

2025 February
-McLean County SWCD Minutes

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on February 12, 2025, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:31 a.m. Directors present were Irvin Bane, Jeff Mathews, Howard Heatherwick and Associate Director Garrett Conaty. District employees present were Brett Irwin, Ross Fogle and Jackie Kraft. Cole Yoder, Devin Jefferson, and Allan Hertzberger of NRCS were present. Aidan Walton of Precision Conservation Management was present. Collin Loeffler of Stanford was present.

~Financials/Minutes:

Irvin motioned to approve the January minutes as written. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Irvin made a motion to approve the February checks for payment. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Howard made a motion to approve the financials as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

~Aidan gave an update on PCM: Gearing up for busy season of farmer reporting. PCM has 9 years of data collected since to program started in 2015. New PCM Data Summary brochure will be posted in the June issue of Prairie Farmer.

~Cole gave the NRCS report as written: February 10 is official start date for new District Conservationist in Mclean/Livingston District Group. EQIP application deadline is February 28 for general EQIP. Executive order freezing IRA funds has the potential to eliminate IRA funding pools. CSP classic application deadline scheduled for May 2. Cole Introduced Allan Hertzberger as the new acting District Conservationist for McLean County.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: Received IEPA reimbursement of \$121,321.93 for 319 implementation grant. Rain Garden still needs to be constructed this spring. Signed contract with Illinois Soybean Association to reimburse for monitoring equipment totaling \$81,346.14. Dr. Shalamar Armstrong will let us know the hot spots that are identified in Lake Bloomington for nutrient loss. ISA field day is scheduled for the first week of April.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Doug Hoerbert WASCOP scheduled for Spring 2025 completion. William Patton turned in cover crop bills for PFC application 24001 for \$1057.88 in cost share. Irvin motioned to approve the payment. Howard seconded. Motion carried. Followed up with Kristen Ragusa and Tom Herr regarding CREP Contract with Jon Thompson. No progress has been made on the contract and correspondence was documented. Spring Tree and Fish sale flyers have been created and distributed via direct mailing, E-news, Spring Newsletter, and posted on website.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: January and February E-news created and distributed. Watershed Newsletter and 2025 Spring Newsletter developed and distributed. Pond Management Clinic with Herman Brothers Fisheries at Davis Lodge scheduled for March 12 at 6:30 PM. Created Watershed and District Year in Reviews. Save the date for Jim Rutherford Golf Outing, July 28, 2025.

~Old Business: Sally Breese stepped down after 27 years on the board on January 15, 2025. The board thanked her for her time and dedication to the McLean County SWCD board. Irvin motioned to appoint Garrett Conaty to serve the remainder of Sally's term. Howard seconded. Motion carried.

~New Business: Howard announced that this would be his final board meeting and would be stepping down after today. Howard has served on the McLean County SWCD board for 9 years. The board thanked him for his service to McLean County SWCD. Howard motioned to appoint Collin Loeffler, of Stanford, to fulfill the remainder of his term. Garrett seconded. Motion carried. The next Board meeting

was set for March 12 at 7:30 AM. The 2025 Local Work Group Meeting was set for March 12 at 8:30 at the USDA Service Center. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 AM.