



Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Logan County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes 12/7/2023

The September-November meeting of the Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District Board was held on December 7, 2023, at 7:30am in the district office at 1650 5th Street, Lincoln, Illinois.

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

District staff present: Steve Bracey, RC

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 A.M. by Chairman Allspach.

Secretary Report: Board members reviewed the minutes from the August 31, 2023 board meeting. Cheryl Baker moved to approve the minutes. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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

Staff reports:

Jamie Thompson, NRCS Soil Conservationist (SC) – She informed the board that the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has 14.8 million for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and 24.4 million for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The programs are competitive with applications ranked statewide.

She completed plans and job sheets for CRP offers. She has also been processing CSP FY23 annual payments.

She has provided training as needed to the Soil Con in Sangamon.

She has been certifying practice installations for Logan, Menard & Sangamon clients as needed.

She has attended several training sessions including: RCPP EQIP application processing and modifications in Conservation Desktop (CD), Document Management system in CD and Nutrient Management.

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

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

Andrew Fulton -NRCS District Conservationist

Andrew reported that his activities mirrored many of the things in Jamie's report.

He provided the board with additional information concerning the IRA EQIP and CSP program.

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 7 construction checks for practices. He has completed survey work on all CRP re-enroll waterways that expire in 2024 with the exception of two contracts.

He has ordered trees for the spring sale. The fall fish sale was held in September but we only had 3 fish orders.

Drill rental and some repair work was completed.

The Annual Financial Report, Comptroller's Report, the Financial Management Program Part II and the FY24 Budget have been submitted to the Comptroller's office and IDOA.

He has also been working on the landowner verification for the CREP easements.

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

Correspondence: Steve provided an invoice from AISWCD for an insurance premium for worker's compensation and general liability. Doug Thompson moved to pay the invoice. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

- a. FY 23 Allocation – Steve reviewed the grant agreement. We should receive a base payment of \$69,958.76 in January. Additional funds will be distributed based on employees who have conservation planner status. After that is completed, the remaining funds will be distributed equally between all districts. Our total projected allocation should be in the \$79,000 to 80,000 range.
- b. FY22 & FY23 State Cost Share Program – Steve reviewed the ledgers for both years. FY22 work has been completed. Final paperwork is being processed.
Kent Kleinschmidt moved to approve the cost share payment for Abbott Trust, Febus Trust and Irish Groves Farms Partnership. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
Cheryl Baker moved to approve new applications for FY23 for Tim Gleason and Alan Moldenhauer. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- c. CREP Enrollment Update – Steve informed the board that one member of the CREP enrollment passed away last summer. The estate is being settled and Steve has requested an extension from IDNR as there is still quite a bit of work to be completed before the easement can be recorded.
- d. Habitat Stamp Fund Grant Update – The district has been awarded the grant for a new 10' Great Plains drill. The drill will cost \$46,580 and the grant award will be \$34,935. IDNR has indicated 3-4 weeks for reimbursement of the \$34,935.

- e. NACD Technical Assistance Grant – (TA Grant) – Steve shared an email from AISWCD that they had received information indicating that all the grants would be funded but at 75% of the request. The grant is for one year and we will receive 25% of the reduced allotment each quarter. The board spent substantial time discussing the options regarding the advertisement of the position. The position will be focusing on outreach for applicants for EQIP and CSP. Other aspects of the job including field work and administration would be strongly encouraged.

New Business:

- a. Approve time sheets – Kent Kleinschmidt moved to approve Steve’s corrected time sheets that were checked by Cheryl. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- b. 2024 General Election – Doug Thompson moved to sign the election petition and legal notice and set the date for Thursday February 1, 2024. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- c. Sign election notice for legal ad – Chairman Allspach signed the legal notice. Steve will submit it to the Courier at the appropriate time.
- d. Director Eligibility Forms – Chairman Allspach, Vice Chairman Kleinschmidt and Doug Thompson all indicated a willingness to serve another 2 year term. Eligibility forms were signed.
- e. Appoint a nominating committee – Cheryl Baker moved to appoint John Adams, Maralee Boerma and Doug Martin to the nominating committee. Kent Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- f. Certificate of Deposit – Steve informed the board that Heartland Bank had called. We have one CD that expired December 2, 2023 that was not listed as public funds. We also have another active CD that is not listed as public funds. The bank will allow both accounts to move into a 12 month CD at 5%. Steve has been to the bank and presented paperwork that needed board signatures. Kent Kleinschmidt moved to sign the bank paperwork and establish the 2 new public fund accounts. Doug Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment: Doug Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM by Chairman Allspach.

Minutes compiled by Steve Bracey, Resource Conservationist

Approved by Logan County SWCD 3/8/2024

Presiding Officer David J. Allspach

Sec.-Treasurer Dea Saos