



Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Logan County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes 12/6/2022

The September-December 2022 meeting of the Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District Board was held on December 6, 2022 in the Extension Office on the Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln, Illinois.

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

District staff present: Steve Bracey, RC

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:17 A.M. by Chairman Thompson.

Secretary Report: Board members reviewed the minutes from the August 25, 2022 board meeting. Cheryl Baker moved to approve the minutes. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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

Staff reports:

Jamie Thompson, NRCS SC, reviewed her report. She has been busy with CRP/SAFE/CREP for FY22 enrollment and ongoing certification of installed CRP practices. NRCS and SWCD reviews all CRP practices with new construction and seedings.

She and Lukas have completed 25 status reviews for practice maintenance on contracts due to expire in 2023 & 2024. Their findings are documented on CRP status review forms and reported to the client and FSA.

She has also been busy training Lukas on tasks associated with CSP, Ecocat reviews, soils maps, lidar maps, Conservation Desktop, Conservation planning, seedings, plant identification, vehicle management tool and overall importance of customer and partner relations and communication.

She also began the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for Logan, Menard & Sangamon. 25 reviews have been completed for Logan and Menard. Sangamon County reviews will begin soon.

She has prepared two CSP renewal offers for ranking in Logan County. One renewal offer has been pre-approved for funding.

She made the Board aware of the new Urban Agriculture Program that includes cultivation, processing and distribution of agriculture products from urban areas. She also noted the ranking deadline for the

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of March 3, 2023 and the working deadline of April 7, 2023 for the Classic Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

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

Lukas Wright – NRCS Soil Con- Lukas started on August 29, 2022. He has completed the employee orientation and the necessary training needed for Level 1 Conservation Planner Status. He has been working with Steve in the field and has helped complete a grass waterway design. He has been helping Jamie with maintenance status reviews and documenting the findings with the client and FSA. He has also been receiving training from Jamie on processing payments in Protracts, planning activities in Conservation Desktop, plan identification in the field and the use of the Vehicle Management tool.

He has also attended a couple of training events at the Area level.

Andrew Fulton – NRCS District Conservationist (DC) – Andrew is the new District Conservationist for the Sangamon – Logan- Menard group. His first day was August 29th and he has been busy meeting personnel in all the counties and evaluating the workload. He has been gathering applications for the RCCP program and informed the Board that the EQIP program has options for Forestry Management Plans, Ag Energy Management such as grain drying facilities and Confinement Building upgrades. There is also opportunity for applications for constructed wetlands, denitrifying bioreactors and saturated buffers.

Andrew also informed the Board that the Inflation Reduction Act will provide additional dollars into EQIP, RCPP, CSP and ACEP.

Steve Bracey, RC, reviewed his written report with the Board. He reported that he has been working on waterway and structure designs for CRP and state cost share projects. He has filed the Comptroller's report, completed the SAMS registration renewal, attended a regional IDOA meeting, conducted a fall fish sale, ordered trees for the spring sale, completed 40 CREP landowner and address verifications, contribution agreement invoices and quarterly reports.

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

Correspondence: Steve shared an email from Grant Hammer that indicated he was encouraged on our chances of receiving the same or a slight increase in funding for FY23 from the state of Illinois.

Old Business:

- a. IDOA FY23 allocation update – See Grant Hammer's email from correspondence discussion.
- b. FY21 & FY22 State Cost Share Program Update – Steve informed the Board of the number of projects that have been completed or commenced and is confident that all the FY21 allocation will be paid out to applicants before the end of the year. Steve asked the Board for tentative approval to pay Bill Boerma, Chris Klockenga, Glenn McCrea, Scott Wurth, Karen Matson, Jim Todd and Johnson Trust once all the invoices have been submitted. Dean Sasse moved to tentatively approve payment for the list of projects pending submittal of invoices. David Allspach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Steve provided an updated cost share ledger for FY21 & FY22.

- c. CREP Enrollment Update – One application has been received. The enrollment application involves 26.7 acres of cropland and 55.4 acres of timber. Steve has been working with a neighbor and her attorney for ingress-egress to the enrollment.
- d. CRP Update – SAFE Area for Logan County. Jamie and Steve explained to the Board that the entire State has been designated for the SAFE program which is in the CRP program but has more options for landowners and also carries some better financial incentives. There is a 10 acre minimum for enrolling into the SAFE program.

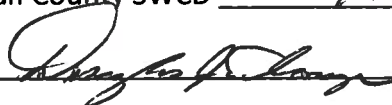
New Business:

- a. Approve time sheets – David Allspach moved to approve Steve’s amended time sheets that were checked by Cheryl. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- b. 2023 General Election Meeting – The Board chose February 2, 2023 for the date of the meeting. Directors signed a petition to hold an election.
- c. Notice of Election Form - Chairman Thompson signed the notice of election form for the legal ad to place in the Lincoln Courier.
- d. Director eligibility certification forms – Steve provided forms to Cheryl Baker and Dean Sasse as they are the two directors whose terms expire this year.
- e. Appoint a nominating committee – Kent Kleinschmidt moved that John Adams be appointed as Chairman of the nominating committee along with Maralee Boerma and Doug Martin. David Allspach seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steve will contact the committee.
- f. Approve CRP contracts- Kent Kleinschmidt moved to approve the CRP contracts as presented. Dean Sasse seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- g. RC contract – Steve’s contract expires December 31, 2022. Cheryl Baker moved to extend Steve’s contract to March 31, 2023. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Adjournment: Dean Sasse moved to adjourn the meeting. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13AM by Chairman Thompson.

Minutes compiled by Steve Bracey, Resource Conservationist

Approved by Logan County SWCD 3/9/2023

Presiding Officer 

Sec.-Treasurer 