ of the 2014 insurance allocation, making it possible to pay bills accrued in October, November and December, thus bringing the account up to date.

American Farmland Trust: Kris gave a report on the Cover Crops meeting and tour which was held in November.

Winter Training: Melissa gave a report on the training which was held on December 3-4. She stated she had heard many good comments on the training and encouraged directors to participate in the 2014 training meeting.

Annual Meeting and Elections: Melissa asked the board members to sign the petition to hold an election, which would be sent to the Bureau of Land and Water Resources for their approval. She then confirmed that Dan Towery would be the speaker and that Milanos' Catering had confirmed the date. She then confirmed with the board that she could again spend \$100.00 for door prizes, order pens and Kris would have the soil judging plaque engraved.

Nominating Committee: At 10:15, nominating committee members Dan Eickhoff, Tony Krager, and Brian Lewey met with board candidates Jason Anderson, Dave Pastrovich, Dave Schluckebier and Dennis Hand to confirm their intentions to run for office for the period 2014-2016. Each candidate was interviewed and confirmed their eligibility to hold office.

NEW BUSINESS

Agronomy Day Sponsorship: Dave Pastrovich made a motion to donate \$75.00 to the University of Illinois Extension for Agronomy Day.

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

Building Closure Policy: Melissa asked the board to consider passing a policy dealing with building closure in the event of a shutdown due to lack of funding or catastrophic event. She reviewed a policy recently passed by the Henry County SWCD which closely followed actions Montgomery County SWCD took during the recent federal government shutdown. The board asked Melissa to make changes to include wording "upon board approval" and "catastrophic events" and present the policy at the January board meeting.

Lake Lou Yaeger Public Meeting: The board had made arrangements to attend a public meeting where construction of a structure to reduce erosion/sedimentation in the lake would be discussed.

National No-Till Conference: Dave Pastrovich made a motion to pay for up to two registration fees of \$299.00 each for attendance to the National No-till Conference to be held in January in Springfield.

2nd by: Dave Schluckebier

Carried: Yes

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

2nd by: Dave Schluckebier

Carried: Yes

Next Meeting: To be held Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn: At 11:45 a.m. Dave Pastrovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

2nd by: Jason Anderson

Carried: Yes

Signed:

Dave Schluckebier, Sec/Treas

Date