



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, July 7th, 2020 5:00 p.m. USDA Milan Service Center (outside)

PRESENT

Dawn Temple, AC
Gary Blanchard, Chair
Sally Ferguson, Associate Director
Jason Hessman, NRCS DC
Rich Stewart, RC
Twila Cederstrom, Director
Joe Gates, Conservation Specialist
Nathan Oak, Treasurer/Secretary
Marcus Thomas, Public

ABSENT

Bob Westfahl, RI County Board
Rep.
Marty McManus, IDOA R.R.
Brian Parkinson, Vice-Chair
Julie Voelker, Director

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gary Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Roll call was taken.

2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda including Timesheets, Bills & Staff/Partner Reports

Ferguson reviewed and reported everything in order. May financials were provided at the prior meeting so there was no financial report included in the consent agenda items. Bills due were provided and approved. Cederstrom made a motion to accept the consent agenda items. Oak seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Marcus Thomas, a global HR manager for John Deere was invited to attend. He is interested in providing some HR oversight and ideas as an associate Board member.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Recruitment of Directors & Associate Directors

Recruitment is ongoing with no current replacement for Cederstrom. Jim Coyne and his son are possibly interested and an effort was also made to reach out to Jake Coyne (member of Mill Creek Steering Committee). They will possibly attend the next meeting. Another John Deere employee was also contacted and is interested, but could not attend this meeting.

2. **PFC**

Stewart reviewed the PFC projects that are in progress or pending:

Skinner – Well – approved/in progress/waiting on bills

Guerero – Well – approved/completed/waiting on bills

Long – Well – approved/completed/reviewing bills to submit to IDOA

Hoffman – WASCOD – approved/funding dependent on additional reallocation from IDOA

Reid – WASCOD – on-hold/funding dependent on additional reallocation from IDOA

Hammerlink – Grassed Waterway – approved/completed/reviewing bills to submit to IDOA

Crowl – SSRP – approved/completed/reviewing bills to submit to Joe Bybee

Stewart also presented two projects for approval. A grassed waterway (with associated tile) for Drew Holkenboken. Total project cost is \$14,562. Note: this project will also have an associated bioreactor installed through and paid for by University of Illinois Extension. Also a well project for VanHollereke with a max project cost of \$609. Oak made a motion to approve the projects. Cederstrom seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. **Copperas Creek Grant**

Stewart provided an update on current and pending projects:

Parchert Jr. – Streambank – construction almost completed

Parchert III – Streambank - approved by IEPA, waiting on Corps approval

Gerdes – Streambank – waiting on design from Chris Haring

Parkinson – WASCOD – waiting on design from NRCS

Reid – Streambank – waiting on design from Chris Haring

Langman Construction – Streambank – waiting on design from Chris Haring

Parchert III – Dry Dam & Waterways – waiting on design from Joe Gates

Temple mentioned that the next round of IEPA 319 grant applications would be due 8/3. After discussion regarding staff capacity and other factors, per the recommendations of Temple and Stewart, it was decided to hold off on applying for more funds till the next cycle in 2021. Board members agreed it was time to look at hiring another staff member to assist with watershed efforts and other grant and technical assistance.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **FY20 Audit**

Temple requested that an audit for FY20 was completed again this year; the same auditor would be used as last 2 years. Oak made a motion to approve the FY20 audit. Cederstrom seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. **Fall Fish Sale**

Temple reported that our long time fish supplier, Logan Hollow, went out of business and at this time there is no clear replacement. Some districts are going with Herman Brothers, Canton, IL including Henry & Mercer. Some districts are

going with Keystone Hatcheries, Richmond, IL and some districts are going with Andry's Fish Farm out of southern Indiana (the one Logan Hollow recommended, but it's out of state). Staff feels it's best to skip doing a fall sale and wait and see what happens and get feedback from the other districts. Board agreed. Fall fish sale will be cancelled.

3. Eco-Camp

Due to COVID-19 and school field trip restrictions and general uncertainty, fall Eco-Camp has been cancelled.

ADDED:

4. QC Straw Free Discussion

Temple discussed a local initiative she is spearheading regarding plastic reduction specifically with drinking straws. The goal would be to have restaurants and bars to implement an "ask policy" for customers to use straws. U of I Extension has a possible grant to use for funding to get some printed items, website page, and possibly an educational event. Others are also interested in providing funds and volunteers including PACG, Scott County Waste Commission, Nahant Marsh, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Moline) and Niabi Zoo. Blanchard commented to not continue this initiative.

5. Allocation of funds in expiring Certificate of Deposit

After a discussion of the options of either rolling funds into another 1 year CD or moving to a money market account at a similar rate, it was decided to renew the CD at 1.4%.

6. Next Board Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 4th, 2020 at 5:00 pm. We will likely meet outside again.

7. Adjourn

A motion was made by Oak and seconded by Cederstrom to adjourn at 6:16 pm. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Oak, Secretary/Treasurer