

2024 February
-McLean County SWCD Minutes

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on February 14, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:34 a.m. Directors present were Sally Breese, Jeff Mathews, Howard Heatherwick and Associate Director Garrett Conaty. District employees present were Brett Irwin, Ross Fogle and Jackie Kraft. NRCS District Conservationist Adam Wyant was also present.

~Financials/Minutes:

Howard motioned to approve the January minutes as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the February checks for payment, Sally seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the financials as written. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Howard motioned to approve a \$100 donation to the State Envirothon. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: IEPA approved last report for 319 grant. Waiting on approval of designs from IEPA. No contract received yet for NACD TA grant but received a payment of \$9000 so far. Awarded AISWCD Forestry Grant to plant oak trees at Lake Bloomington again this year. Partnering with local 4-H groups to assist in planting 25 potted oak trees. Presented costs for new file cabinets for the district. Howard motioned to approve purchase of 2 four drawer locking file cabinets for the district. Jeff seconded. Motion Carried.

~Brett gave the District report as written: 2024 PFC first sign-up deadline set for March 29, 2024. Spring Tree and Fish sale order forms are complete and being distributed in E-Newsletter, Spring Newsletter, and Tree and Fish Direct mailing list. Planning Pond shocking Demo in Congerville area in September that will be co-hosted with Woodford County SWCD.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: February E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. Website updates included Contractor services, Tree and Fish sales, and sponsorship page. Spring newsletter final draft is completed and being sent to The Copy Shop for printing and distribution. Drafted a letter inviting the FSA County Committee to our March Board meeting to discuss hosting an event geared towards beginning farmers in our area. The Board signed the letter and sent it to County Committee members.

~Adam gave the NRCS report as written: EQIP IRA ACT-NOW sign up is now complete. There were 2 applications in McLean that were pre-approved for funding. CSP and EQIP applications are currently in the ranking process. First CRP batching sign-up for re-enrolls and continuous practices is March 15th. NRCS is hiring a pathways recent graduate for the Normal Office.

~New Business: the board will conduct an Organization of the Board for 2024 at the March Board Meeting. The next Board Meeting was set for March 13 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 a.m.