



## ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3020 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Milan, Illinois 61264  
Phone: (309)764-1486 ext. 3

[www.rockislandswcd.org](http://www.rockislandswcd.org)

---

### **RISWCD Board Meeting Minutes Monday, July 8th, 2019 \*Rescheduled from 7/2/19\*\* 5:00 p.m.**

#### **PRESENT**

Dawn Temple, AC  
Gary Blanchard, Chair  
Nathan Oak, Director  
Sally Ferguson, Director  
Joe Gates, Conservation Specialist  
Brian Parkinson, Director  
Rich Stewart, RC

#### **ABSENT**

Jason Hessman, NRCS DC  
Bob Westfahl, RI County Board  
Rep.  
Marty McManus, IDOA R.R.  
Twila Cederstrom, Director

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Gary Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Roll call was taken.

#### **2. Consent Agenda**

The previous meeting Minutes, Paid Bills, Financial Packet and Agenda had been sent out via email to all board members for review. Ferguson reviewed minutes and financial packet. She recommends approving. Oak seconded. **MOTION PASSED.** Parkinson entered meeting.

#### **3. Timesheets & Bills**

Bills to be paid were sent out with the financial packet. The bill for the audit held at the prior meeting, was approved to be paid after Ferguson & Temple met with him to finalize the audit. Timesheets were reviewed and signed by Ferguson. Ferguson reported that everything was in order and made a motion to approve bills & timesheets. Parkinson seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Ferguson asked Temple for comments and she reported that Rock Island County funds for FY19 has not come in yet. Due to new leadership on the Board and Administrator we may need to be concerned about maintaining our annual grant allocation funding. Stewart and Temple are following up and are setting up a face to face meeting with Jim Snyder, the new Administrator in the coming weeks.

**5. Public Participation**

None

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****1. Grant Applications**

Temple had an update on the NACD grant – we did receive the grant for the technical assistance that will be allocated to Gates' position. We will get \$8,000 for TA and \$4,000 for CSP work in the first year, \$2,000 of which can be rolled into the following year. Copperas Creek we are still waiting on confirmation. Ties into #2.

**2. FY18 Audit & GATA Update**

GATA was required to be completed for the IEPA grant process and Temple reported that she did complete it. Waiting for response from them after review. Ferguson reported that after meeting with the auditor that even though the expenses on the financial statements didn't exactly match the grant totals, all items were included just allocated in different categories. He provided a brief letter stating that as well.

**3. Plant Sales**

Gates reported that the plant sale was all done. Sold over 1200 native plants so he thought that was really good. Per one of the nurseries, we were their best customer. We made about \$1,200 net profit. Good turnout for the amount of effort put in.

**4. Eco-Camp**

Still undecided about status of fall Eco-Camp. Stewart and Temple are still trying to get some things lined up with the committee. Ferguson reported that she spoke with Amy Loving at Nahant Marsh about potentially using their site as a host or possibly with other partnerships for education. Loving seemed open to the ideas with possibility of strategic partnership. Ferguson suggested that we meet with her for lunch to discuss opportunities. Temple did speak with the education coordinator at Living Lands and Waters and they were interested in participating, but only for spring. Temple and Stewart plan to meet with Ross Smith at Illiniwek in the coming week as well.

**5. IDOA FY18 Grant Agreement**

Temple reported that we have used up all the funds allocated for FY18 so the report needed to be signed by Blanchard.

**6. PFC Program**

Stewart presented the current projects for approval. 75% cost share.  
Gene Hammerlink – grassed waterway 4.3 acres & 250 ft. of tile (\$14260 max)  
Tim Anderson – 5.7 acres of pollinator (\$2187 max)  
Keith Goram – 40 acres of cover crop (\$2327 max)  
Kurt Wainwright – 40 acres of cover crop (\$2557 max)  
Tim Greazel – 30 acres of cover crop (\$1085 max)

Total: \$22,416; Current funds available: \$36,000; Remaining: approx. \$14,000

New applications:

Carol Nichols (well sealing)

Dave Ried on hold (waiting on cost share plan for FY19 from IDOA)

Jeff Fleming (Gates working on this)

Bill Parchert (waterway & dry dam)

Stewart stated we could possibly request additional FY18 funds if other districts aren't using it since they expire 12/31/19.

Oak made a motion to approve the cost share projects presented by Stewart.

Parkinson seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. **NAGS Bank Account & Credit Card Application**

Temple reported that the Chase card we discussed at the prior meeting is not available to our type of organization. IHMVCU will allow us to get one. Temple gave the application to Ferguson to fill out. Ferguson pointed out that we have \$1,813 remaining in the Natural Area Guardians bank account. She noted that previously that account was donating \$100-\$200 per Eco-Camp. Somehow this has been overlooked the past few years and this account is just sitting there. Ferguson proposed that we transfer \$300 per Eco-Camp since 2016, which would utilize all the funds being held in that account. Ferguson made a motion to close that bank account following the transfer. Oak concurred. And Parkinson seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

### 2. **FY19 Audit**

Temple presented proposal for FY19 audit. Same firm. Cost will be no more than \$3750. Not required, but essential to get a better opinion for grant purposes. Oak made a motion to approve the FY19 audit contract. Ferguson seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

### 3. **Prevent Plant/Cover Crop Insurance**

Stewart presented several applications for approval for the Prevent Plant program. Separate from PFC (cost share) funds; limited availability.

Drew Hohenboken \*\*he left him out of the cost share (#6) discussed above\*\* - 40 acres cover crop (\$1447 max)

\*He also has a prevent plant application in, not yet reviewed.

Keith Goram – 227 acres of prevent plant

Kurt Wainwright – 89.5 acres of prevent plant

Also, for PFC (#6 above), Gary Blanchard – 40 acres cover crops (\$1447 max)

Ferguson made a motion to approve the PFC application for Blanchard and other applications for prevent plant. Oak seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

### 4. **Waiver Request for NRCS Computer**

Gates reported that NRCS will be reducing the SWCD's computer access

from 3 computers to 1. He would like approval to request a waiver to keep a 2<sup>nd</sup> computer since he is doing a lot of NRCS work per the NACD grant agreement. We meet their request criteria. Gates will write up the waiver request prior to the deadline of 8/16 and Blanchard will sign off on it.

**5. AISWCD Resolutions**

These were sent out with the Board packet and Temple briefly discussed. These will be voted on at the summer conference. Ferguson made a motion to reimburse the Mueller's (Farm Family of the Year nominee) for all mileage for travel to Springfield. Parkinson seconded. **MOTION PASSED.** Blanchard, Temple, and Stewart all plan on attending the conference. Board discussed AISWCD resolutions being presented at the conference.

**6. FY20 Annual Plan of Work & Education Strategy**

Temple stated that staff has not had a chance to complete, but it's not due till September so they will have something to present at the next meeting. Temple reviewed the Education Strategy and programs for FY20. A field day is being planned for 8/23 for edge of field practices in partnership with Illinois Extension. A 2<sup>nd</sup> part will be held in Whiteside County on 9/3 for in-field practices. Also trying to plan a pond clinic with QCCA.

**7. FY20 Budget Committee**

Temple noted that we need to get the FY20 budget together. Temple thought we should have a budget committee and Ferguson offered to participate along with Temple and Stewart. We will prepare and present at the next Board meeting.

**8. Drill Maintenance & Pricing**

Temple asked for clarification on the pricing between our rate the Pheasants Forever rate being offered previously that a customer had asked about. Blanchard and Stewart concurred that that rate was tied to the prior drill and we should not be giving a discounted rate. Current regular rate is \$12/acre. Board agreed to keep this pricing for FY20. Parkinson exited meeting.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. AC Report**

Temple gave a brief verbal and full written report highlighting work and activities/projects during June. She will be on vacation from 7/29 – 8/9. She requested permission to participate on the U of I Extension Advisory Board. The meetings are held quarterly. Blanchard ok'd it. She also asked to attend the NACD listening/feedback session being held in Ames, IA in August. Oak suggested she go. Board approved. She will not be available for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**2. RC Report**

Stewart provided a written report highlighting work and activities/projects during June and upcoming activities.

**3. Conservation Specialist Report**

Gates provided a brief verbal and full written report highlighting work and activities/projects during June as well as upcoming activities.

**4. DC Report**

Jason Hessman provided a written report for current and upcoming activities.

**9. Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 27th, 2019 at 5:00 pm. This will be a combined August/September meeting.

**10. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Oak, seconded by Ferguson to adjourn at 7 pm.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Ferguson, Secretary/Treasurer