

**STARK COUNTY SWCD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 - MEETING: 6:30 A.M.
USDA Service Center – Toulon, IL**

CALL TO ORDER: The Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District board meeting on **Thursday, September 12, 2024** at the USDA Service Center, Toulon, IL. Chairman Keith Bush noted a quorum was present and called the **meeting to order at 6:33 a.m.** then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:

Directors: Keith Bush, Chairman; Phil Webster, Director; Miriam Mock, Secretary/Treasurer. **Absent:** Trevor Nelson, Vice Chairman; Nick Rumbold, Director.

Associate Directors: None. **Absent:** David Sager, Lee Hager, Robin Nowlan, Frank Schafer, Ethan Ely.

Staff: Katie McCauley, RC; Christian Reiner, AC.

NRCS: Zane Downing, SC. **Absent:** Erika Luft, DC.

Guests: None.

MINUTES APPROVAL

- ★ *Motion by Webster to approve the 8/8/2024 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

TREASURER’S REPORT / BILLS PAID & PENDING APPROVAL (See Financial Report)

- ★ *Motion by Webster to approve the August Treasurer’s Reports seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

EMPLOYEE TIMESHEETS APPROVAL

- ★ *Motion by Mock to approve the employee time sheets as submitted (8/9,8/23,9/6) seconded by Webster; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

STANDING BUSINESS

PFC (Partners for Conservation) –

- ★ *Motion by Webster to approve up to fifteen thousand PFC for Daniel Ehnlé Seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*
- ★ *Motion by Webster to approve up to fifteen thousand PFC for John Ehnlé second mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*
- ★ *Motion by Webster to approve up to twenty thousand on PFC for Tim Ringger, second Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*
- ★ *Motion by Webster to approve for cover crop pre-approval for Ethan Ely, Keith Bush, and Keith Webster, second Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

CRP - No new business.

CREP- Molly Koleczek CREP specialist scheduled meeting at 9 on 9/12/24 for regular monitoring Katie and Christian will join. Reiner has completed all land ownership verifications.

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT - Received our final allocation for fiscal year 2024.

EDUCATION UPDATE - Envirothon is coming up, it will be sometime in March with the help of SWCD hosting it.

FUNDRAISER UPDATE - Tree and fish sale order update the fish sale is due September 13 and the tree sale is due September 16.

OLD BUSINESS

PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW

- ★ *Motion by Mock to approve paying Sue Webster for updated personal policy for \$250 Seconded by Webster; all present voted aye; motion carried. Motion by Webster for the updated personal policy seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

FALL TREE SALE-Tree and fish sale order update the fish sale is due September 13 and the tree sale is due September 16.

RC EMPLOYEE STATUS REVIEW-Position is filled Katie McCauley accepted the position of resource conservationist and Christian Reiner accepted the position of administrative coordinator.

FY25 ANNUAL REVIEW OF WORK- Pending.

FY25 OPERATIONS BUDGET

- ★ *Webster motion to approve FY25 operations budget Mock Seconds; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

EMPLOYEE REVIEWS/ CONTRACTS(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

- ★ *Motion for executive session by Webster seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

The Board independently discussed budget and contracts and extended that conversation to individual employees.

LUC 2 MEETING -LUC2 met August 21 to discuss soil and water district concerns, this was hosted by LUC2 Chairman Josh Curry at Al DeCranes in Galva.

OTHER – None.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW EMPLOYEE BANK ACCESS-

- ★ *Motion to approve Christian Reiner as a officer/signature authority at the state bank of Toulon for Stark County Soil and Water Conservation Districts motioned by Webster seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*
- ★ *Motion to approve Christian Reiner as an Authorized card user at the state bank of Toulon for Stark County Soil and Water Conservation Districts motioned by Webster seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

ANNUAL MEETING PLAN-The positive reviews of last year's venue lead directors to plan to have an annual meeting similar to the years prior. This year's estimated date is 2/7/25 or 2/14/25 for the upcoming year.

ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON FUNDING

- ★ *Motion to donate a hundred dollars to the Illinois Envirothon by Webster seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

AISWCD MEMBER DUES-AISWCD requested a contribution of 5% of the annual budget, the district agrees. No motion necessary.

OTHER- None.

AGENCY REPORTS

AISWCD (Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts) - None.

N.R.C.S. (Natural Resources Conservation Service) - Erika Luft supplied an NRCS update that was given by Downing. NRCS is training the new AC (Reiner) and RC(McCauley).

B.LW.R. (Bureau of Land & Water Resources)- None.

F.S.A. (Farm Service Agency) - None.

FARM BUREAU - None.

CORRESPONDENCE- None.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE - The next board meeting will be at the USDA Service Center, Toulon, Illinois on Thursday, **October 18, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

★ *Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bush; seconded by Mock; all present voted aye; motion carried. Adjourned at 8:50 a.m.*

Minutes Taken and Transcribed by: _____
Christian Reiner, Administrative Coordinator Date

Minutes Approved by: _____
Miriam Mock, Secretary-Treasurer Date