

**STARK COUNTY SWCD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 - MEETING: 3:00 p.m.
USDA Service Center – Toulon, IL**

CALL TO ORDER: The Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District board meeting on **Monday, March 25, 2024** at the USDA Service Center, Toulon, IL. Chairman Keith Bush noted a quorum was present and called the **meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.** then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:

Directors: Keith Bush, Chairman; Trevor Nelson, Vice-Chairman; Phil Webster, Director. **Absent:** Nick Rumbold, Director; 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: Zane Downing, SC. **Absent:** Erika Luft, DC; James Morgan, Conservation Planner.

Guests: None.

MINUTES APPROVAL

▣ ***Motion by Webster to approve the 2/22/2024 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Nelson; all present voted aye; motion carried.***

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

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

EMPLOYEE TIMESHEETS APPROVAL

▣ ***Motion by Webster to approve the employee time sheets as submitted (2/23, 3/8, 3/22) seconded by Nelson; all present voted aye; motion carried.***

STANDING BUSINESS

PFC (Partners for Conservation) – Accepting new applications for cover crops. There is no longer a limit on acreage.

CRP – Powelson has completed her re-enrollments and field visits.

CREP – LaVern Larson’s CREP paperwork is completed. Katie is continuing to make landownership verifications.

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

EDUCATION UPDATE – Poster Contest is completed and classrooms have had their party for participating with the theme *May the Forest be with You, Always*. LUC2 Envirothon was held at Black Hawk East on March 12. Stark will be sending a team to the state competition on May 8-9. Fifth Grade Conservation Day will be held at the Stark County Junior Fairgrounds on May 2. Arbor day trees are ordered for 3rd graders.

FUNDRAISER UPDATE – Fish and Native Sales are ongoing. Tree sale pick up is happening now.

OLD BUSINESS

DIRECTOR REIMBURSEMENT – Finalization of the Director Reimbursement sheets.

LEGISLATIVE DAY – March 6, 2024 Katie McCauley attended Legislative day with her brother Matthew McCauley. They lobbied at the Capitol Building with the AISWCD and the Illinois Stewardship Alliance to stabilize SWCD funding and continue PFC budgeting.

REGIONAL MEETING – Jan attended the IDOA Regional Meeting in Springfield on March 11. The meeting included cost share and various partner updates.

OTHER – None.

NEW BUSINESS

SPRING SALES – Tree order deadline March 25, Henry County SWCD will travel to Winding Creek Nursery to pick up trees April 1.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD – *□ Motion by Webster to approve the Reorganization of the Board as written: Keith Bush, Chairman; Trevor Nelson, Vice-Chairman; Miriam Mock, Secretary/Treasurer; Nick Rumbold, Director; Phil Webster, Director; seconded by Nelson; all present vote aye; motion carried.*

INCOME REPORT FOR LOCAL OFFICE HOLDERS – Patiently waiting for one more report.

ELECTION MATERIALS – Newly elected directors signed acceptance of office, eligibility to hold office, and vote registry.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY – Ashley Orrick is interested in an internship opportunity with the SWCD. Discussion will be held once we receive resume materials.

5TH GRADE DAY (LOCATION) – Phil Shafer to donate funds to Stark County Junior Fairgrounds for the 5th Grade Conservation Day venue.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS – Review of scholarship budget to determine amount recipients will receive.

CD #22789 – Dale Jackson Scholarship Certificate of Deposit is up for renewal in May. Upon renewal, amounts withheld will be determined.

ENVIROTHON – Stark won the LUC2 Envirothon held in March. They will compete May 8th and 9th at the State Envirothon in Monticello, IL joined by Jannifer Powelson and Joyce Scholl, volunteers. Discussion held on substitute teacher compensation to Stark County High School. *□ Motion by Webster to approve the reimbursement of substitute teacher fees to Stark County High School for the duration of Illinois State Envirothon Competition; seconded by Nelson; all present voted aye; motion carried.*

OTHER NEW BUSINESS – Scholarship for Hester/White will be accepting applicants for trade schools.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

N.R.C.S. (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Zane is working on wetland determinations in northern Illinois. Erika included a report in the meeting packet.

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, April 18, 2024.**

ADJOURNMENT

□ Motion to adjourn the meeting by Webster; seconded by Nelson; all present voted aye; motion carried. Adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

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

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