

**WHITE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2023

The regular monthly board meeting of the White County Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 7:15 a.m., August 15, 2023, by Chairman Bryan Tomm in the conference room of the USDA building.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Brandon Barbre, Bryan Tomm, Mark Colbert, and Laura Whitsitt.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kent Williams.

DISTRICT PERSONNEL: Jewel Brooks, Administrative Coordinator, and Heidi Uselton, Resource Conservationist.

NRCS PERSONNEL: Tyler Pokojski, Soil Conservationist.

GUEST: Carrie Palmenter, TNC Lower Wabash Project Coordinator.

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mark Colbert, seconded by Larura Whitsitt, to approve July 18, 2023, board meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Brandon Barbre, seconded by Laura Whitsitt, to approve the Treasurer's Report for July. Motion carried.

SWCD STAFF REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jewel Brooks, Administrative Coordinator, presented a report as attached. Mark Colbert made a motion, seconded by Laura Whitsitt, to approve the report; motion carried.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT: Heidi Uselton, Resource Conservationist, presented a report as attached. Brandon Barbre made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Mark Colbert; motion carried.

NRCS REPORT: Tyler Pokojski, Soil Conservationist, provided Directors an update on NRCS program contracting, RCPP, training and a potential proposal for WRE.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS / TRAVEL REPORTS:

Motion was made by Mark Colbert, seconded by Brandon Barbre, to approve employee timesheets. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- American Farmland Trust announcing open enrollment for the Illinois Conservation Climate Initiative (ICCI).
- NACD Weekly News Brief was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- NRCS Administrative invoice for July work was reviewed.
- NACD 2023 Outreach and Technical Assistance Grant proposal was provided.
- TNC Grant 4947-0006 – July report from Rita Becker Forler and notice that her WRE work as Independent Contractor for the SWCD will end on August 31, 2023, due to personal circumstances. Carrie Parmenter, TNC Lower Wabash Project Coordinator, discussed possible options for the grant between TNC and White County SWCD to continue. Motion was made by Brandon Barbre, seconded by Mark Colbert, to approve Rita's report and pay the monthly agreed upon amount; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Completed IDOA report for RC Position Verification for the FY23 Grant was reviewed. Motion was made by Mark Colbert, seconded by Laura Whitsitt, to approve; motion carried.
- IDOA report for Equipment/property purchases with FY23 grant funds was reviewed; motion by Brandon Barbre, seconded by mark Colbert, to approve; motion carried.
- Use of SWCD staff in the interim for TNC grant work was discussed with Carrie Parmenter. Chairman Tomm and Directors indicated willingness to continue the partnership with TNC. Use of the TNC purchased computer for the Agreement was discussed, if NRCS approves a 2nd seat for SWCD staff to access the federal network as necessary.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next board meeting will be held on September 12, 2023, at 7:15 a.m., in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without further business, motion was made by Brandon Barbre, seconded by Mark Colbert, to adjourn. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 7:57 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Jewel L. Brooks:

Jewel L. Brooks, Administrative Coordinator

Jewel L. Brooks
Signature

Approved by:

Brandon Barbre, Secretary-Treasurer

Brat RB
Signature