

**2024 August
-McLean County SWCD Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on August 14, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:29 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. Aidan Walton of PCM was present.

~Financials/Minutes:

Irvin motioned to approve the July minutes as written. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the August checks for payment, Howard seconded. Motion carried. Irvin made a motion to approve the financials as written. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Howard passed out a Carbon sequestration handout and spoke with a representative from a Carbon sequestration committee about speaking at a future board meeting. The board agreed to have a representative speak at a future board meeting.

~Aidan provided updates from PCM: Program enrollment is underway for PCM. Field Day is planned in Fairbury on August 22nd at Nutrien. A strip till demonstration and a cover crop application via drone are planned for the event.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: All the shoreline protection at Lake Bloomington has been completed. Barges are being moved to Lake Evergreen. Wetland construction began on August 5th and is still under construction, Rain Garden will hopefully be completed within 8 weeks. Intergovernmental Grant Agreement has been finalized and awaiting final approval from all boards. ISA grant with Dr. Armstrong has been awarded, funding decision is next month for NREC grant. McLean County Chamber of Commerce has requested a name for Conservationist of the Year by the end of September. No names were mentioned at this meeting and would be discussed further at the September board meeting.

~Brett gave the District report as written: 1 application for WASCObS and 2 applications for cover crops were submitted for funding through PFC (\$10,544.57 in cost share obligation). Howard motioned to preapprove these applications for the remainder of FY23 funding and \$6,177.99 FY24 funding should extra FY23 funds not be available. Irvin seconded. Motion carried. All landowners have been contacted for FY24 CRP re-enroll contracts. 7 townships have been completed for FY25 and FY26 re-enrolls. Waiting on a response from Tom Herr regarding Jon Thompson CREP contract. Howard suggested scheduling a meeting with Tom to finish out Legal review IDNR has requested. Pollinator Habitat Outreach Event is scheduled for August 24 at 10:00am.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: August E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. 7 teams participated in the Jim Rutherford Scholarship Golf Outing. 4 scholarships were underwritten with \$2500 in donations. New and Beginning Farmer Meeting had 20 producers attend. A survey was sent out to ask attendees their interest in follow up events geared towards beginning farmers. Met with Scott Hall from IDOT about revamping I-55 Pollinator Project. New broadcast seeder purchased through Pheasants Forever equipment has been delivered and will be available for rent to producers.

~Adam provided a written NRCS report: 26 CSP applications were preapproved with 20 moving forward to contract. Total obligation of \$976,550 in McLean County with 12 contracts totaling 12,566 acres.

~New Business: The next Board Meeting was set for September 11 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The board went into a closed session at 8:55am. The board returned from closed

session at 9:20 and conducted employee evaluations. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. following the employee evaluations.