



## **Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District**

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### **Logan County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes 8/31/2023**

The July-August meeting of the Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District Board was held on August 31, 2023, at 8:00am in the district office at 1650 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Illinois.

Directors present: David Allspach-Chairman, Vice Chair Kent Kleinschmidt, Secretary – Treas. Dean Sasse, Cheryl Baker and Doug Thompson

District staff present: Steve Bracey, RC

NRCS staff: Jamie Thompson – Soil Conservationist (SC), Andrew Fulton- District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 A.M. by Chairman Allspach.

**Secretary Report:** Board members reviewed the minutes from the June 29, 2023 board meeting. Cheryl Baker moved to approve the minutes. Dean Sasse seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Board members reviewed the balance sheet and general ledger for June, July and August to date. All financial statements were emailed previously. Kent Kleinschmidt moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Doug Thompson seconded. The motion was approved.

#### **Staff reports:**

**Jamie Thompson, NRCS Soil Conservationist (SC)** – She informed the board that Logan County has two new CSP IRA applicants funded in FY23. Additional CSP and EQIP funding opportunities for applicants may continue through the fiscal year.

She has been developing plans and job sheets for CRP offers. Planning work is expected to continue for CRP until the deadline of September 8,

NRCS staff attended the Logan County Fair Aug. 1-5<sup>th</sup>. Staff set-up an informational booth next to the farm machinery and cattle show barn to provide outreach about NRCS' financial assistance programs and conservation practices, along with Earth Team volunteer and USAJOB opportunities to Logan County fairgoers

She has assisted the District Group of Logan, Menard and Sangamon Counties with workload and training new hires as assigned.

- Lukas Wright, Soil Conservationist in Logan County, resigned in July.
- Emilee Hale, Pheasants Forever Biologist located in Christian Co., will provide support for Logan Co., along with 5 other Counties

A copy of Jamie's report will be on file in the office.

Andrew Fulton -NRCS District Conservationist

Andrew reported that 4 contracts through EQIP-IRA and 2 contracts for CSP-IRA were obligated.

CSP practice reminders will be sent soon. 2023 practices must be complete by 9/30/23.

All the general CRP sign-up plans are completed and the focus is now on the continuous CRP sign-up.

Establishment and maintenance reviews are being completed through 2025.

Sangamon county has hired Andrew Phillips as their new Resource Conservationist. Nick Werries will start as the new IDOA planner in Springfield on 9/1/2023.

13 RCPP applications have been sent to USDA National Headquarters for obligation and he finished the last of the minor issues recently.

He met with partners at the Farm Progress Show on 8/30/2023.

A copy of his report will be put on file.

**Steve Bracey, RC,** reviewed his written report with the board. He reported that he has been working on waterway designs for CRP and state cost share projects. He has also completed 14 conservation plans and Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for CRP.

He has ordered trees for the spring sale and set up a fall fish sale for September 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. He prepared a grant proposal for Technical Assistance grant through NACD and also a grant for a new drill through the Habitat Stamp Fund with IDNR. Drill rental and some repair work was also completed.

The Annual Financial Report, Comptroller's Report, the Financial Management Program Part II and the FY24 Budget have been prepared. The annual County Board request has been submitted.

A copy of his written report will be put on file.

**Correspondence:** Steve shared an email from AISWCD Executive Director, Grant Hammer, concerning his expectation for our FY24 allocation. Grant thinks the allocation will be out to districts before the end of the year.

Steve also provided an email from Wolf Carbon solutions that contained a link to the website for information concerning a proposed carbon dioxide pipeline that would cross the northeast portion of Logan County.

Old Business:

- a. FY22 & FY23 State Cost Share Program – Steve reviewed the ledgers for both years. Currently have enough applications for both years.
- b. Kent Kleinschmidt moved to approve the cost share payment for Gerald Fitzgibbon. Dean Sasse seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

- a. Approve time sheets – Doug Thompson moved to approve Steve's corrected time sheets that were checked by Cheryl. Dean Sasse seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- b. Approve CRP contracts – Cheryl Baker moved to approve the list of continuous CRP contracts. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- c. NACD Grant Proposal – Steve informed the board that the grant was submitted and he had talked to Beth Mason with NACD to clarify a couple of items. Beth has forwarded the grant to the next level. She said it would be a couple of months before awards would go out.
- d. Habitat Stamp Fund – the grant has been submitted but no word on it yet.
- e. Annual Plan of Operations – The board reviewed the proposed APO. Dean Sasse moved to approve the APO. Cheryl Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- f. Internal Control Checklist – The board reviewed the Internal Control Checklist. Doug Thompson moved to approve the checklist. Dean Sasse seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- g. FY23 Annual Financial Report – FY 23 AFR was reviewed by the board.
- h. Comptroller's Report – This report was reviewed by the board.
- i. FY23 IDOA FMP Part II – The board reviewed this report. Dean Sasse moved to approve the FY23 AFR, the Comptroller's Report and the FY23 IDOA FMP Part II as presented. Cheryl Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- j. Contribution Admin Agreement – Steve notified the board that we have the opportunity to participate with NRCS for the Admin Contribution agreement that will assist NRCS with the EQIP and CSP program. Cheryl Baker moved to submit the letter of intent to participate and the sub-agreement to AISWCD. Dean Sasse seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- k. FY24 Budget – The reviewed and discussed the FY24 budget proposal. Dean Sasse moved to approve the budget that contained the assumed allocation of \$50,000 from IDOA and to increase the RC salary by \$6000. Cheryl Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- l. RC contract – Steve's contract expires September 30, 2023. Cheryl Baker moved to update the contract to include long term disability and life insurance payments along with the previously mentioned salary increase. The contract would start on September 1 and run through August 31, 2024. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

**Adjournment:** Dean Sasse moved to adjourn the meeting. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 AM by Chairman Allspach.

Minutes compiled by Steve Bracey, Resource Conservationist

Approved by Logan County SWCD 12/7/2023

Presiding Officer David J. Allspach

Sec.-Treasurer Dean Sasse

