



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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RISWCD Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday October 1, 2019 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Dawn Temple, AC
Gary Blanchard, Chair
Nathan Oak, Director
Sally Ferguson, Director
Brian Parkinson, Director
Rich Stewart, RC
Twila Cederstrom, Director
Julie Schumann, Public

ABSENT

Marty McManus, IDOA R.R.
Bob Westfahl, RI County Board
Rep.
Jason Hessman, NRCS DC
Joe Gates, Conservation Specialist

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gary Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 stated everything looked in order. Ferguson and Temple discussed the prior minutes of the closed sessions and having the secretary do those moving forward. A separate recorder will be used, and a CD will be made and sealed for records. Ferguson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Oak seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

3. Timesheets & Bills

Bills to be paid were sent out with the financial packet. Timesheets were reviewed and signed by Ferguson. Ferguson had one change on Stewart's timesheet that will be corrected and with that change made a motion to approve bills & timesheets. Parkinson seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Treasurer's Report

Ferguson's report is through August 31st. The Buffalo Prairie CD account was closed, and new CD's were set up at IHMVCU. All funds over \$250,000 will be insured since we are a government entity. A prior email to all Board members was sent and unanimously approved to make this change. Due to uneven cash flow, numbers were down for the past month, but this fiscal year showing Net Income of \$6,960. Several grants have

come in. Ferguson and Temple plan to do a quarterly analysis going forward to assess the budget on a more consistent basis and pulling out key highlights. Parkinson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Oak seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. **Public Participation**

None

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **PFC Program**

Stewart presented projects for approval:

Revision to Tim Anderson – increase to 5.7 acres of pollinator

Carol Nichols – well sealing \$400

Kevin Hoffman – grassed waterway & tile, 4 structures (designed by Ed in 2006)
\$9,294.18

Temple reported that there is not much money left to allocate for PFC. About \$4,300 remaining. Several projects on hold so may be able to get some remaining funds from other districts with leftover money.

Stewart has another project for David Reid – 1.2 acres waterways & 6 structures that is on hold as it would fall within Copperas Creek should we get that funding. Not recommended for PFC funding. Stewart reported that PFC funds for FY20 will be going down to \$10,000 (prior year was \$31,000). Oak made a motion to approve the projects for Anderson, Nichols, & Hoffman. Cederstrom seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. **FY19 Audit**

Auditor was on site for his review on September 12th. Temple reported that the audit went very well, and he was happy with the outcome and findings. Only a few journal entries are needed. He will prepare the audited financial statements by year end.

3. **Education Partnership**

Temple sent out the Memorandum of Agreement with the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District with the consent agenda items to all Board members for review. This would serve as the binding document to “rent” an education person from the Forest Preserve District for education outreach. Annual agreement with periodic reviews renewing annually unless either party wants to terminate. We will utilize the shared person for 12 hours per week or 600 hours annually. There is a candidate identified by the Forest Preserve District. He is a former NRCS Pathways intern and has been involved in both Eco-Camp and Envirothon. We will pay a set amount monthly of \$1,250 regardless of hours worked based on 600 hours (\$15,000 annually). Ferguson pointed out that they will need to be reporting to one person. Stewart suggested Temple oversee the person since she is more involved in those duties. Temple agreed to be the contact. Rock Island County Forest Preserve District will also review and sign if passed. Ferguson made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Oak seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. Credit Card Payment Processing

This topic was tabled to next meeting. Temple is still gathering info.

2. Drill Insurance

Temple did an insurance review of all the policies and she noticed that there was no insurance in place on the drill. This should be included on the Inland Marine Policy. We need to determine a replacement value so we can add that to our policy. Blanchard stated that we would need to use the cost that we paid as the dollar amount for replacement value. The cost of the drill was \$26,000. Blanchard asked that Temple go ahead and get that in place. Parkinson concurred.

3. FY20 NRCS Administrative Agreement & CRP Pre-Proposal

Blanchard previously signed the agreement in order to meet the deadline. Gates will be the primary contact and doing majority of the Administrative Agreement for FY20. Temple will be the secondary contact. Jason Hessman reviews and approves. Stewart reported that CRP expiring or renewal in FY20 is about 80 contracts. He will start reviewing these contracts and doing site reviews in preparation for the new sign-ups.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

1. AC Report

Temple gave a brief verbal and full written report highlighting work and activities/projects during September and upcoming events. Currently working on tree and fish sales. Tree sales are down from last year. Attended Whiteside/Carroll/JoDavies Counties Soil & Water Districts 4th Grade Conservation Day event at Mississippi Palisades to get ideas and contacts for future Eco-Camps. Eco-Camp will be Thursday, and everything is good to go. Will be attending Upper Mississippi River Conference.

2. RC Report

Stewart provided a written report highlighting work and activities/projects during September and upcoming activities. Completed 6 conservation plans for CRP and sent to FSA for approval. Processed cover crop paperwork for IDOA. Attending IDOA all district employees meeting in Mendota. Prepping for CRP.

3. Conservation Specialist Report

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

4. DC Report

Jason Hessman provided a written report for current and upcoming activities. Stewart highlighted on Hessman's report that there's a WRP project being done by Jerrod Minnaert. 70 acres in upper Rock Island County. This is a 99-year easement and done primarily by NRCS. Potential tree and/or prairie grass seed sales with this project. Stewart pointed out that under this program the taxes are not discounted so you must go through IDNR Conservation Reserve Program in order to not pay higher taxes at market value. This type of program transfers with any ownership change and new owners must comply with the easement.

9. Next Board Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday November 5, 2019 at 5:00 pm depending on weather and harvest.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Parkinson and seconded by Oak to adjourn at approx. 8:09 pm. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Ferguson, Secretary/Treasurer