

2024 April
-McLean County SWCD Minutes

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on April 10, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 7:31 a.m. Directors present were Irvin Bane, Sally Breese, Jeff Mathews, Howard Heatherwick and Associate Director Garrett Conaty. District employees present were Brett Irwin, Ross Fogle and Jackie Kraft. Aidan Walton with Precision Conservation Management was present. NRCS District Conservationist Adam Wyant was also present.

~Financials/Minutes:

Irvin motioned to approve the March minutes as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the April checks for payment, Howard seconded. Motion carried. Irvin made a motion to approve the financials as written. Howard seconded. Motion carried.

~Aidan presented updates from PCM: Field Day highlighting cover crops and conservation practices at Nutrien Ag Solutions in Fairbury planned for August 22.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: No comments yet from IEPA on Watershed Plan Update 319 grant. Constructed Wetland and Saturated Buffer designs for Evergreen Lake have been approved. Site showings were conducted April 5 and bids were turned in on April 8. Howard made a motion to approve Boyle Excavating bid of \$67,985.00 for the Constructed Wetland. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Howard made a motion to approve Kennedy Farm Drainage LLC bid of \$9,846.24 for Saturated Buffer. Jeff seconded. Motion Carried. A meeting is set for April 12 at the McLean County Government Center to discuss Intergovernmental Agreement. NREC grant with Dr. Shalamar Armstrong due in May.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Received 2 applications for well decommissioning during the first PFC sign-up period. Jeff made a motion to preapprove application 23-001 (Mary Kay Kinsella) and 23-002 (Alyssa Coffin) for up to \$850.00 each. Sally seconded. Motion carried. Current FY23 CPP balance stands at \$11,992.13. Spring Tree and Fish sales are at 30 orders and 29 orders for a total of \$3,348.25 and \$1,804.50 in net sales so far. Fish sale pick-up has been moved to the Interstate Center due to parking lot construction. Tom Herr with Dunn Law Firm is currently working on the Legal Review for Thompson CREP contract. Received a grant for up to \$500.00 for a Pollinator Habitat Outreach Program at First Baptist Church.

~Ross gave the Watershed report as written: April E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. Ross distributed Jim Rutherford Scholarship applications for the board to review. Howard made a motion to fund 1 scholarship for \$1,000.00 for Aidan Alt and 2 Scholarships for \$500.00 for Kaitlyn Monical and Mary Baker. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. A mailer for Jim Rutherford Golf Outing will be sent out to prior attendees and sponsors. Golf outing is planned for July 22.

~Adam gave the NRCS report as written: CSP renewal application deadline for expiring 2020 contracts is May 3. 8 EQIP contracts have been pre-approved for funding in McLean County (2 in EQIP-IRA ACT NOW and 6 in EQIP) for a total of \$232,315 in obligated funds. CRP prescribed burns need to be completed by April 15. Spring seeding dates are May 15 for cool season species and June 5 for native warm season species. Local Work Group meeting planned for June 12 following June Board Meeting.

~New Business: The next Board Meeting was set for June 12 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.