



Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District

1780 N 4th St Breese IL 62230 Phone 618-526-7815, Ext. 3

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

February 13th, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District met for their monthly meeting on February 13th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the Breese USDA Building.

Chairman, Tim Wesselmann, called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. Those present for the meeting were:

Clinton County SWCD Directors:

Tim Wesselmann
Brent Kalmer
Clinton Michael
Paul Hustedde

Clinton County SWCD Staff:

Administrative Coordinator: Emily Gaddis
Survey Aide: Olivia Walker

District Conservationist: Gary Gaubatz

Clinton County SWCD Associate Directors:

Ken Knolhoff

Absent from the meeting: Director: Cliff Schuette Associate Directors: Ray Krausz, Resource Conservationist: LeeannDinger-German

Clinton Michael made a motion to approve the minutes for January's meeting and Paul Hustedde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's reports, bills, and timesheets were reviewed. Brent Kalmer made a motion to approve the financials and Clinton Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: District Conservationist (DC) - Gary Gaubatz presented the attached report.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT: Gaddis went over her report and discussed the attached activities.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Singer-German's report was shared with the group.

SURVEY AIDE REPORT: Walker went over her report and discussed the attached activities.

OLD BUSINESS : Spring Fish Sale scheduled for 3/14 @12pm with orders due 2/29 (grass carp) and othes 3/7

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Inclement Weather Leave Policy** was clarified that staff would telework if possible and that this is a rare occurrence, at most once a year historically. Staff receive normal hourly wages in the event that there is an office closure due to hazardous weather. Updates are made to social media to notify the public. No action taken-update only on policy specifics and scenarios.



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2. **2024 Election:** After the polls closed for the General Election at 5:30 p.m., Paul Hustedde counted the ballots. There were 17 total ballots cast. Brent Kalmer received 16 votes, Cliff Schuette received 16 votes, and Paul Hustedde received 16 votes. There were 2 write-in votes. Kalmer, Schuette and Hustedde were re-elected for a 2-year term. Emily Gaddis completed the 2023 Clinton County SWCD Counting Record.
3. **Strategic Plan:** Gaddis provided an update that the current strategic plan is expiring at the end of 2024 and a plan effective for 2025-2030 will be started in June with a draft complete in September.
4. **Subcommittees (board of directors), recruiting associate directors, working groups:** Nutrient Loss Reduction Committee, Forestry, and Urban Agriculture/Local Food Infrastructure Subcommittees are being formed. An effort to recruit more associate directors is underway. The working group is tentatively scheduled for late March or April and a date will be set after a survey of meeting times is completed by partners.
5. **Strategic network/partnership development, cultivation:** Extension, Farm Bureau and Master Gardener/Master Naturalists have been contacted and meetings have been set to determine how shared goals can be better achieved through improved collaboration and coordination.
6. **Envirothon 3/12 (all day):** The entire SWCD staff will be attending. The office is closed this day.
7. **Spring Coloring & Poster Contests-gift card not checks.** The board chose to provide cash rather than checks or gift card if contest with a money prize is offered.
8. **IDOA Grant Reporting/Deliverables:** Update on NLRs deliverables and IDOA grant deliverables and how the office can plan for the year to reach more of the goals in the NLRs.
9. **NLRs progress report tracking and plan of implementation (NLRs committee):** Coordinating with Farm Bureau and other partners to improve progress reporting and impact generation.
10. **State Technical Committee Meetings:** Update of meeting being held.
11. **2024 Ag & Food Policy Summit:** Gaddis proposed attending the Summit to get a better sense of “high level” conversations and how to best position the district to achieve more conservation in light of policy and grants rolling out in 2024. The registration, travel and hotel costs were proposed, and the board voted to send the representative to attend. Michael made a motion and Kalmer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Hustedde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. and Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 8:00 a.m. at the Breese USDA Service Center.

Brent Kalmer, Secretary