

**STARK COUNTY SWCD  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 22, 2024 - MEETING: 8:30 a.m.  
USDA Service Center – Toulon, IL**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District board meeting on **Thursday, February 22, 2024** at the USDA Service Center, Toulon, IL. Chairman Keith Bush noted a quorum was present and called the **meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.** then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:**

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

**Associate Directors:** Frank Schafer. **Absent:** David Sager, Lee Hager, Robin Nowlan, Ethan Ely.

**Staff:** Jannifer Powelson, RC; Katie McCauley, AC. **Absent:** Joyce Scholl, DE.

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

**Guests:** None.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

▣ ***Motion by Webster to approve the 1/18/2024 board meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried.***

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

▣ ***Motion by Webster to approve the January Treasurer’s Reports seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried.***

**EMPLOYEE TIMESHEETS APPROVAL**

▣ ***Motion by Webster to approve the employee time sheets as submitted (1/26, 2/9) seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried.***

**STANDING BUSINESS**

**PFC (Partners for Conservation)** – Jannifer Powelson is looking for new projects, specifically waterways, for the cost share program.

**CRP** – Powelson is continuing on re-enrollments and field visits. March 15th is the hard deadline for applications.

**CREP** – Molly Koleczek, Regional CREP Specialist, and Powelson visited LaVern Larson’s 3 CREP Easements for review and revision. Yearly landowner verification is being completed by Katie McCauley before April 2024.

**CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT** – New CRP applications and reminder news article for waterway specifications.

**EDUCATION UPDATE** – Poster contest deadline is upcoming with the theme ‘May the Forest Be With You Always’. Envirothon will be held March 12, 2024 at Black Hawk East. Legislative Day is March 6, 2024. Fifth Grade Conservation Day is set for May 2 at the Stark County Junior Fairgrounds. Arbor Day trees for 3rd graders, and Library programs are scheduled throughout the summer.

**FUNDRAISER UPDATE** – Spring Sales are ongoing. Henry County SWCD will be picking up tree sale items April 3.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ANNUAL MEETING** – Positive comments surrounded discussion on the annual event.

**OTHER OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SPRING SALES** – Prices have slightly risen from last year reflecting rising wholesale cost. Continuing to take orders.

**LEGISLATIVE DAY** – Stark County SWCD will attend this event in Springfield March 6, 2024 a Stark County FFA student will be reading his winning essay on Soil Health at the Capitol Rotunda.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD** – Board members will think on the positions they wish to maintain for the 2024 election year.

**DIRECTOR REIMBURSEMENT** – *□ Motion by Rumbold to approve \$20 plus mileage for associate directors and directors per activity retroactive to January 2024 through December 2024; seconded by Webster; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

**PROJECTOR** – *□ Motion by Webster to approve spending up to \$200 (two hundred dollars) on a new projector; seconded by Rumbold, all present voted aye, motion carried.*

**CD RENEWAL #22436** – *□ Motion by Webster to approve transfer of CD #22436 into a new 10 month CD at the rate of 4.81% interest at State Bank of Toulon; seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

**JAN 30 YEARS** – *□ Motion by Webster to approve \$150 gift card to the Prime Quarter for Jannifer Powelson; seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

**AFR** – *□ Motion by Webster to approve the Annual Financial Report from the Illinois Comptroller prepared by Joyce Scholl; seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS** – None.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

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

**N.R.C.S. (Natural Resources Conservation Service)** – Erika presented her report and gave contacts for engineering assistance.

**B.L.W.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, March 21, 2024.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*□ Motion to adjourn the meeting by Webster; seconded by Rumbold; all present voted aye; motion carried. Adjourned at 10:06 a.m.*

Minutes Taken and Transcribed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Katie McCauley, Administrative Coordinator Date

Minutes Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Miriam Mock, Secretary-Treasurer Date