

**WHITE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2023

The regular monthly board meeting of the White County Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 7:17 a.m., January 24, 2023, by Chairman Bryan Tomm in the conference room of the USDA building.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Brandon Barbre, Bryan Tomm, Kent Williams and Laura Whitsitt.*

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Mark Colbert.*

DISTRICT PERSONNEL: *Jewel Brooks, Administrative Coordinator; Tenley Wessel, Resource Conservationist.*

NRCS PERSONNEL: *None.*

MINUTES:

Correction was made to the November 1, 2022, Minutes to add Resource Conservationist Tenley Wessel's report and subsequent board action. Motion to approve the correction was made by Brandon Barbre, seconded by Kent Williams; motion carried. Motion was made by Brandon Barbre, seconded by Laura Whitsitt, to approve December 13, 2022, board meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Kent Williams, seconded by Brandon Barbre, to approve the Treasurer's Report for December. Motion carried.

SWCD STAFF REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Jewel Brooks, Administrative Coordinator, presented a report as attached. An update on the Verizon internet plan was provided. Kent Williams made a motion, seconded by Brandon Barbre, to approve the report; Motion carried.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT:

Tenley Wessel, Resource Conservationist, presented a report as attached and provided copies of the Illinois State Water Survey Aggregation report as submitted. Motion was made by Brandon Barbre, seconded by Kent Williams, to approve the reports; motion carried.

NRCS REPORT: Rhonda Cox, District Conservationist, provided a report as attached. Copies of the NRCS "Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List" were provided to Directors.

EMPLOYEE TIME SHEETS / TRAVEL REPORTS:

Motion was made by Kent Williams, seconded by Brandon Barbre, to approve time sheets for Jewel Brooks and Tenley Wessel and a travel report for Tenley Wessel. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Jeffrey Evers, IDOA – The executed AIMA for Boomtown Solar Energy LLC was reviewed.
- Memo from Kris Reynolds, American Farmland Trust, regarding addition of acres and expansion of the IDOA Fall Cover for Spring Savings program was discussed.
- Update on the Illinois Cover Crop Initiative was provided.

OLD BUSINESS:

- NRCS Administrative invoice for December work was reviewed.
- Motion was made by Laura Whitsitt, seconded by Kent Williams, to approve the Quarterly Operations Spending report as submitted to IDOA; motion carried.
- The WREP report provided by Rita Becker for TNC Grant 4947-0006 was reviewed. Motion was made by Laura Whitsitt, seconded by Brandon Barbre, to approve payment to Rita per the Agreement; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Draft Agenda for Annual Meeting was discussed.
- Employee matters: Increase in Resource Conservationist's hourly pay rate for completion of Conservation Planner Certification (Apprentice) was discussed. Motion was made by Laura Whitsitt, seconded by Kent Williams, to approve the change per the SWCD job offer condition, upon receiving formal approval of training certification from Rhonda Cox, NRCS DC.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next board meeting will be held on February 14, 2023, at 7:15 a.m., in the conference room of the USDA Service Center building.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without further business, motion was made by Kent Williams, seconded by Brandon Barbre, to adjourn. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Jewel L. Brooks:

Jewel L. Brooks, Administrative Coordinator

Jewel L. Brooks
Signature

Approved by:

Brandon Barbre, Secretary-Treasurer

Brandon Barbre
Signature