

2024 September
-McLean County SWCD Minutes

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on September 11, 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 Sally Breese, Jeff Mathews, Howard Heatherwick and Associate Director Garrett Conaty. District employees present were Brett Irwin, Ross Fogle and Jackie Kraft. Adam Wyant, NRCS District Conservationist was present. Aidan Walton of PCM was present. Dawn Dannenbring and Susan Adams from Illinois Peoples Action were present. The board went into closed session at 7:30 a.m with a presentation from Illinois Peoples Action. The board returned from closed session at 8:19 a.m.

~Financials/Minutes:

Howard motioned to approve the August minutes as written. Sally seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the September checks for payment, Howard seconded. Motion carried. Sally made a motion to approve the financials as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

~Aidan provided updates from PCM: Final program enrollments are underway for PCM. Field Day at Nutrien on August 22nd had over 45 people in attendance with a drone cover crop seeding demonstration and a 24-row strip till demonstration.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: Requested an update from IEPA on 319 grant and 604b Sugar Creek Watershed plan on 9-3-24. Saturated buffer, shoreline stabilization and wetland are complete for 319 implementation grant. Rain garden will be completed in the next few months. IGA has been sent to the mayor of Bloomington for final signature. Jackie presented the remaining AISWCD dues of \$552.58. Jeff motioned to pay the dues. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Presented the board with Greg Kelley as a potential selection for Conservationist of the Year. Jeff motioned to select Greg as Conservationist of the Year. Sally seconded. Motion carried.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Jack Pitts CPP waterway construction is completed, waiting on invoices for that project. Cover crop plantings are underway. Fall Tree and Fish sales order forms have been mailed out, posted to the website and are featured in the Fall Newsletter. Ordered 800 bare root trees for 2025 spring tree sale. Tom Herr has completed initial CREP legal review for Jon Thompson's application. PHOP event at First Baptist Church featured over 30 attendees. Presented a power point showing the benefits of Pollinator habitat on the landscape and conducted a seed ball activity to help aid in the seeding of the pollinator project. Brett brought up the 2025 Annual Meeting. Howard made a motion for the annual meeting to take place January 8, 2025, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. Sally seconded. Motion carried.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: September E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. Fall Newsletter completed and distributed with included new QR codes for Tree and Fish sale flyers to direct to SWCD website. Contractor's list has been updated to reflect growing interest in drone applications for seeding and spraying services. Spoke at a Master Gardeners meeting at Davis Lodge regarding pollinator habitat at North Park and T3 at Lake Evergreen. Pond shocking demonstration is scheduled for October 3rd in Danvers township.

~Adam gave the NRCS report as written: 6 new EQIP contracts were funded in McLean at \$195,271 in obligated funds. 12 new CSP contracts were funded in McLean at \$976,550 in obligated funds covering 12,566.1 contracted acres. Adam announced that he accepted a new position within the NRCS as an RCPP specialist working under the state office. His last day as District Conservationist will be September 27th. The board thanked him for his years of service to the district and wished him well on his new position.

~New Business: The next Board Meeting was set for November 13 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.