

2024 June

-McLean County SWCD Minutes

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on June 12, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:30 a.m. Directors present were Irvin Bane, 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 April minutes as written. Irvin seconded. Motion carried. Irvin made a motion to approve the June checks for payment, Sally seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the financials as written. Howard seconded. Motion carried.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: No comments yet from IEPA on Watershed Plan Update 319 grant. Shoreline construction for Lake Bloomington started on Monday, June 10. 2.5 acre Constructed Wetland at Lake Evergreen and Rain Garden to be constructed this summer. Spoke with Chris Kemp regarding a donation for the Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship. Howard brought up forming a 501c3 for the Jim Rutherford Scholarship and exploring how to create one. Met with city of Bloomington, town of Normal, and McLean County regarding intergovernmental agreement. Currently the City of Bloomington is contributing \$90,000 and McLean County and Town of Normal are \$10,000 each. City of Bloomington has proposed \$100,000 towards agreement for next 2 years and BNWRD contributing \$25,000. Brought up Summer Conference and the AISWCD Annual Meeting scheduled for July 16. Mike Kelley plans on attending. Presented current AISWCD dues of \$3,497.93. Jeff motioned to approve payment. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership reached out about a possible grant for implementing 30 saturated buffers in McLean County. Grant would offer \$30,000 a year for project coordination. Howard made a motion to pause on the ISAP project for now due to implementation concerns. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Received bills for PFC contract 23-001 (Mary Kay Kinsella) for \$435.00 in cost share. Irvin Motioned to approve PFC cost share payment. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Jack Pitts sent a PFC application for waterway reconstruction scheduled for summer construction for \$6,927.94. Jeff motioned to preapprove the application. Irvin seconded. Motion carried. Current FY23 CPP balance stands at \$13,257.13. The Spring Tree Sale finished with 68 orders and \$4680 in net sales while the Spring Fish sale finished with 39 orders totaling \$4,339 in net sales. Reached out to Tom Herr for an update on the Legal Review for Thompson CREP contract. Coordinating Pollinator Outreach Event with First Baptist Church. Date TBD.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: May & June E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. All Jim Rutherford Scholarship recipients have been awarded with updates on website. Assisted Corpus Cristi with a Rain Garden planting and presentation for 1st-3rd grade classes. Sent Beginning Farmer Meeting invites to 80 to 90 people on targeted mailing list. Registration due July 16 and meeting is scheduled for July 18 from 9-11 a.m. at Davis Lodge.

~Adam gave the NRCS report as written: 6 contracts are obligated for EQIP-IRA for \$948,451 on 2,714.3 acres (2 in McLean at \$79,152). Obligation deadline is set for June 14. FSA Compliance reviews for HEL/Wetland compliance are being completed for 20 tracts in Livingston County and 9 tracts in McLean County. Field visits must be completed by 8/2/24. Adam reviewed the Documentation of Awareness of Civil Rights Responsibilities for NRCS Partners with the board along with the MOU. The Board reviewed and signed the documents.