

Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District
1201 S. Gougar Road, New Lenox, Illinois
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12th, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Directors Present: Dick Smerz, David Deutsche,
Everett Moeller, Burton Barr, Barry Tyler
Associate Directors Present: Roger Galas, Diana Galas,
Bill Hnetkovsky, George Johnson, Harold Liberman, Marlene Liberman, Wayne Wagner
Staff Present: Neil Pellmann, Bob Jankowski and Keith Eichorst

Bill reported on the election results including write-ins. There were 100 ballots counted. Burton Barr, Dick Smerz and Barrie Tyler received 96, 88 and 88 votes respectively and will fill the three two-year terms. Traci Richardson received 11 votes.

George asked about being sworn in. Neil distributed a form for acceptance of office. Dave read the form/oath and Burton, Barrie and Dick each signed the form.

The Annual Dinner program was signed by the new Board for submittal to IDOA and the new Board was then organized as follows:

Everett nominated Dick as Chairman seconded by Burton; Unanimous vote

Dave declined to continue as Treasurer and Dick nominated him as Director at large. Barry agreed to be the Treasurer and received a unanimous vote.

Everett nominated and Dave seconded a motion nominating Burton as Secretary; Unanimous vote.

Vice Chairman goes to Everett Moeller.

To conclude the process, Secretary Burton Barr cast a unanimous ballot for the above appointments.

Minutes: January 13th, 2010; there was a discussion concerning the minutes that were submitted by the previous secretary having been lost and then recompiled by staff. Approval of the minutes was tabled until the April meeting

Neil commented on the need to establish new committees. A suggested list of committees was distributed and after discussion, Dave motioned and Everett seconded that the discussion be tabled until the April meeting.

Financials:

Dave stated that the SWCD is \$66K to the negative for the fiscal year to date with \$383K in the bank.

Discussion regarding finances continued for some time. Comments were made on the late payment of the allocation by the state, possible reduction of staff and office hours.

Year-to-date Financial Reports were reviewed. Dave made a motion to accept the Profit and Loss and Balance sheet reports. The motion was seconded by Burton and approved with a vote taken. January and February bills were reviewed with a motion by Dave for approval. Everett seconded the motion and a vote was taken. January and February bills were approved.

Bob made a presentation regarding the agreement between the SWCD, NRCS, IDOA and AISWCD. The major theme being the sharing of resources and working together. Training, technical assistance and marketing are identified as shared responsibilities. Records, office space, vehicles and equipment were identified as shared resources. Bob closed by reminding the members that the relationships we establish with the legislators are key to maintaining the partnership and activities of the SWCD. Members thanked Bob for his review.

Dick encouraged the members to write to legislators. Dave talked about the \$64K the SWCD has for programs and Bob reviewed the High Hoop tunnel program available through NRCS. Bob agreed to set-up a meeting to work on a news release identifying all of the available programs. All agreed that the SWCD needs to work on getting info out regarding the services and programs we provide that are beneficial to the community we served.

Keith Eichorst introduced himself and reviewed his experience with NRCS as well as his Military service. He has joined the SWCD as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS. He will be working with Bob on conservation planning.

Staff Reports:

All reports as written

Committee Reports:

Everett thanked everyone for their contribution to the Recognition Dinner and Harold and Marlene reviewed the upcoming Conservation Night information. Harold requested that the SWCD pay \$125 for an ad that will run 4/4 in Russell Publications. Burton made the motion. Dave seconded and the motion was passed.

Old Business:

Neil is working on 3 NRIs. He reviewed some of the details associated with the reports. Neil also reported on the work that he is doing with Harold that is associated with opposing the annexation of Green Garden into Monee. Neil also advised the board that the Arnie Burkett SSRP project receipts have been received and is near completion. A status of the NPDES inspections was also provided. An invoice for completed inspections has been submitted to the IEPA. He reported that there has been an inquiry into some of the inspection dates that staff will be addressing.

Neil reported that Jim and Jane Toepper have been to the office to start work on the Farm Family Binder/Application and that staff is on target to complete the binder by the April 19th deadline.

Neil advised the board that his vehicle has been repaired and the claim was paid by Pekin Insurance. There was no deductible.

Dave advised the members of the Finance Committee's recommendation to pay-off the addition loan that is approximately \$65. It will save the SWCD about \$6K in interest since our accounts are no longer

earning comparative interest to that which is being paid on the loan (4%). Dave motioned for a payoff of the loan, it was seconded by Barrie and the motion carried.

The Illinois Envirothon request for a donation was denied.

The information regarding the establishment of computer/internet service to replace the current NRCS provided service was reviewed. After some discussion the board decided to table the issue until the April meeting.

Dave also requested that the budget revisions be tabled as well. He would like to meet with Barrie and Kim and have Barrie present the recommendation at the next meeting since he is now the Treasurer.

After a discussion regarding the lease agreement with FSA, which has come up for renewal, it was agreed that the SWCD Treasurer (Barrie), FSA CED Steve Rustman and NRCS Bob Jankowski should meet to discuss the lease agreement and provide a recommendation to the Board at the April meeting.

The information regarding legislation/SJR 107 (State of Illinois), that has adopted an SWCD funding task force at the state level, was reviewed and status will be provided on-going.

District participation in the RC&D was discussed. Diana Galas stated that she had not received any info regarding the RC&D.

Dick introduced Roger and Diana as new associates. They were welcomed by the members present.

Neil reviewed the lawn care proposal. The fees will remain at \$75 per cut and \$160 per fertilizer application. Barrie made a motion to approve and Burton seconded. The motion carried.

The board approved a request by Jacob Lozano to appear before the board to present a mapping project proposal. Dick requested that Jacob's presentation be added to the April 14th agenda.

Joe Bybee would like to provide Director training on May 12th at 4:30, prior to the Board meeting. There was a brief discussion noting that it would be planting season.

The APO for April was reviewed with the Tree and Fish Sale dates noted as April 23rd and 24th.

Time sheets were reviewed with a motion to approve made by Dave, seconded by Everett and the motion carried.

Everett motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes Submitted Respectfully by,

Burton Barr, Secretary