

**2024 January**  
**-McLean County SWCD Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on January 10, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 9:12 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 December minutes as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the January checks for payment, Sally seconded. Motion carried. Howard made a motion to approve the financials as written. Sally seconded. Motion carried.

**~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written:** Designs and O & M plans are complete for 319 Implementation Grant. Sending in signed designs for IEPA approval before they are officially finalized. Awarded \$39,413 for NACD TA grant. Discussed need for new locking file cabinets for district files. The board decided to explore price options and discuss at the next meeting.

**~Brett gave the District report as written:** All contracts have been paid besides Reid Miller. Waiting on IDOA approval to complete the last remaining contract. 2024 PFC first sign-up planned for March 29, 2024. Working on new order forms for 2024 spring Tree/Fish sales. CREP annual aerial verifications are complete, following up with IDNR regarding Jon Thompson's application.

**~Ross gave the Watershed report as written:** January E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. Currently, there are 1482 subscribers for the monthly E-Newsletter. There are 19 newsletter/website sponsors for 2024 so far for \$2850 total. McLean County Contractors list has been updated for 2024 with new sponsor solicitation letter sent to contractors as well. Developing a beginning farmer workshop and would like to co-host with FSA to showcase what programs are available to beginning farmers in the area.

**~Adam gave the NRCS report as written:** EQIP ACT-NOW was fully funded in the first sign up period. Practices included conservation crop rotation, cover crops, no-till, reduced tillage, and nutrient management. No movement on CRP being open for signup, new online CRP web tool training will be in Gilman on February 6. Chief Terry Cosby and State Conservationist Tammy Willis are expected to visit the Normal field office on January 26.

**~New Business:** The next Board Meeting was set for February 14 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.