



# Ford County Soil and Water Conservation District

1380 W. OTTAWA, PAXTON, IL 60957 Phone (217) 379-4388

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

March 8, 2021

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The monthly board meeting of the Ford County Soil and Water Conservation District was held via zoom and was called to order by Kenny Hawthorne at 10:02 a.m. Member's present were: Kenny Hawthorne, Adam Thorndyke, Brent Hewitt, Jerry Oyer, and Kurt Edwards. District employee's: Sarah Earles and Brandi Williams. Guests: Jean Brokish-AFT and Dennis Vollmer-NRCS.

### II. REPORT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

**NRCS** – \*\*See attached page\*\*

Report on EQIP practices and contracting, Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) and CRP payments, enrollments and contracting, CTA General and district/office updates.

**FSA- NA**

**AFT-** \*\*See attached page\*\*

**FY21 Contract:** Follow up on STAR sign-ups due March 31, 2021. Upcoming Steering Committee Meeting tentatively scheduled for March 24, 2021 offered through Zoom and possibly a Hybrid location for small groups.

**Funding Opportunities:** AFT still awaiting contract from IEPA for watershed plan development. NFWF RFP posted and pre-proposal due 4/6/21. Discussion held regarding ideas on how to fill the Conservation Technician position. Jean Brokish will forward job description to Sarah Earles and Brandi Williams to further deliberate on ideas, options and possibilities.

**Upcoming Outreach:** Livingston County SWCD - Women Landowner's virtual meeting will be held on 03/11/21. Ideas and planning for a summer field day at Craig Swartz's place are underway.

**PF-N/A**

### III. APPROVE MINUTES

It was moved by Edwards, and seconded by Oyer to approve February 2021 Board Meeting minutes as mailed. Status of Motion: carried at 10:31 a.m. with 5 Directors present

### IV. APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was given with the following balances as of February 28, 2021

\*\*See attached page\*\*

It was moved by Thorndyke and Seconded by Edwards to approve the treasurer's reports from 02/01/2021 to 02/28/2021, as presented by AC/RC, Sarah Earles and Brandi Williams. Motion carried with 5 directors present at 10:33 a.m.

#### A. Approve Bills

- 02/01/2021 – Verizon Wireless (MIFI Service) \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.01
- 02/04/2021 – Federal Liabilities \_\_\_\_\_ \$653.70
- 02/04/2021 – State Liabilities \_\_\_\_\_ \$135.14
- 02/04/2021 – SWCD Insurance Group (Feb. Health/Life/Dis) \_\_\_\_\_ \$367.00
- 02/04/2021 – Pheasants Forever (P202120372, P202120317, P202120311, P202120287) \_\_\_\_\_ \$1431.45
- 02/18/2021 – Sarah Earles (Mileage Reimbursement) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.80
- 02/18/2021 – Brandi Williams (Mileage Reimbursement) \_\_\_\_\_ \$76.56

## B. Company Credit Card

- February 2021 Statement – Postage \_\_\_\_\_ \$56.20

It was moved by Thorndyke and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edwards to pay pending bills  
Status of Motion: Carried at 10:35 a.m. With 5 directors present

## C. Approve Staff Time Sheets

It was moved by Oyer, seconded by Hewitt to approve staff time sheets for the following positions: AC/RC

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 02/04/2021 Sarah Earles _____    | \$1086.12 |
| 02/18/2021 Sarah Earles _____    | \$1086.12 |
| 02/18/2021 Brandi Williams _____ | \$955.80  |

Status of Motion: carried at 10:37 a.m. with 5 directors present.

## V. OLD BUSINESS- UPDATES

- Electronic Recycling Event - Karen Kummerow, Gene May, Kenny Hawthorne, Sarah Earles and Brandi Williams are meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 to discuss Electronic Recycling details. To Be Continued...
- Goals of SWCD – Discussions of possibilities regarding AFT grant for Conservation Technician. Sarah Earles and Brandi Williams will meet with Jean Brokish to discuss further.
- NRI Rate – N/A
- 2/18/21 Election Results – Brent Hewitt and Kenny Hawthorne secured their position on the Ford County SWCD Board, each receiving 6 unanimous votes.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Upcoming events – Sarah Earles will be off at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
Brandi Williams will be off Monday, March 29, 2021
- Organization of the Board – Kenny Hawthorne, Chairman; Adam Thorndyke, Vice Chairman; Brent Hewitt, Director; Jerry Oyer, Secretary; Kurt Edwards, Treasurer

It was moved by Thorndyke and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hewitt to accept and approve the organization of the Ford County SWCD Board of Directors. Status of Motion: Carried at 10:50 a.m. With 5 directors present

- Signing Authority for Kurt Edwards – Discussion held.

It was moved by Thorndyke and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oyer to approve the addition of Kurt Edwards, Treasurer to Ford County SWCD signing authority at The Frederick Community Bank, Checking account. Status of Motion: Carried at 10:52 a.m. With 5 directors present.

- OMA Training – All board members must register and complete OMA training through the Illinois Attorney General's website: [http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/electronic\\_foia\\_training.aspx](http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/electronic_foia_training.aspx).
- Ag in the Classroom – Request received by SWCD to support Ag in the Classroom. \$50 partnership donation has been paid in the past. Discussion held.

It was moved by Edwards and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thorndyke to approve a \$50 sponsorship to Ag in the Classroom. Status of Motion: Carried at 10:54 a.m. With 5 directors present.

- Milkweed Seeds – Sarah Earles received free Milkweed Seeds for Monarchs. Requested approval to promote free seeds on SWCD website.

It was moved by Edwards and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oyer to promote free Milkweed Seeds on the SWCD website. Status of Motion: Carried at 10:56 a.m. With 5 directors present.

- AISWCD – Kenny Hawthorne provided updates on AISWCD and identified the need for advocacy support. (See more about Bill SB 2474 HB 1792 at: <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=28d76569884bf22088f9f1ff2&id=16d954681f>)

New NRCS Grant Manager, Ashely Currin will be contact for NRCS Agreements.

AISWCD Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled in person in December 2021. SWCD will pay for Kenny Hawthorne, Sarah Earles, and Brandi Williams to attend this meeting.

## **VII. DISTRICT EMPLOYEE REPORTS**

- A. AC/RC's REPORT** – Bill Arends visited the office to inquire about funding options for his waterway. Discussion held. Tabled until funding becomes available.

## **VIII. CORRESPONDENCE/MISCELLANEOUS – N/A**

## **XI. PLAN NEXT MEETING –Monday April 12, 2021 at 10:00am**

- XII. ADJOURN-** motion made to adjourn by Oyer and seconded by Edwards with 5 directors present at 11:08 a.m.