



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

www.rockislandswcd.org

RISWCD Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 3, 2020 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dawn Temple, AC
Gary Blanchard, Chair
Sally Ferguson, Associate Director
Brian Parkinson, Vice-Chair
Rich Stewart, RC
Julie Voelker, Director
Twila Cederstrom, Director
Joe Gates, Conservation Specialist
Nikki Jones, Guest

ABSENT

Nathan Oak, Treasurer/Secretary
Jason Hessman, NRCS DC
Bob Westfahl, RI County Board
Rep.
Marty McManus, IDOA R.R.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gary Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. Roll call was taken.

2. Review Consent Agenda Items

Ferguson reported that she reviewed all consent agenda items. She requested that for future agendas will be an item for a motion to approve consent agenda items and everything will be included with the packet beforehand. Since Oak was not present, the timesheets will be reviewed and approved at a later date.

3. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda including Timesheets, Bills & Staff Reports

Parkinson made a motion to accept all consent agenda items minus the timesheets. Cederstrom seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Election Results and Organization of Board

Seven (7) people participated in the election held on Friday 2/28 held at our office. Everyone on the ballot received votes therefore giving them the opportunity to continue to serve as Board Directors. Temple passed around the various items required by IDOA for signatures. After discussion, nominations on the floor were Blanchard for Chair, Parkinson for Vice-Chair and Oak (not present) for Treasurer/Secretary pending his approval. Cederstrom made a motion to approve the nominations as presented. Voelker seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **PFC**

Stewart updated the status of prior approved projects and had no applications to present for approval. We are on target to use up funds if the approved projects go through. There could be additional funds that need to be allocated from other districts.

2. **Strategic Planning/Local Area Workgroup**

Temple handed out a packet of material with some information about the strategic planning including Core Values, Vision, Mission, etc. to complete before the next meeting. Ferguson stated that according to the calendar the strategic planning would begin in July and she wanted to make sure that would work ok with everyone. She requested the strategic committee meet to discuss the scope of direction and make sure staff has the time and budget available to accomplish that and make sure the strategic session is worth the time and adds value. Several Board members commented that they have previously developed a mission and vision statement, but no one really knew where that information is or what happened to it. Stewart and Temple will look around for the past strategic planning information and see if we can build off that.

3. **Copperas Creek Grant**

Temple passed around the final submitted (pending approval by IEPA) BMP Strategy. This outlines the process and outcomes of BMP implementation including a budget for each practice and the ranking process. Projects will be implemented from May 1, 2020 to November 2021. Cost share will be 60-40. Ferguson raised the concern of possibly having issues getting people enrolled to the farm economy and that possibly the District could provide a portion of the match or look for additional funds to make sure we get the money spent. Temple and Stewart explained how the ranking process will work. Temple will be working on the education strategy next, which is due March 31st. Parkinson asked what the demand was on those outlier practices like saturated buffer and bioreactor and Stewart agreed that there hasn't been any demand for them, but there is a need and we have to try to meet the grant requirement of implementing at least 1 bioreactor and 1 saturated buffer. No federal or state funds (such as EQIP or PFC) may be used as matching funds.

4. **Pond Clinic & Stormwater Conference**

Temple reported on events held in February. Around 120 people attended the pond clinic at Western Illinois University. Presenter was Dave Wyffels. Highly successful event and Stewart would like to have again next year. 7th Annual Stormwater Conference was held at Jumer's Hotel & Casino on February 12th. Around 200 people attended – mostly engineers, contractors, municipal employees, and other non-profit organizations. Overall went really well and it continues to grow every year.

Stewart mentioned the new S.T.A.R. signs we got ready to be distributed. Temple is looking for stickers to order to add as a logo on the signs. All producers that sign up for PFC or Copperas Creek will be required to fill out a S.T.A.R. form.

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. NRCS Employee leaving

Wyatt Junis will be leaving and transferring to an Iowa district and was promoted to District Conservationist. Last day March 12th. NRCS Staff has gone way down over the past year and there are concerns about lack of assistance available on survey and design.

2. Flower & Garden Show

Temple wanted to check if anyone wanted to volunteer for the booth for the show. Master gardeners will be helping and Gates offered to help. Temple reported that she did a presentation at the Uofl Extension Nursery School event the prior Saturday on worm composting. Around 70 people attended her talk.

After some group side discussion, Gates reported on his CSP outreach strategy he was working on. Sent a selected group a letter and will plan to follow up with phone calls and hosting several small group meetings. Received 2 applications from 60 letters sent so far. Parkinson wanted to share some handouts about a carbon sequestration company called Indigo.

8. Next Board Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Parkinson and seconded by Blanchard to adjourn at 6:24 pm. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Oak, Secretary/Treasurer